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A Prayer.

By S. Jean Walker.

GOD of our fathers, guide our way
As Thou thy people didst of old,
A pillared cloud their guide by day,
By night the fiery symbol rolled.
Then hear us, Lord, lest sins beset
And tempt us sore and we forget.

God of our fathers, still the same
When Jordan's billows backward rolled,
Thy loving guidance to proclaim
And wondrous dealings to unfold,
Through sin's dark waves, Lord, do Thou lead,
Mark Thou our path, great is our need.

Lord God of battles, lend thine aid
As Thou in Caanan didst of yore,
Of heathen hordes we're not afraid,
But sin's allurements more and more.
From passion, lust, and selfish greed
Defend us, Lord, Thy strength we need.

Our God and Father, guide our way
O'er mountain heights, through darkened vale,
Far from Thy path we careless stray,
O'er our weak wills Thy will prevail,
And lead us back from dangers freed—
Then guide us still, we humbly plead.

Great God of love, Thou gavest Thy Son
A sacrifice for fallen man,
He conquered death, the victory won,
And sealed with blood redemption's plan.
Before Thy throne He intercedes,
For mourning sinners ever pleads.

O God, we pray for His dear sake—
None other way nor right we claim—
Teach us the path through life to take
That we may honor His great name.
This be our joy till life is done,
Then grant us rest through Christ Thy Son.
Thamesville, Ont. AMEN.

The Country Society.

IN planning for the development and progress of our movement, it is of the utmost importance that the country society should not be overlooked. Plans and methods which might prove serviceable in town and city organizations are frequently poorly adapted for use in the country. And yet, fully one-third of all the societies in Canada will be found in the rural districts.

It is to be expected that the workers in such

societies should at times compare their service unfavorably with those whom they consider more favorably situated. They have no warm and brilliantly lighted church parlor in which to meet. They have no Local Union to furnish fresh suggestions and stimulate them in the work. They have no such opportunities for rendering varied service as lie within the sphere of city organizations. The building in which they meet is severe in its simplicity. They are dependent upon themselves and the pastor, for the most part, in conducting their meetings. And the sphere of service is necessarily circumscribed.

Yet the country society has its points of advantage. There are not so many counter-influences at work, and so the membership of the society is very much larger, in proportion to the size of the church, than in the city, and the attendance is much more regular. The members have to depend more fully upon themselves, and thus the society is fulfilling more fully its mission in training up workers for service in the church. It is from the country societies that city and town organizations frequently get their best workers; and it is from the country societies, also, that the majority of candidates for the ministry come.

The country society may not be able to present glowing reports of work accomplished or of enthusiastic rallies, but it is carrying on a service for the Master that He alone can adequately estimate. The little church on the hill, or nestled in the valley, or half-hidden in the forest, or standing out on the wide prairie, is the home of some society that is doing a work, viewed from the standpoint of self-sacrifice and spiritual results, second to none in the land.

Ignorance of the Bible.

BY all classes of people the Bible is exalted and praised. Among the books that are best worth knowing, the Bible is given the first place. Historians acknowledge its value as a trustworthy record of ancient history, literateurs extol the purity and excellence of its style; orators confess that to it they owe much of the charm of their diction, while Christians universally unite in saying that a knowledge of the Scriptures is essential to development and progress in the divine life. Never were there so many "helps" to its interpretation furnished by journals of all kinds. And yet there is evidence