

"No."

"A kingfisher?"

"No."

"Is it—oh, what is it, grandfather?"

But just at that moment a tiny floating platform of leaves and twigs came sailing slowly toward them down the creek; and on it, looking round with bright, greedy eyes, sat a large, beautifully-marked water spider, eager and alert for food.

"There! there!" cried both boys. "There he comes now—old spider wolf! I isn't it, grandfather?"

"Yes, that's the raft builder," said grandfather, "and he's a bloodthirsty fellow, too. See how he watches for every water insect on his way! He's ready for them every time."

And when the little old craft sailed out of sight round a bend, the boys' raft was successfully launched, and grandfather stood on the shore clapping his hands and cheering. But nobody cheered Mr. Water Spider, who had built his raft all alone!—Sunday-school Visitor.

Saved by His Horse.

The intuition and sense of locality of the horse are well known, and are found invaluable at critical times, as illustrated in the following account of an actual occurrence sent to *The Little Chronicle*:

"My great-grandfather lived in Vermont in the days when, if one wished to go to Boston, the journey could be best made on horseback. One spring, just as the ice had cleared from the rivers, he was returning home from that noted place on his favorite horse. It was pitch dark when he reached the river below where his farm lay. He crossed where the bridge had always been, arriving home after all the household had retired, and did not disturb them. The next morning his wife asked him how he crossed the river.

"On the bridge, of course," was the reply.

"Why, you are crazy!" The bridge went down stream when the ice went out," exclaimed she.

"I don't believe it, and I shan't until I see for myself," said the worthy man, starting up.

He went directly to the river, and there, spanning the stream, was one rather narrow plank, beneath which a torrent of muddy water poured. His plucky horse had, in the inky darkness, crossed on that single plank.

The German Princes.

What a happy, healthy, wholesome-looking lot of lads there are in the royal family of Germany! Emperor William may well feel pride in his six fine sons and the little daughter. Military training and discipline are a part of the education of every German prince, and even the youngest of the emperor's sons already has a fine military bearing. The children of the royal family in Germany lead anything but lives of indolence and luxury. They rise promptly at half-past five in the morning, which is an hour earlier, I dare say, than many a boy rises who reads this. They take active outdoor exercise for an hour before their simple breakfast at seven o'clock. After breakfast they must go at once to their studies, and keep at them until afternoon. Their games, when their lessons are over, are all of an outdoor kind, such as cricket, tennis, or football. There is more study after dinner, and by nine o'clock all but Prince Augustus are in bed. Prince Augustus, being now eighteen years of age, sits up until ten o'clock. The Empress of Germany is one of the wisest and most devout of mothers, the chief aim of her life being to make good men of her six sons, and a good woman of her one little princess. Each of the German princes holds a well-earned position in the army or navy, and all of them are being taught that "life is real, life is earnest," and that none of it must be wasted.—Standard.

A Shy Author.

J. M. Barrie is extremely shy. Soon after he leaped into fame, the editors of three journals for which he had been writing determined to give a dinner in his honor. They knew him only by his work, and anticipated a brilliant occasion. But course after course was consumed without a word from their guest, and, despite frantic attempts to lure him into conversation, it was not until he rose to put on his coat that he made the first and last remark that he uttered during the evening. This was in the broadest Doric: "Weel, this is the first time I've ever had dinner with three editors." Mr. Barrie is well aware of his shyness, and does not scruple to make fun of himself because of it. On one occasion there appeared in the *Scots Observer* a brilliant lampoon in which Mr. Barrie was represented as attending a public dinner, keeping everyone in roars of laughter with his unceasing stream of wit and epigram, and finally ending up by making the speech of the evening. When a certain literary friend of Mr. Barrie's saw this wickedly clever piece of satire, his indignation knew no bounds, and he rushed into print demanding that the author of this infamous article should straightway disclose himself, and be dealt with accordingly. But alas for the well-meaning friend, the author was none other than Mr. Barrie himself.—*Little's Living Age*.

"Quench not the spirit." It is a word of deep wisdom and warning. It means, among other things, "Do thyself no harm." Preserve your individuality. Do not impair the life forces. Do not disqualify yourself for receiving impressions of reality from the world around or illuminations from the light within.—Charles G. Ames.

The Young People

EDITOR

W. L. ARCHIBALD.

All communications for this department should be sent to Rev. W. L. Archibald, Lawrencetown, N. S., and must be in his hands at least one week before the date of publication.

Daily Bible Readings.

Monday.—Our enemies (Acts 9: 23-25).
Tuesday.—A "messenger of Satan" (Acts 19: 23-27).
Wednesday.—Tent-making (2 Thess. 3: 6-12).
Thursday.—Poverty (1 Cor. 4: 9-13).
Friday.—Glorying in weakness (2 Cor. 12: 5, 6).
Saturday.—"For my brethren's sake" (Rom. 9: 1-5).

The comments on the Prayer Meeting Topic for August, the first installment of which appears in this issue, are furnished by Rev. C. K. Morse, B. A., the newly installed pastor of the Waterville and Cambridge churches. Bro. Morse is entering upon his work under very favorable auspices. The Young People's work will always receive staunch and earnest support from him.

Prayer Meeting Topic—August 2.

"How we may overcome our Hindrances."—II Corinthians 12:7-10, 10:10.

"Lest he should be exalted above measure" there was given to Paul a thorn in the flesh—a weak body and contemptible speech. He thought this a serious affliction, and a great hindrance to him in his work, a weight too heavy to be carried.

A ship that has large sails and a fair wind needs ballast. Troubles are the ballast of a believer. Paul specially needed the very trouble which he had. His sails were large. He had a noble birth, extraordinary ability, a liberal education, and a wonderful experience. How persistently the world would endeavor to secure such talent for her use, but he was safely weighted. The ship without ballast is a useless, dangerous possession. So Paul without the weight he was carrying would perhaps have been useless to the cause of Christ if not one of its most dangerous enemies.

Paul did not spend his time in feverish restlessness. That is what you and I would have done. But he prays for deliverance. This is a recognition on his part that God is ever mindful of his children and can heal their infirmities.

He prays persistently, not once, nor twice, but three times or until answered. The answer was an unexpected one but none the less gratefully received. Paul needed to learn that the Lord's work was to be done "Not by might, nor by power, but by My spirit."

The answer is not a removal of the hindrance but an assurance that God's grace is sufficient for him. This grace sustains, strengthens and even enables him, to glory in infirmity. Wonderful transformation! Glorious progression! What a school is the school of Christ! Very often the child of God standing on the vantage ground of years of experience glories in what he once believed were infirmities. He now sees they were just the experiences he needed to develop strong Christian character. The huge trees looked out through bursting bud or upturned leaf to welcome the May shower or June sunshine but crouch and groan before the cruel winds of March or November. Yet it is these fierce winds that teach the roots to reach out and down where they can hold to another earth securely. The roots of faith and love and trust strike deeper and ever deeper into the realities of eternal things and in the March winds of experience entwine themselves around the very Christ of God.

When I am weak then am I strong. When I have little of Paul's strength then I have much of Christ's strength. Man sees his limitations and is afraid, but his extremity is God's opportunity. "The carnal mind is enmity against God" and where there is greatest weakness there is least resistance to God's strength. It was the time when we were most conscious of our weakness that God used us most.

If we are to overcome our hindrances it must be through that "sufficient grace" which first sustains, then strengthens, and finally enables us to glory in infirmity. Thus we learn the secret of that weakness which is strength and at length enables us with Paul to say, "I can do all things through Christ that strengtheneth me." C. K. Morse.

Waterville, N. S.

At the annual meeting of the District Baptist Young People's Union of Halifax and Dartmouth, which was held at the Tabernacle Church, on Monday evening, July 6, the following officers were elected: President, Guilford R. Marshall; 1st Vice-president, Parker R. Colpitt; 2nd Vice-president, Edwin Hubley; Treasurer, Thomas E. Clay; Secretary, Sarah L. Norton; Corresponding Secretary, Mary I. Thompson.

"Triumph Over Difficulties."

Every life has its hindrances. Each one of us is tempted

to think his own the greatest, and to him, of course, they are. But there is no life free from them. There are weaknesses within, known and unknown. Sometimes we discover that we have done unwise things when we had no intention to do them. Some unperceived defect in us just found vent for itself, and we were never aware of it until we met the consequences. Even the richest and easiest life has its hindrances. Its wealth and its ease are probably among the greatest of them. It is enough for us to know that hindrances are essential to life. Only death is untroubled by them.

And not only are they a sign that life is active and is encountering its limitations. They are among the best and most necessary discipline of life. We grow by overcoming hindrances. We grow by overcoming hindrances. Our best joy is the joy of victory over them. Without them we think life would be easier, but it would in reality lose its interest.

"Then welcome each rebuff
That turns earth's smoothness rough,
Each sting that bids nor sit nor stand, but go.
Be our joy three parts pain,
Strive and hold cheap the strain,
Learn, nor account the pang;
Dare, never grudge the throe."

But we only wring the glory and profit out of our hindrances when we triumph over them. How may we do this?

1. Let us find out what our hindrances are. Those from which we suffer most are the ones that we have never discovered and dealt with. Some of our difficulties are personal. They spring from our own qualities. Others of them may be in our circumstances, but even these would be powerless if they did not chime with some defect within. We will not conquer our unseen foe. Our first duty is to know what our hindrances are. God can show them to us best. "Search me, O God, and know my ways."

2. When we have found them, we ought to do what Paul did with his thorn. He besought the Lord about it. We shall make little headway in our own strength and wisdom. Our own discernment will not reveal our hindrances to us, and our own power will not deliver us from them.

3. But with the Lord's help we are to hurl ourselves against our hindrances. We may be sure that the prolonged prayer of Paul over his thorn was accompanied by the most resolute struggle to triumph over it. The New Testament is full of the royal summons to fierce and implacable combat against every hindrance which hurts our souls.

But some hindrances are meant to be helps. This was the case with Paul's thorn. When he realized this and learned that he was to keep his impediment, but to have compensatory grace, he not only acquiesced, he exulted. If I have done my best and without avail, and have been made to see by the Lord that I am never to achieve what I had hoped, but am instead to have more of his spirit and help, in this I must rejoice and be glad.

For, after all, some limitations are a source of power. They give us a place to stand, a wall to place our backs against, something to grasp as the runner holds corks in his hands to clutch as he strains in his race. A dash of pain heats courage into heroism. The pressure of opposition stings us into deeper resolve and more irresistible purpose.

So Paul decided to glory in tribulations, not to grieve in them.

The sea did not stop for Canute. Hindrances only assure to the Spirit of God in man a more signal and complete victory.

Ripened Character.

Character is a growth. It is like fruit—it requires time to ripen. Different kinds of fruits come to ripeness at different seasons; some in the early summer, some later, and some only in the autumn. It is so with Christian lives—they ripen at different seasons. There are those who seem to grow into sweetness in early years, then those who reach their best in the mid years, and many who only in the autumn of old age come into mellow ripeness.—J. R. Miller, D.D.

Onward and Upward.

We live but one life, we pass but once through this world. We should live so that every step shall be a step onward and upward. We should strive to be victorious over every evil influence. We should seek to gather good and enrichment of character from every experience, making our progress ever from more to more. Wherever we go we should try to leave a blessing, something which will sweeten another life or start a new song or an impulse of cheer or helpfulness in another heart. Then our very memory when we are gone will be an abiding blessing in the world.—J. R. Miller, D.D.