

ing them bowed all the time we are talking to him. For he is greater than the greatest person on earth, King over all earth's little kings and presidents. Yet how proud we should be that he is also 'our Father dear,' that we need not be afraid to ask his help and blessing.

But this is not all we should do. Our hands may be tight shut and our heads bowed low, yet when our eyes see the carpet, our neighbor's clothes, or even our own shoes, they make us think about these things; and while our lips may be praying our minds are not, they have forgotten and are doing something else. So this prayer makes us shut the little mind-windows, keeping out other thoughts, and letting us be alone with God, no matter where we are or how many are around us.

'With folded hands, bowed heads, and closed eyes, we are ready to ask God to come into our hearts and make them each his home. We know that wherever he lives, whether above the sky or in the smallest heart, there it is heaven. Then he will help us to 'cast out the sin' and keep it out, to be 'pure like the Christ-child,' and to grow up to be Christ-men and Christ-women, or Christians, as we usually say.

This is the prayer we bring to him. It is all we really need to ask for.

Then we 'raise our eyes,' that is, we lift up the eyelid curtains, and the light shines in just as the sunshine streams into a room when the window shades go up. We 'lift up our heads to praise him still.' No bird sings with its head hanging down, neither can we. And then we must 'open our hands' in order to get to work and do for Him the things that need doing.—'Sunday School Times.'

### The Children's Sunday.

A beautiful custom it is that devotes an exquisite summer Sabbath in the flush and bloom of June, when the roses are everywhere fragrant and the birds are singing, to the children of the church. Every Lord's Day, to be sure, is as much for the children as for their elders, but on this particular day they have their seats in the body of the church with their Sunday School banners; the songs are theirs, and the sermon is directed to them. No fairer sight ever greets our eyes than that of a church full of children, unless it be the other sight of the children week after week, scattered about among the grown people as they sit in the familiar family pews.

Too much cannot be said in praise of what the Sunday School does for childhood. Now that family worship is on the decline and that the Bible is omitted from so many of the secular schools, the hope of thousands is in the faithful teaching of the Bible on the Sabbath by men and women who gladly give their service to the Lord, mindful of His tender saying, 'Suffer little children to come unto Me, and forbid them not.'

The children of Christian families ought by right of birth to know their Bibles, not alone in the good old way of memorizing chapters and verses, but by the hearing of the ear. Once a day at least some portion of God's Word ought to be read aloud by the fireside. But if this is not done, the children will not wholly fail of learning the Scriptures if they recite and study a portion selected wisely and explained in the Sunday School.

We try to make the sanctuary attractive on Children's Sunday by bringing to it flowers and sometimes by hanging cages of birds here and there about the church.

I have seen this done, but have never quite liked it as imprisoned birds however sweetly they may sing always make me think of bars and limitations. Then, too, although bird songs are sweet, children's voices are sweeter and nothing is so perfectly delightful as youthful voices uplifted in sacred song. There are many songs that seem fitted for the children to sing. 'Onward, Christian Soldiers,' 'Jesus Loves Me,' 'There Is a Green Hill Far Away,' 'Children of the Heavenly King,' and others, occur to us in this connection.

To preach to children is by no means a simple achievement. They resent the obvious effort to preach down to all comprehension, the plain truth being that all children ex-

cept the tiny ones in the infant class understand much more than most of us suppose of the sermons addressed to an ordinary congregation. I have had very great pleasure in observing the faces of two or three bright children who sit near me in church. They lose not one word that the minister says and no faces are more responsive than theirs. The minister who would win the hearts of children must treat them as if they were intelligent and not talk to them as though they were imbeciles. They enjoy a story or an anecdote as we all do, and if the sermon be about life and conduct and the love of Christ for us, it will not fail of its object. It should not be too long. Sitting still sometimes wearies those who are beyond the restless age. Children like a good deal of change and a fifteen minutes' sermon is long enough for their real benefit.

The hope of the world is in its children. Trite and commonplace as the assertion may sound, unless the rising generation is trained for Christ, and for Christian service, there will be small hope for the world in days to come. The children for Christ should be the motto of the church.—'Christian Intelligencer.'

### Religious Notes.

Dr. W. T. Grenfell, the well-known medical missionary and founder of the Labrador Mission, has stirred up the friends of Arctic exploration by the statement that wherever the white man has penetrated in the remote habitable north the natives have suffered moral and physical deterioration. He even goes farther and declares that before the explorers and traders came to Greenland, the people were peaceable and their lives were simple and healthful; but with the white man came the white man's vices, and these, in many localities, have so depraved the natives that the Eskimos are now disappearing rapidly. Missionaries are doing excellent work among them, but drunkenness, immorality and disease increase at a rate that threatens the early extinction of this race.

There is a suggestion in Doctor Grenfell's observations that the great Polar quest is a ghastly illusion, as far as any substantial gain to science or advantage to commerce is concerned. He very pertinently asks what benefit may be expected from travelling across a wilderness which at some seasons is partially open and at others a dreary, level desert of ice, in search of an imaginary geographical point, which one might pass without being aware of it.

Doctor Grenfell's disclosures should not pass unheeded. Lieutenant Peary and other explorers deny that any such evils follow in their train, but certain it is that the vices and diseases have been introduced by white men. Missionaries in other lands have told of the evil effects following the introduction among native races of the white man's rum, opium, firearms, and immorality. Wherever these have been allowed to come in the wake of the explorer and trader, they have been a reproach to our own vaunted civilization, and a withering blight to the people we should have helped to save. And yet some men who claim to be Christians would discourage the going of missionaries to counteract the effect of evil men and to preach the Gospel of Life to dying races.—'Review of the World.'

Cheering reports keep coming as to the welcoming a Laymen's Missionary Movement is receiving in all quarters. One of the Canadian missionary secretaries call it, 'potentially, the most important religious movement of the century.' The extension of the plan to England is now assured; in response to a cordial invitation from representative leaders of all churches in Great Britain, a deputation of six men went to England for two weeks, from May 27 to June 10, to hold public meetings in the great centres, and to confer with the leaders of all churches as to the possibility of joining the men of the English-speaking nations in the effort to make the message of Christ universally known in our own day.

A movement having some elements in common with the American Laymen's Movement

has lately been inaugurated in Great Britain and is called a 'China Missions Emergency Committee.' A Commission of its members is about to visit China—some of them have already started—with the object of studying and reporting on the present intellectual and moral developments in China. The Committee is undenominational and includes Bishop Welldon, Sir W. Mackworth Young, Mr. Henry Morris, the Rev. Lord William Gascoyne-Cecil, the Rev. Drs. Robert Horton and F. B. Paton and W. Gilbert Walshe are the honorary secretaries.—'Missionary Review of the World.'

Censure and criticism never hurt anybody. If false they cannot hurt you unless you are wanting in manly character and, if true, they show a man his weak points and forewarn him against failure and trouble.—Gladstone.

### The Unrest in India and the Postal Crusade.

(To the Editor of the 'Northern Messenger'.)

Dear Sir,—The unrest reported from India is almost altogether among the educated natives. For many years infidels of Britain and the United States have been deluging this sister nation of ours with their literature. Had the Christians of these countries in the Occident been half as anxious to spread pure reading among students and the English educated natives how different the situation might have been. There never was a time that required more spirited action than the present. For need of funds the work of sending out our best and brightest periodicals is languishing.

Many, among the rest, Miss Dunhill, whose appreciative letter appeared lately in the 'Messenger,' will have to have their subscriptions stopped, as the supply of funds is not sufficient for the demand. I trust there will be a whole-hearted, prompt response, and that I may thus be able to renew names now dropped from the list.—Faithfully,

M. EDWARDS COLE.

These gifts are acknowledged with thanks: \$1.00 has been 'Tenth Given' at Carleton Place.

\$1.00 from Mrs. C. F. Burpee, of New Brunswick.

### Acknowledgments.

#### LABRADOR FUND.

Received for the maintenance of the launch: W. J. Carmichael, Edmonton, \$1.00; Winnie E. Johnston, South Dunham, 65c.; A Friend in Newfoundland, \$1.00; Wm. Gray, Kilmaurs, Ont., \$3.00; A Friend at Pt. Williams, N.S., \$5.00.

Received for the cots: Mrs. Geo. Johnston, Caller St. Catharines, \$1.00; A Friend in Newfoundland, \$1.00; Wm. Gray, Kilmaurs, Ont., \$3.00; Edna L. Sanderson, Sault Ste. Marie, \$3.00; L. Mitchell, Halifax N.S. \$2.00.

Received for the Komatik: May W. Mc-Caller St. Catharines, \$1.00; A Friend in Newfoundland, \$3.00; A Friend at Beachburg, \$2.00.

Previously acknowledged for the launch	\$509.09
Previously acknowledged for the cots	99.98
Previously acknowledged for the komatik	73.25

Total received up to July 30 .. \$708.97

A letter received this week tells of a box of warm clothing, 84 articles in all, sent to Labrador by the Sewing Circle of Fournier, superintended by Miss Sarah Tracy.

Address all subscriptions for Dr. Grenfell's work to 'Witness' Labrador Fund, John Dougall and Son, 'Witness' Office, Montreal, indicating with the gift whether it is for launch, komatik, or cots.

All contributions in the way of clothing, etc., must be sent to Miss Roddick, 80 Union Ave., Montreal.