

of the laying of the corner stone of our Church. Meanwhile I trust that these few words may arouse some interest, and that its fruits may be made manifest. Thanking you for your kindness in finding room for this.

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Trinity College.

Sunday School Lesson.

Rogation Sunday.

May 7th, 1898.

THE CATECHISM—PRAYER AND SACRAMENTS.

I. PRAYER—THE LORD'S PRAYER.

We cannot do anything without God's help (S. John xv. 5). Compare in former part of Catechism, "By God's help so I will, and I pray unto God," etc., with the address to the child after the Duty to our Neighbour, "My good child, know this, thou art not able," etc. True and earnest prayer is the first and greatest necessity of a religious life—the very breath of our souls; by it, we who are weak become strong in the Lord, for it "moves the hand that moves the world." All that we have already learned in the Catechism leads up to this great Christian duty of prayer. We are adopted into God's family—so we may speak to Him as a Father; we profess our belief in Him in the Creed—so that we know how well He is able to supply our wants; and when we have learned His Commandments we have clearly before our minds the things in which we most need His help.

There will not of course be time for going particularly into the explanation of the Lord's Prayer; but a few points might be enforced:—

1. It has a special power with God, being the words of His Own Son.
2. We cannot use it too often, provided we pray heartily in spirit and in truth.
3. Being the universal Christian prayer it is expressed in general terms, but as we use the words, we can think of special blessings for ourselves and others.

4. It does not end like other prayers—with "through Jesus Christ," etc., but every part of it is offered up in His Name.

II. THE SACRAMENTS.

1. *The number of the Sacraments.* The Catechism teaches that there are "two only," but adds "as generally necessary to salvation," and then gives a definition of the "word sacrament." Some of the ordinances called "sacraments" in ancient times are not generally (that is, for all men) necessary; for example, Holy Orders and Matrimony; some were ordained not by Christ but by His apostles (as Confirmation), others are errors discarded at the Reformation (as Extreme Unction). (Art. xxv.) Penance is not a sacrament at all, any more than prayer, hearing sermons, etc. These two sacraments (Baptism and the Lord's Supper) are offered by God to all who will receive them, and are necessary to salvation. By this we do not mean that every one who fails to receive them is lost! We simply state our belief in the teaching of Christ (S. John iii. 5; vi. 53); we confess our obligation, but leave others to the mercy of God.

2. *Holy Baptism.* Commanded by Christ (S. Matt. xxviii. 19, 20). Here we have the proper words to be used, and the use of water is laid down (S. John iii. 5). We have the example of Christ Himself in S. Matt. iii. 13-17. Baptism brings a new birth. We inherit a sinful nature (just as we inherit a likeness to our parents, their diseases, etc.)—by our first birth—but in Baptism we are born again into God's family as members of Christ. Infants are baptized, because they should be brought to Christ (S. Mark x.) as soon as possible. Repentance and faith are absolutely necessary before an adult can be baptized, and we take the best means that could be devised for impressing this same necessity in after years, on those baptized in infancy, by the promises made in their name by their sureties (or Godparents).

3. *Holy Communion.* The Lord's Supper was ordained as a "remembrance of the sacrifice of the death of Christ" (S. Luke xxii. 19), which means that it is a memorial, or a means by which we plead before God that one great sacrifice continually; and also it is a remembrance or memorial in our own hearts of the benefits of His death. What-

ever Christ gained for us by His death is thus made sure to us.

The outward part is Bread and Wine. The Lord has commanded us to receive both (not to refuse the cup to the laity, like the Church of Rome, or to put something else in place of real wine, as some have lately done). And that Bread and Wine become to the faithful receiver "verily and indeed" the Body and Blood of Christ. By this means, He who was once present with His disciples in bodily form is now present in the hearts of believers "after an heavenly and spiritual manner" (Art. xxviii.) for "the strengthening and refreshing of our souls."

Those who come to the Holy Communion must have repentance and faith (as in Baptism), also thankfulness for Christ's death, and charity, or love, to all men. They must therefore "examine themselves" (1 Cor. xi. 28), whether they are in these ways "religiously and devoutly disposed." Many excellent manuals are published as a guide to such self-examination, and in the Communion Service itself the Ten Commandments are introduced for the same purpose.

Teachers should use all loving earnestness that their scholars may early imbibe a great desire for this, the highest privilege of the members of the Church of Christ.

Of Course You Read

The testimonials frequently published in this paper relating to Hood's Sarsaparilla. They are from reliable people, state simple facts, and show beyond a doubt that Hood's Cures. Why don't you try this medicine? Be sure to get Hood's.

Constipation, and all troubles with the digestive organs and the liver, are cured by Hood's PILLS. Unequalled as a dinner pill.

Family Reading.

Love's Mastery: or, the Gower Family.

NUMBER 2.

Little Tracy lay very still and expectant, with the smile upon his face, waiting for his darling sister. She was very long in coming, he began to think; and when the soft unfolding of the door at length was heard, only nurse appeared, carrying the tray with the little glittering silver service, and the muffins already toasted. Tracy knew then that, as on many, many, former occasions, he was destined to be disappointed; and, though the smile faded away out of his sweet face, exactly as Stella was fancying it would, there was not a word of murmur, or shadow of discontent in the little gentle voice, though its plaintiveness was very touching.

"O, nurse dear, then Stella is coming, after all!"

"No, Master Tracy, darling; and vexed enough, I dare say, she is. But Clarice came and told me that Miss Gower had given orders for Miss Stella to go into the dining-room; and so, I suppose she couldn't come. She promised you, I know; for she came and told me not to make the toast; but don't fret, dear. She'll come another time. She's more put out than you about it now, I'll answer."

"Yes, I know Stella is sorry; and so am I," said Tracy, rather wearily, "I don't much want any tea, nurse dear."

"O my darling, you mustn't say that—with Miss Stella's pretty things and all. And she'll be sure to enquire whether you made a good tea, and vexed if she hears you didn't. Let me raise you up, dear." So nurse shook the cushions almost as tenderly as Stella herself would have done, and raised the little frail child upon the couch; then, drawing the table close beside it, and turning on a cheerful blaze of gas, she spread the tempting little tea before him.

"You sit down, and have some too, then, nurse," the child said, as he watched her gratefully. And yielding, partly to her coaxing and compliance, and partly to her hint as to Stella's vexation, Tracy made a rather larger meal than usual.

When all was cleared away, nurse brought out cards and dominoes; and it was affecting to watch

the languid movements of the little thin fingers, and the subdued expression of countenance so far removed from all kind of interest or zest in the occupation, which seemed carried on simply from habit, and because it was an expected thing that he should so divert himself.

"You are tired of these dominoes and cards, aren't you, dear?" nurse said at last.

"Yes, I believe I am," the boy answered. "I was thinking about Stella's pictures, nurse; and she has promised to paint me pretty. Will you, please, give me the book—that pretty one on the table—and I think I will look them through again."

"Very well, my darling; and I must clear away all these things, for I am thinking Miss Gower will be here presently."

Nurse was right; for, five minutes after, the same rustling of silk which had perturbed Stella upon the landing was heard within the doors, and Lora, very beautiful and stately, entered the room.

A little colour and a faint smile came into Tracy's face as those rustling silks stayed themselves beside his couch, and his elder sister looked down calmly and steadfastly upon him. But it was not the smile which had greeted Stella.

"How are you feeling this evening, Tracy?" Lora inquired, as, after one glance at him, she cast another equally observant and more comprehensive from the couch around the room, to see that all was as it should be.

"I am much the same, thank you, sister," the child answered in his little quiet tone.

"Will you not please to sit down, ma'am," nurse said, drawing a chair towards the young lady.

"No, thanks," Lora replied, with a slight gesture of authority, putting aside the offered seat. And then she made some few inquiries as to how the child had been and what the doctor had said, and gave some few directions as to what she wished done on the morrow. To all of which nurse responded respectfully.

"And now he must be going to bed," she continued, turning again to Tracy. "There is company this evening, so I cannot stay longer; and that is the reason Stella is not able to come to-night, Tracy. It is very naughty of her to make promises when she knows she may not be able to keep them. You must not depend upon her in future."

Tracy felt fully convinced in his own mind that there could be no possible naughtiness attached to any of Stella's proceedings; and his dependence on her remained entirely unshaken. But the suffering child had learned much of experience and caution; and he knew now, child though he was, that it would be useless to say one word of exculpation in answer to those words spoken to him so softly by his elder sister. He only raised his large expressive eyes to her face sadly and questioningly.

Lora stooped down to say good-night, and kissed his forehead. "Have you everything you want, Tracy?" she asked. "Did you like the new game I sent you yesterday?"

"Yes, thank you, sister. And the flowers were very beautiful: I like them best of all."

"That is right. Mind, nurse, that those are removed, and let me know, that some more may be provided: they so soon fade."

And then Lora, with the same gracious queenly bearing as she entered, turned and quitted the apartment; her whole visit having occupied about five minutes. But Tracy's eyes did not follow her exit as they had followed that of Stella two or three hours before. That one visit, paid when other more pressing engagements did not prevent, once in the course of the day, satisfied Lora's conscience as far as personal attention to her little brother was concerned.

Expense of doctors, nurses, and amusement were lavished abundantly; and Miss Gower had long ago persuaded herself that she was doing her duty—nay, more than her duty to the child by this unsparing transfer. What did she know of medicines and nursing? Was not Tracy quite safe and cared for in the hands of Dr. Argyle, and Mrs. Blount, his nurse from infancy—without her interference? And did not her many claims, arising from position, a numerous circle of friends, and constant engagements, fully exonerate her from all further personal responsibility? The child was an invalid, certainly; still he had everything that heart could wish, never complained, and, as far

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