

God to the pulling down of strongholds, casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ."

God has ordained that living men, touched with the coal of Divine love, filled with the Holy Spirit and with faith, should dominate and electrify living men. Armed with God's eternal truth, and mighty in prayer, with a determination shown in obeying God rather than men, which is born of constant association with the Christ—men thus imbued are heaven's witnesses that the religion of Jesus is divine.

A church united and harmonious, earnest and true, filled with missionary zeal, realizing that the whole world is its parish, bearing abundant fruit of the Spirit in the faithful lives of its members, cannot fail to rapidly extend the kingdom of heaven among men. Herein lies the power of the gospel and the secret of its spread. When all barriers are broken down, when human creeds are no more, when the unity of the Spirit is kept in the bond of peace, when Christ's prayer is realized in a united and perfected church, marshalled under one banner, and wearing His name, the conversion of the world will soon become a glorious reality.

LITTLE THINGS THAT BETTER THE WORLD.

LAURA F. WEAVER.

"Little things that better the world!" Our topic does not call for great things; indeed, if it did, I fear we would be quite at a loss to find subject matter enough to write about.

The establishing of Christ's church on earth was not accomplished by great deeds. It began in Bethlehem, a small village; in Judea, a small country; with the Israelites, a small and despised people. Its originator was born poor and humble, not a king. In manhood He was "despised and rejected of men," crucified by those whom he had come to save. Before ascending into heaven He committed His principles to twelve humble men, who were to tell in simple language the grand truths which were to redeem the world, how "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth on Him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

From these small, humble beginnings the world has been redeemed and elevated to its present position.

The wonderful influence God's people have on the earth is not exerted by the church, as a whole, but by individual members. Many ways of bettering the world can be found by persons who are willing to do the "small things."

It may be a simple testimony for Christ, telling of what He has done for us, may lead some wanderer into the fold, or a word in season to a faltering companion may be the missing link in the chain uniting that one with Christ.

Not only in thus speaking—for how often has a thoughtless one been stopped in his career and made to think, by a leaflet from God's Word, which eventually has opened to them the way of salvation. The loan of a religious paper has won many to Christ.

But the world is receiving its greatest blessings from the little individual deeds—the cup of cold water in His name, little

deeds of kindness, which may not be known to the world at large, and will only be known at "that great day;" and "they shall be mine," saith the Lord of Hosts, when He cometh to make up His jewels.

Where could a Christian have a greater influence than in the home? But, sad to relate, this influence is sometimes weakened, or even lost, through our selfishness and neglect; because it is home, we do not exert ourselves to please, and thus a wandering brother or sister, or even parent, may be eternally lost. This should not be; there, more than any place, the Christian should let his light shine. The daily actions, the little talks about Jesus in the family circle, have influenced thousands to accept salvation through His name.

The kindly no when a friend wishes us to do something we consider wrong, a little firmness when tempted to neglect our duties—all these, though seemingly "little things" to us, God may consider "the great things."

"God loves patience! Souls that dwell in stillness,

Doing the little things, or resting quite,
May just as perfectly fulfil their mission,
Be just as useful in the Father's sight,
As they who grapple with some giant evil,
Clearing a path that every eye may see!
Our Saviour cares for cheerful acquiescence
Rather than for a busy ministry."

CHILDREN'S DAY NOTES.

Children's Day is coming; it will be here in a little while. Every Sunday-school in the land should be prepared for it.

Children's Day, as is well known, is the one day in the year in which the Sunday-schools are asked for offerings for world wide evangelism.

Last year 2,810 schools contributed to the funds of the Foreign Society. It is hoped that the contributors this year will number not less than 3,500. The interest among the children is increasing constantly.

The Foreign Society received from the first about two hundred and fifty thousand dollars from the Sunday-schools. With this money it has sent out and supported workers; it has erected buildings of different kinds. The Society never could have done this work without the aid of the schools.

There is no reason why every Sunday-school in the land should not have some fellowship in this divine enterprise. The schools themselves are enriched and ennobled by contributing to the support of this work. Not only so, but the work in the field is greatly helped by it.

The superintendents should aim at a steady and substantial increase in the contributions each year. There is almost no school that is not able to do better than it did a year ago. Thousands are able to do very much better than they did.

Every superintendent should be able to make Children's Day a red letter day. It should be a day of joy and gladness. It should be a day of liberal contributions.

Children's Day should be a day of information. The children should be told of the condition of children in heathen lands, they should be told of what is being done, and show how they can help. Then they will more cheerfully give. Information leads to intelligent giving.

Let the children know how much better it is that their cents and silver should go to bless the unfortunate than that they be spent for candy and chewing gum, and many other things they are better without. Get the children to make their little sacrifices, and when they become men and women in the churches, raising money will not be the herculean task it seems to be to-day.

The amount of money given by the schools is not the only important thing sought in observing Children's Day. Getting the children into the habit of unselfish giving is an object aimed at. The strongest habits are formed in youth.

Let all our provincial schools remember the needs of the lands in darkness, and have a part in sending them the light of life.

AN IMPORTANT DECISION.

The Dallas News, in its issue of the 15th, contains a decision from Marshall Surratt, Judge of the nineteenth district of Texas, in a case which possesses peculiar interest for many of our churches in Texas. It appears from the text of the decision that the First Christian church of McGregor, of that state, having come under the control of a majority of members who are adherents of the "Firm Foundation," in that state, refused the minority the privilege of worshiping in the congregation or holding a meeting there under the direction of the state evangelist. These factionists hold to the hobby of rebaptism and are opposed to instrumental music in the worship and to missionary societies and conventions. Because the minority differed from them on these questions, they were denied the use of the house for meeting, and were locked out of it. Under these circumstances the minority brought suit against the elders of the factionist party for possession of the house on the ground that they, the plaintiffs, were the Christian church of McGregor, proper and that these others had departed from the doctrine and usages of the church at the time the church was organized, the lot purchased and the house erected. The judge recites all these facts, states clearly the difference between these two parties in the church and decides that the plaintiffs in the case are entitled to the church. The closing paragraph of the decision of Judge Surratt is as follows:

In the opinion of this court the differences in the fundamental principles, doctrines and practices between these two factions of the McGregor church are radical and irreconcilable, and that the doctrines and practices of the defendants, who are in possession of the church property, are at wide variance to and largely subversive of the fundamental doctrines and practices of said church at the time the property in dispute was dedicated to its support, and that the trust imposed by such dedication has been and is being diverted from the purposes intended by the founders of such trust, and that the plaintiff corporation is composed of those members of said church who adhere to the specific form of religious doctrine in principle and practice to the support of which said property was dedicated, and is entitled to recover the possession thereof, and it is so ordered.

This decision will apply to a number of other cases in the same state where congregations under the influence of the false teaching of the "Firm Foundation" have apostatized from our original position and