

Another is a merry one—
He brings us forth where shines the sun,
He sees that all good things are done;
He keeps the dear old faces bright,
He laughs and sings from morn to night,
He makes us glad, for he is Joy,
And praiseth all his years employ.

The third is quiet and serene,
No shadows on her face are seen,
She has a graceful form and mien;
The house grows holy with her psalm,
She soothes our restless hearts to calm,
Beneath her touch disorders cease,
She is the angel of our Peace.

These blessed guests will come and stay
Through longest night and darkest day,
Unless our sin drive them away.
It matter not how small the home,
To cottage and to hall they come,
Let hearts and homes be opened wide,
And these good angels are abide.

—Marianne Farningham.

QUESTIONS.

What are the faults into which we are most likely to fall at home and in school?
How may we best guard against them?
Do my associates know that I am a Christian?

MAY 24.—BEING A CHRISTIAN. III AT THE BALLOT BOX.

Psalm 25, 1-9.

HOME READINGS.

Mon., May 18.—God the Supreme Ruler.
1 Sam. 16, 6-12.
Tues., May 19.—Righteousness Paramount.
Prov. 14, 28-34.
Wed., May 20.—Rulers are of God. Num-
bers 27, 21-23.
Thurs., May 21.—Obeying Rulers. Rom.
13, 1-7.
Fri., May 22.—The Consent of the People.
Exod. 24, 1-3.
Sat., May 23.—Bearing False Witness.
Prov. 14, 5-9.

EXPOSITORY HINTS.

"Workers of iniquity." These have their counterpart to-day in the "ward heelers" who are in the game of politics for what they can get out of it, and whose motto is "To the victors belong the spoils." David prays to be delivered from partnership with these men, a prayer eminently suitable for religious men to-day, if they take care to vote as they pray.

"They regard not the works of the Lord, nor the operation of His hands." There are many men of this type to-day, who banish God altogether from their world. The corruption that exists in public life is due largely to the fact that men do not bring God into their political life. Many of them worship very reverently on Sunday, but during an election they do not give God a single thought, but are influenced by partisan selfishness.

"Speak peace to their neighbors, but mischief is in their hearts." What a description is this of the wily party man who is looking for votes for a bad cause. He makes friends wherever he can, and is very oily in his speech, but at the same time he is seeking to advance his own selfish projects.

SUGGESTIVE THOUGHTS.

An ounce of honest votes is worth a ton of ardent talk.

When a man has "no business but politics," he is likely to become a dangerous citizen.

A good citizen will always be ready to do what he can to improve his city or town, without expectation of reward.

A government owes its citizens certain rights and privileges, and wherever there are rights there are corresponding duties. If the state protects a man, that man is under obligation to serve the state.

Look on election day as one of the great days of the year. Write down voting as a part of the divine service along with prayers and anthems.

Help by your political action to answer the prayer you pray every day: "Thy Kingdom come!"

Don't allow your vision to be bounded by the four walls of your church building. You belong to the whole city and the whole city belongs to you.

The gamblers, saloon-keepers and all other workers of iniquity will never molest us, but will even contribute to church work if we only let them alone. They must be hit, and hit often and hard.

It ought to be an axiom that no man can be a good Christian unless he is a good citizen, and that a citizen cannot be a good citizen unless he votes.

The ballot-box has as close a relation to the Kingdom of God as the contribution-box.

It is of no use to pray, "Thy Kingdom come while we stand idly by watching the enemies of truth piling up barricades across the pathway of the king.

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS.

1. It is a high privilege and a sacred duty to be permitted to cast a ballot, and no man is worthy of this opportunity who wilfully neglects to use his franchise. He is destitute of real patriotism.
2. The Christian people of this land could banish the liquor traffic and other flagrant evils if they would. They could elect honorable, virtuous and sober men to office. They could do it by each individual Christian man resolving to vote only for the measure and the candidate whom God would approve.
3. Boys and young men should be taught that it is a crime to either give or accept money for a vote. Doubtless some men sell their vote without realizing the seriousness of the wrong.
4. Many Christians vote for inferior men and sometimes bad men because party loyalty requires it. Principle must be placed above party if we ever expect this world to be regenerated.

QUOTATIONS

Our boys should be taught to beware of the evils of selfish partisanship. They must not be like "dumb, driven cattle," to be marched to the polls in blocks of five, but should exercise their own independent judgment. Teach them that their duty to their country is a large part of their duty to God.—Kate Upson Clark.

One of the most important duties of a citizen is voting. Because the Government gives him the privilege of voting, it becomes his duty to avail himself of the privilege. If a man, through carelessness or selfishness, refuses to do his part in the shaping of public policy, or in the choice of public officials, then corrupt or mistaken men are given undue power, and the city or state may suffer greatly.—Dr. C. E. Jefferson.

Young Christians should not allow themselves to think of politics as something unclean, and therefore to be avoided. Politics is nothing but the science of government, and as such is no other science is greater or more difficult. One sometimes hears the word "politician" spoken with a sneer, but the word ought to be re-deemed, and every young man ought to feel that he has been called to become a politician. A politician in the true sense of the word is simply a man who is versed in the science of government and who participates in the shaping of civic poli-

cies and administrations. Every citizen ought to be a politician. If Christians hold aloof, then others will seize the reins of government and it may be drive the chariot of state into a ditch.—Dr. Jefferson.

The London Daily News said recently: "Life cannot be separated into compartments, sacred and secular." This false idea of a distinction between the secular and the sacred perished on the slopes of Horeb in the days of Moses. As he drew nigh to the burning bush, God said to him, "Put off thy shoes from off thy feet, for the place whereon thou standest is holy ground." In God's plan every place and every legitimate calling is sacred and not to be polluted by man. The great ground is holy.

Let no young woman think that because she cannot cast a ballot she can have no part in the shaping of the nation's life. The political influence of women is enormous, and can be made still mightier when women once realize their possibilities. The heart that helps to mould the mind of a man determines the character of his ballot. Thousands of women vote who never go to the polls.

It is true that the ballot is not a universal panacea for the ills of society, but it is one remedy in the pharmacopoeia of political science and of very great importance. When applied as a specific with enlightened judgment, it is a sovereign cure. The citizens of any municipality, voting right at any election, will purge a diseased civic condition. They will not usher in the millennium, but they will make perdition less conspicuous and the devil less rampant.—Rev. Dr. Eckman.

ILLUSTRATIONS.

At a brilliant public gathering in New York, a distinguished clergyman made an address on education, in which he had occasion to speak of his aged mother. He alluded to her counsels in many departments, and his great indebtedness to those counsels, "but," he added, with great emphasis, as if it were the best thing he could say of her, "with all her learning and piety, with the extensive variety of themes upon which she constantly instructed us, she never mentioned the subject of politics." The corruption existing to-day in public affairs is largely due to the fact that the home, the public school, and the Sunday School, scarcely ever give any instruction or warning about the dangers and responsibilities of politics.

A storekeeper in Maine, in speaking of voting, said, "I don't gen'ally vote, but when one of the bosses is anxious enough to come and get me, why then I'll vote, or if they'll give me a couple of dollars to pay for my time and my fare on the cars, I'll vote."

"Why," said a hearer, "that's bribery." "O' no exactly," said the storekeeper. "They just pay me for my time and trouble. I don't get nuthin' fer my vote." Boys should be taught that any tampering with the ballot is perilous.

In the city of Florence the traveller can observe on the outside of the town hall the sacred monogram marking the spot where in former days were the words, "Jesus Christ, appointed by the Senate, the King of the Florentines." On the battlements of the town one can still read the Latin inscription referring to the same event. "Jesus the King of Glory. He conquers. He reigns. He rules." By a solemn civil act the old Florentines chose Christ as the king of their city, and the municipalities of the twentieth century will never realize their highest social or political possibilities, until, in a more genuine sense than the Florentines were able to do it, they award pre-eminence to Jesus the Christ, King of kings and Lord of lords.