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Nearness to God

O Thou, whose home remains apart
From every evil place;
Thou visitest the pure in heart,
And they behold thy face.

The humble ones thy greatness please,
From scorn and envy free;
And who is living nearest these
Is living nearest thee.

Not rulers lifted up with pride
Contented subjects away;
The meek doth he in judgment guide,
The meek doth teach his way.

The skies exalt their arch sublime;
Beyond them is thy throne;
And none those heights remote may
climb
Who there would climb alone.

The lowly are the lofty ones,
From selfish splendor far;
They shall inherit crowns and thrones,
For they thy children are.

O thou who dwellest far apart
From every evil place;
Give us the purity of heart
Of those who see thy face.

—Edward N. Pomeroy, in *Congregationalist*.

Wise Counsels.—Bishop Vincent, during the week that he spent in Toronto, specially emphasized the importance of home religion, and strongly recommended family worship. He also repeatedly spoke of the value of the Scriptures, and urged his hearers to read the Bible more. Such exhortations are greatly needed.

Generous Gifts.—At the last meeting of the Toronto Social Union, Dr. Fotts made an announcement that caused all lovers of Victoria College to rejoice. He stated that a movement was on foot, looking to the addition of \$350,000 to the endowment of that institution. Our church owes much to the wealthy men whose generous benefactions make such advance movements possible.

Who is My Neighbor?—“Our neighbor,” says Dean Stanley, “is every one with whom we are brought into contact.” First our family; then our companions, acquaintances, townspenpeople; then the stranger—they are all neighbors, in Christ's sense of the word. To love our neighbor as ourselves is not an abstract command; it is a practical, everyday business, never ceasing for an hour.

A Splendid Force.—It is said that people from the United States who settle in the Canadian North-West, say, “You have one thing over here in Canada that we take off our hat to, the Mounted Police.” It is no wonder that this institution is appreciated for it is a strong clean force capable of grappling instantly with vice and lawlessness of all kinds. That it does this successfully a number of desperadoes from across the line have discovered to their sorrow.

Good News from England.—The London Methodist Times says: “Thank God, it is not now necessary to go to Wales to meet with fervor in chapels! All over England a new spirit of prayerfulness and expectation has been awakened in connection with what we call our ‘ordinary services,’ and ministers and people are now beginning to realize that it is gloriously possible to have an outpouring of the Holy Spirit without the presence of a special missioner. We have already got a revival of the spirit of prayer in many of our circuits, both in town and village.”

How to be a Christian.—The London Presbyterian says Dr. Torrey and his singing companion, Mr. Alexander, have secured a strong hold upon the people of London, and excellent work is being done. Each night Dr. Torrey gives a five-minute talk to the young converts on “How to Begin the Christian Life.” These words of advice to those just starting out are full of sound commonsense, and thousands of the audience stay nightly to hear them. The five points Dr. Torrey urges upon every convert are: (1) Keep looking at Jesus; (2) Keep confessing Jesus; (3) Keep studying your Bible; (4) Keep praying; (5) Go to work. If the young Christians will carry out these five points, there will be no fear of backsliding. His brief homily is closed with an exhortation to each one to at once join some church, chapel or mission.

Youthful Determination.—“A few years ago,” says Dr. Boyle, of Philadelphia, “a plainly dressed, bronzed youth appeared before a college professor. He was leading a bullock, his only possession, and said, “I want a steer's worth of learning.” He was admitted, and worked his way successfully through the institution. President Race, of Grant University, tells how a young man recently walked one hundred and sixty miles, from the western part of North Carolina,

to Chattanooga, carrying his personal effects on his shoulder, and desired to secure a college education, without money and without friends. It is needless to say that he succeeded in working his way through the school. Not only that, but he took the first prize for scholarship. Such young fellows as that are the stuff that makes the foremost citizens in any land.

Responsibility of the Home.—The *Epworth Herald* calls attention to an important matter by quoting a sentence from President Wilson, spoken at the Pennsylvania School Teachers' Association. He says: “If you wish your children to be Christians you must really take the trouble to be Christians yourselves,” he declares. The *Herald* adds: “Sometimes children accept Jesus Christ on their own initiative; sometimes the gentle persuasion of a Sunday-school teacher wins them; sometimes the ministrations of the pastor draw them, but generally speaking, the statement of Dr. Wilson just quoted contains about the only terms upon which the home can work the gracious miracle of the conversion of the children and their development of the spiritual life. It is not fair to attempt to escape responsibility by putting it upon the Sunday-school. It does not belong there. True, the Sunday-school might do more than it does at present for the salvation of the children, but the same is to be said of the Christian home, and more justly. Many young people would accept Jesus Christ and begin the Christian life in earnest if they received the right sort of encouragement from their fathers and mothers, whose profession of religion justifies the children in expecting such encouragement. A young man is likely to have a higher respect for the Christian religion if he is asked to accept Christ as his Saviour by his own father or mother, in whose life he has seen the teachings of Jesus beautifully exemplified.” “No,” says President Wilson, “you cannot shift this thing by sending your children to Sunday-school. You may remedy many things, but you cannot shift this responsibility. If the children do not get this into their blood atmospherically, they are not going to get it into their blood at all until, it may be, they come to a period of life where the influence of Christian lives outside of the home may profoundly affect them and govern their consciences. We must realize that the first and most intimate and most important organization for the indoctrinating of the next generation in the home, is the family. This is the key to the whole situation.”