

The best way for a man to get out of a lowly position is to be conspicuously effective in it.—*Dr. John Hall*

It is a firm belief in the Bible, the fruit of deep meditation, which has served as the guide of my moral and literary life.—*Goethe*.

Man must judge of their religion by examining its foundation; if that fall, the superstructure is perishable and worthless.—*Flavel*.

Life is too short to nurse one's misery. Hurry across the lowlands, that you may spend more time on the mountain tops.—*Phillips Brooks*.

Where Christ brings His cross He brings His presence, and where He is none are desolate, and there is no room for despair.—*Mrs. Browning*

No troubles are so great that they cannot be built into the steps of the staircase by which souls mount up to heaven.—*Canon Liddon*.

I love that tranquillity of soul in which we feel the blessing of existence, and which in itself is a prayer and a thanksgiving.—*Longfellow*.

It seems to me that five minutes of real thankfulness for the love of our dear Saviour is worth a year of hard reasoning on the hidden parts of our redemption.—*Dean Alford*.

Nearness of life to the Saviour will necessarily involve greatness of love to Him. As nearness to the sun increases the temperature of the various planets, so near and intimate communion with Jesus raises the heat of the soul's affections towards Him.—*Spurgeon*.

Jesus is the great capitalist, for is He not King of kings and Lord of lords, and is not all wealth His? And is He not the carpenter of Nazareth, and did not He labour in the sweat of His brow? Who, then, better than He can settle the problem of capital and labour?—*Archbishop Ryan*.

Devotion inspires men with sentiments of religious gratitude and swells their hearts with inward transports of joy and exultation.—*Addison*.

The man who tries to do his best will not always succeed; but he will succeed far oftener than the one who doesn't try.—*H. H. Wheeler*.

We should set God always before us, and ourselves always before Him.—*Henry Church*.

Pray for no particular blessings, but for that state of mind which will make His will ours.—*Heylin*.

Who would stand trifling, as most men do, at the gate of eternity, that verily believed his immortal soul must shortly be there? *Baxter*.

God never allowed any man to do nothing. How miserable is the condition of those men who spend their time as if it were given them, and not lent.—*Bishop Hall*.

CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR.

ORILLIA, ONT.—Every Sunday afternoon after Sunday school the Presbyterian Society holds one or two cottage prayer meetings at the homes of persons unable to attend public worship.—*F.S.K.*

True Friendship.

First Day—The best friend—Prov. xviii. 24; John xv. 12-17.

Second Day—Some poor friends—Job xvi. 1-10.

Third Day—Some earnest friends—Mark ii. 1-12.

Fourth Day—Are we Judas friends?—Matt. xxvi. 21-25, 47-50.

Fifth Day—Cowardly friends.—John iii. 1-5; xix. 38-42.

Sixth Day—Tell your friends of Christ.—Mark v. 1-20.

PRAYER MEETING TOPIC, Dec. 15.—"WHAT IS TRUE FRIENDSHIP?"—Prov. xxvii. 9, 10, 17, 19.

"To constitute a man a true friend it is necessary that he be one of genuine character. It matters not what his reputation may be if his character be not genuine. There can be no true friendship without confidence, and no confidence without integrity. Now, look up the meaning of those two words—confidence, integrity. Confidence—to put trust in. Not simply to believe in, but to trust in. I believe in the security of many of the banks of our land, but I have really trusted one only. When I deposit my money in that bank I not only believe in it—I also trust it. A true friend must be one whom I can trust. Now, look at the word integrity—the state or quality of being entire or complete. Think of it! No true friendship without confidence, no confidence without integrity, no integrity without entirety. Can we find a perfect man on earth? Till we do there can be no absolutely true friendship. This brings us to where we would ever be led. That is to Christ. He is the only absolutely entire man. Integrity is

stamped upon His person and His work. There is not the slightest flaw to be found in anything belonging to Him. In His person He is absolutely pure. In His work He is truly perfect. In His word He is inviolable. Therefore He is the only one of whom we can safely make a confidant. He can be trusted with all and at all times. Jesus, therefore, is the embodiment of all comprised in the title, a true friend. Having Him we have all to which we referred in the opening of this topic. In Him we have an acquaintance worth knowing. He is a companion in whose society we may delight. He is a relative closer and dearer than all earthly ties. He is our Brother. Do you know aught of the True Friend?"—*ALF. SANDHAM IN "FAITHFUL WITNESS."*

Toronto Endeavorers Annual Rally.

Let every City Endeavorer make note of the time and place. Thursday, Dec. 12th at 8 p.m., in Westminster church, Bloor St. An excellent and inspiring programme has been prepared. The speakers will be the Rev. C. O. Johnston of Bathurst street Methodist, and Mrs. Rutherford, President of the W.C.T.U. Two banners will be presented; one to the society having made the greatest proportionate increase during the year, and the other to the society having the largest representation at the meeting in proportion to its membership. Come and crowd Westminster to the doors.

PARRSBORO, N.S.—The recent "Christian patriotism" meeting of the St. John's Presbyterian Society was converted into a helpful missionary service to which the public was invited.—*J.W.D.*

The Church of the Covenant Society, Toronto, has said farewell to its first missionary member, who has gone to China. Four of those remaining have signified their willingness to serve in foreign lands if God calls them forth.

Looks into Books.

THE TRIUMPHS OF THE CROSS by E. P. Tenney A.M. large octavo cloth—702 pp—325 illustrations from recent photographs—Boston: Balch Bros. Price \$3.25.

In this work Prof. Tenney has undertaken to prove from facts the uplifting power of Christianity in both nation, home, and individual. The volume is profusely illustrated with original photographs of the works of art by famous masters. In the long list of collaborators we note many familiar names among the missionaries of our Church. The author's object has been to make such a book as every Christian worker would like to own, and to a large degree he has succeeded. He has produced a sort of symposium, or World's Parliament of Christian Workers, differing from the Chicago Parliament in the fact that all its members are Christian, and that the subject under discussion is not the theoretical, but the practical, side of religion. It is impossible to go into detail in describing so large a work, which is in itself much condensed, but we will give the main headings to indicate the plan of the author: 1. The Founding of Christendom; 2. The Debt of Popular Liberty to Christianity; 3. The Christian Idea of Home Life; 4. Christianity in its Relation to Education; 5. The Relation of Christianity to Art, Literature, and the World of Ideas; 6. Christian Philanthropy; 7. Christianity in its Self-Propagating Force as the Kingdom of God; 8. The Twentieth Century. The last section is prophetic, and in it the author puts more of his individuality. As a book of reference, a storehouse of information, we do not doubt its great usefulness.

"ARNOLD'S PRACTICAL SABBATH SCHOOL COMMENTARY," on the International Lessons, 1896. Mrs. T. B. Arnold, editor; Mrs. Abbie C. Morrow, Mrs. S. B. Titterton and Rev. E. C. Best, associate editors. Cloth, 8mo; 234 pages. Fleming H. Revell Company, Chicago, New York, Toronto.

In the line of Christian work nothing is of greater importance than the Sabbath school. Therefore it is most essential that all teachers engaged in this work should take advantage of every possible means which may be of help or assistance to them in their Sabbath day duties. The lessons for 1896 have been wisely selected by the International Committee. The first half of the year is given up to lessons in the Gospel by Luke, which appropriately follow the work of 1895. The second half of the year takes up the study of the most illustrious characters among men, David and his son Solomon. In preparing the Practical Commentary no pains or earnest effort were spared to make it of great assistance to all who use it. The Daily Readings were arranged by the International Bible Reading Association. The blackboard exercises illustrated in the work were prepared by Rev. E. C. Best, and are an exceedingly valuable feature.