

Not what have you not done, but what have you given of your substance, your time, your love, yourself, to help the weaker and less fortunate brother.

Are we not forced to admit, that it is in being and doing, that we come short of what Christ expects of us? Opportunities of helpfulness neglected, calls to lift burdens unheeded because selfishness reigns supreme in our hearts.

We have no right to pride ourselves on what we have not done, so long as anything is left undone that we can do, to prove the reality of our love and the faithfulness of our discipleship. If we do, we fail where the young Hebrew failed.

Woodstock, Ont.

### The Help of Friendship

By Rev. John W. Little, B.A.

None of us is so strong and rich in resources of mind and spirit, as to be able to dispense with the benefits of helpful friendships. The art of binding other hearts to ours in mutual fellowship, should be prayerfully cultivated by us. True friendships are not found in a day; they require much patience, forbearance, and love for their growth and richest fruition. But they are worthy of all the thought and care that may be expended upon them.

In his many salutations, Paul reveals his abiding interest in his friends. Neither time or distance could make him forget them. Only evident unworthiness on their part could break the tie with which he bound them to his heart. His relations with Mark became strained when the cowardly weakness of this helper became manifest. Their friendship was restored when Mark overcame his earlier spirit of vacillation. Paul required a certain kinship of spirit, a certain identity of ideal and purpose in life, a certain community of interest in the deep things of the soul, before he trusted himself to another; but when he found this basis for a lasting fellowship, he was faithful and true, whether present or absent. He gave of his best, but he also leaned upon his friends and acknowledged his hunger for their love.

More, Paul was not ashamed to give the fullest expression to his emotions. "Salute Rufus the chosen in the Lord, and his mother

and mine". "His mother and mine"—what a world of tenderness there is in the expression! "Salute Prisca and Aquila, my fellow-workers in Christ Jesus, who for my life laid down their own necks". Quotations like these might be multiplied. Enough that we see how grateful Paul was for what his friends did for him, and how free he was to express his appreciation. He never begrudged praise, where praise was due. He had the courage of his feelings, and his feelings were purged of all taint of selfishness. "The world is dying for a little bit of love", said Mark Guy Pierce, a few years ago. Many a friendship dies for lack of warm words of appreciation and sympathy to sustain its fires. The fear of being regarded as sentimental, or of being misunderstood by the public, often kills the kind word before it reaches our lips, and the wistful look in our friend's eyes dies away as the helpless ache in his heart grows. The motto that greeted Dr. Dale on his home-coming from Australia, "We love you, and we tell you so", has its lesson for those who would be blessed with helpful friendship.

Let us then make friends for our own good as well as theirs. Let us make them in Christ, receiving only those into our inner confidence in whose lives there is that kinship of spiritual experiences, ideals and service that alone can form permanent foundation for a helpful fellowship. Let us love them freely and sacrifice much for their affection. Let us open our hearts frankly that they may give us of their best. Let us be liberal in our words of gratitude and sympathy, that no doubts may poison our relations to one another. Let us be friendly, that we may keep friends, for "friendship is the best college character can graduate from."

Elgin, Man.

### Story Telling as an Aid to Teaching

The born story-teller is rare, but the trained and artful story-teller is almost as valuable. One who does not possess the gift of the *raconteur* can call such reinforcements to his aid that results may be almost identical. Patient drill is the secret of perfection, or at least of excellence. Only a genius does a thing well the first time