

"Taint, nuther!" shouted old Davis in disgust: "I'm smokin' hams."

Joe dropped her pail, and ran back to her unwashed dishes. Some way she was glad not to meet any one just then.

The little procession of three formed as usual. Nan's curly head was held very high. Bob's feet dragged themselves unwillingly away from the exciting scene. Don's long, silky ears drooped. He seemed to feel that the burden of the mistake rested most heavily upon him.

A slow smile crept up among the freckles on Bob's round face. "Nan," he said, "I—told—you—there—wasn't—any—hurry."

That night, at tea time, Papa Turner said to mamma, "I've been thinking all summer that I must put lightning-rods on our house and barn. But it won't be necessary. Davis says we have one of the finest and most fearless of fire companies right in our family."

Joe's cheeks were crimson. Then papa told mamma all about it. They both laughed, and papa pulled Nan's curls, and asked Joe where she had found her way of curing hams.

Then Bob came in from his supper, and Don came in from his, and mamma said, as she kissed them all round, "Let papa joke all he wants to, children. He's as proud as I am of our brave little fire company."—Sunday school Times.

Fred's "Thorough."

"Sue," said her brother, "I wish you would sew up the glove where you mended it before. It's all ripping out again. You didn't make a good job of it."

"I sewed it well enough," said Sue, inspecting the glove; "but I guess I didn't fasten it thoroughly enough at the end. That's where the trouble came. Yes, I'll be thorough with it this time."

"Thorough" is a good word," said mother. "A great deal of the trouble in the world arises from the lack of it."

"Yes," said Sue. "While we are talking about it, Fred, I want to remind you that you didn't fasten that bracket in my room thoroughly the other day. The nail on one side came out. There was a little vase of flowers on it. It fell down and was smashed. The water spoiled half a dozen or so of books that were on the table under it."

"Too bad, Sue. I'm really sorry. The next thing I do for you, you'll see I'll do it thoroughly."

"The same to you," said Sue, with a smile, as she handed him his glove.

"I wish you would run out and close the side gate, Fred," said his mother. "Nora did not fasten it thoroughly when she came in, and its swinging loose."

"Another 'thorough'."

"I'll close the gate," said Fred. "I'm just going out to rake up the leaves in the yard. It will be a good day's work. I tell you—well worth the quarter father's going to pay me for it. But I want the quarter; so I'm glad to do it."

"Let it be thorough work," said mother; "no neglected corners, no leaves left among the bushes."

Toward night Fred raised himself from stooping in a corner and leaned on the broom he had brought to neatly supplement his work with the rake.

"Whew! my back aches, and my hands smart. But I think I've made good, honest work of this, Mother," he called, "please come out here and look. There, now! you don't see any slightest spots about here, do you?"

"It is beautifully done," said mother. "I fancy the grass and bushes look eager to grow with such encouragement. But how about that corner over there?"

"Oh, that is my pile of leaves. Of course, they are not going to stay there. I'm tired and want to go in and read; so I'm going to wheel them away in the morning."

"Is that thorough?" asked the mother.

"Yes, as far as it goes. There's not a bit of harm in leaving them till the morning."

In the night a strong wind arose. Fred looked from his window in the morning, to see, with great vexation the leaves he had so carefully gathered swept in every direction over the lawn.

"Well, there's another day of my vacation gone. I supposed it served me right."

Without a word of complaint, he went over the ground again. Mother came out as he was wheeling away the last load of leaves. He looked up at her with a rueful smile, saying:

"'Thorough' is a pretty good word, mother."—The Youth's Evangelist.

A four-year-old boy was taken by his mother to a wedding. He was wisely silent until they had returned home, when he inquired concerning the bride: "What for did she have that lace curtain on her head?"

A mother who was curling the hair of her three-year-old son, remarked to a lady visitor:

"This makes me so much work, I shall have to get Norman's head shingled."

The child kept meditatively quiet until his ringlets were arranged, and summed up his reflections to the query: "Mamma, when I have my head shingled, then will I be a house?"—N. Y. Observer.

EDITOR, J. W. BROWN.
All communications for this department should be sent to Rev. J. W. Brown, Havelock, N. B., and must be in his hands at least one week before the date of publication.

Prayer Meeting Topic.

B. Y. P. U. Topic.—Individual Work for Christ. Acts 8: 26-40.

Daily Bible Readings.

Monday, July 15.—Nehemiah 3: 1-16. Building the walls of Jerusalem. Compare II Kings 25: 10.
Tuesday, July 16.—Nehemiah 3: 17-32. Building the walls of Jerusalem. Compare Neh. 1: 3.
Wednesday, July 17.—Nehemiah 4. Armed for work and for fighting. Compare Deut. 1: 30.
Thursday, July 18.—Nehemiah 5. Putting aside injustice among the people. Compare Lev. 25: 36.
Friday, July 19.—Nehemiah 6. The challenge-trap avoided (vs. 12). Compare Neh. 13: 29.
Saturday, July 20.—Nehemiah 7: 1-6, (7-65), 66-73. The returned ones. Compare Ezra 2.

Prayer Meeting Topic—July 14.

Individual work for Christ. Acts 8: 26-40.

It is not possible to unduly magnify the importance of this subject. "Individual work for Christ" is the battle cry of the B. Y. P. U. A. We state it as our conviction that the best of men's endeavors, or that which determines their life work, is done in early manhood. The man whose life is not fruitful of real and true work between twenty and twenty-five will, mark you, not do much of worth afterwards. There are exceptions, they but prove the rule. As a man sows he reaps. His sowing is early. "Wild oats" do not yield for the sowing sheaves for men's good or for God's garner. Let it not be forgotten that the conflict between truth and error, between vice and virtue is one in which God himself is engaged, and that He allows no truces or compromises. Let us not mistake though, our conflict is not with persons, but for principles. Our struggle is not against the vicious, but against the vices; not against the errorist, but against the error. Our lesson is descriptive of an individual worker for Christ. Three things are suggested and expressed in three words: I. Spirit. II. Method. III. Results.

I. Spirit.—The individual worker for Christ must hear, like Philip, the "go ye" of the Spirit, and he must render quick obedience in the right spirit. This includes great

(a). PERSONAL FAITH.

This means a most hearty assent to the teachings and requirements of God's Word, as well as a cordial reception of God and Christ as Sovereign and Saviour. Read Psalm 119: 40, 66, 71, 94, 103, 140 and 159.

(b). REVERENT OBEDIENCE.

The worker who fails to render exact obedience to the Master's commands places himself at a great disadvantage. But we have in mind reverent obedience, as including lowliness and submission. Read Psalm 25: 9—John 8: 31 and 38—Psalm 119: 57, 60.

(c). HUMBLE DEPENDENCE.

This must be a characteristic of the worker also. May I suggest that prayerfulness and patience are included. Ephesians 1: 15-17. Ps. 119: 73.

II Method: These are times when the forces of Zion are taxed with excessive organizations. Instead of scanning with anxious eye the intellectual horizon, or reploughing the fields of thought for better or newer methods, let the Christian worker conclude that an extended knowledge of God's Word is the one thing needful. To the Christian worker then the suggestion of our Scripture lesson is suggested in our word "Search." For method or methods of work you have the answer in John v: 39. "Search the Scriptures."

SEARCH.

EARNESTLY. Joshua 1: 8; Psalm 119, 9-12.

ANXIOUSLY. Mark iv, 24; Luke 8: 18. Why? Because of distractions.

REGULARLY. Psalm 1: 2; Acts 17: 11; Deut. 17: 19. Why? Because of recurring need.

CAREFULLY. Luke 24: 27; 2 Tim. 3: 16, 17. Why? Because of errors.

HUMBLY. Deut. 31: 9-13; Isaiah 66: 5. Why? Because of weakness.

The Young People

III. Results:—The work of the worker is frequently burdened and often retarded by the exercise of undue concern about the Results of the work. The individual cannot afford to lose sight of the fact that Results are with God. It is our duty to be faithful not successful.

Note carefully the result of searching the Scriptures on the part of the character before us in the lesson. It led him to walk the entire pathway of obedience. This is the inevitable result. Christian worker would you go forward to conquer? then aim not so much at telling the truth—but making the truth tell—"Holding forth the word of life."

Note in concise terms the Results of Bible knowledge on the man whom the Christian worker meets in the arena of life

(a). RENEWS.

Matt. 13: 23. Jas. 1: 18. I. Peter 1: 23. Recall the figure the seed.

(b). IMPARTS REPENTANCE AND FAITH.

Heb. 4: 12. Acts 2: 37. Rom. 10: 17. Acts 16: 30-33. John 20-31.

(c). CAUSES SANCTIFICATION.

John 17: 17-19. Eph. 5: 25-27. I Peter 1: 22. Let not the word "discouraged" be found in the vocabulary of the individual Christian worker. He who labors in holy things today does so under an oppressive sense of the fact that his "Thus saith the Lord" is esteemed lightness by many.

Proude in his "Life of Bunyan" contrasts the vivid effect of Bible Truth on the Puritan Fathers and laments that it is trampled into nothingness in the common pathways of our life today. As the sound perchance of him who hath a pleasant voice, is the message of God's truth now. The Word is heard but the people "do" it not. An intense self-conceit that says "I know" and so never feels nor learns and an intense dullness of hearing that makes the man deceive himself by being a hearer and not a doer—destroys or greatly hinders our work to-day. Oh for a Josiah day in which the bare reading of God's Word would make kings tremble and send the supporters of their throne on hasty messages of enquiry. Oh, for an earthquake shock which would make men who bind thus the messengers of truth in fetters and keep them in dungeons of powerlessness cower with fear and trembling and say "Men and brethren, what shall we do to be saved."

BYRON H. THOMAS.

Dorchester, N. B.

Our general meeting at Moncton will soon be on us. The Executive are now giving the matter their earnest attention. We trust that all our Unions will be very prompt in sending the necessary information concerning statistics, etc. By the hearty co-operation of all, let us make this the best year's meeting that we have yet held. Important matters this year demand our prayerful attention. It is generally conceded that we are passing through the crisis of our history. How important then that we see and act aright. This brings us to a dependence on God for wisdom. Let all our Unions then make this a matter of special prayer, and all unitedly spread our case before the Lord. The Lord will hear and give direction.

The Chicago Convention.

We have had but little to say in this column respecting the great B. Y. P. U. Convention (International,) which is to be held in Chicago, July 25-28th, next. This has been owing chiefly to the fact that Rev. J. B. Morgan, who was appointed Chairman of Committee on Transportation, has removed from the Provinces, and since then things have been in a disorganized condition. We are fortunate in securing the services of Geo. A. MacDonald of Halifax, as Chairman of this Committee. And though the hour is late, there yet remains sufficient time to make ample preparation for any delegation from the Provinces that may wish to take in the great Chicago Convention. There should be many to take advantage of this. It affords the opportunity of a life-time to see the "windy city," to share in the inspiration of the great gathering of the Baptist young people of the continent, and incidentally to see at its best the Pan-American Exposition at Buffalo, and all at an amazingly small cost. Who will go and bring us back the inspiration so much needed? Will intending delegates communicate at once with Mr. MacDonald. The trip is within the reach of many so far as cost is concerned.

This notice is sent at the request of the Chairman of Transportation Committee, whose address is 120 Granville St., Halifax, N. S.

(Signed) M. A. MACLEAN, Pres. Mar. Union. Truro, N. S. July 1st, 1901.

Riches without charity are nothing worth; they are blessings to him only who makes them blessings to others.—Fielding.