

## LESSONS BY THE WAY.

By the Secretary of the Y.M.C.A.



TAKE A DRINK AND WELCOME.



ON Dominion Day (July 1, 1881), I accompanied "OUR BOYS" to their Annual Picnic at High Park. Finding it necessary

to be in the City at an early hour in the evening, I left the grounds and walked into Toronto by Queen Street. The weather was exceedingly hot, the roads were dusty, and of course I was very thirsty. As I journeyed on I came to a cottage. At the gate leading into it, and occupying the space between the edge of the footpath and the gate post, stood a chair; on the chair was a bucket of water, and by the side of the pail a tin dipper. What a pleasant sight! But, what business had I to touch it? Perhaps the owner would be offended. As I drew nearer, I again looked and saw above the chair, tacked to the post, a piece of paper with these words, "Take a drink and welcome." All my doubts vanished, I took in the whole plan. That kind-hearted man knew that hundreds of tired, thirsty people would pass by his door that day. He knew that water is the best liquid, in fact the only thirst-satisfying liquid. He knew that his own well was amply sufficient to furnish a supply; but he also knew that few, if any, would be likely to call and ask for water, so in this manner

he furnished a plentiful supply without cost; and he did all within his power to lead them to accept his kindness. He placed that chair so close to the path, that a lady's dress would touch—that the eye of the weary passer-by must rest upon it—and still more—lest any should have doubts as to the object he had in view, he placed that card, "Take a drink and welcome." Every person—whosoever, man, woman, child,—to every thirsty person the notice said,—It is for you, take it. As I looked at that card and that pail of water, I thought, Oh, how this illustrates the glorious Gospel. God, in His infinite love, remembered the thirsty millions in this world. He knew that in His storehouse there was that which would satisfy that thirst, and He made ample provision to meet the needs of the whole world. He sent Jesus. Yes, He has brought that Gospel very close to us. "The word is nigh thee." And then, lest poor thirsty sinners should say, "Oh yes, that is just what I want, but perhaps it is not intended for me." God has put up the Gospel label,— "Whosoever will," "If any man thirst, let him come," "Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye," in other words, "Take a drink and welcome."

Now what would you think of a person, who being very thirsty should come to that cottage gate and see all that I have spoken of, and yet should pass on without taking a drink. Would you not say he was foolish. Well that is just what the writer of this article did. He saw it all. Learned a gospel lesson from it—yet did not drink, and passed on thirsty as ever, but only to learn another lesson. About five minutes after he reached a store,—passed in,—paid for a glass of soda water, and came out, only to find himself in a minute or two, more thirsty than he was before, and as he wiped the perspiration from his face and thought of the pail of water he had passed by, there came before his mind those words of the Prophet Isaiah, "Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? and your labor for that which satisfieth not."

Oh, young man don't act so foolish. Jesus is now offered. The gospel is pressed home. Drink, Drink, Drink and live. Don't think the things of this world will quench your soul. Thirst. Only the Living water can do that. Thirsty soul stoop down and drink.