

unstable in all his ways." And Jesus himself told John to write to the Laodiceans, "Because thou art lukewarm, and neither hot nor cold, I will spew thee out of my mouth," while in one of his greatest parables he said that when the prodigal came to himself and rose up from among his swine to be a man again, the new manliness burst forth in decision,—"I will."

Manliness will always express itself in decision. "The longer I live the more certain I am," said Sir T. Fowell Buxton, "that the great difference between men, the feeble and the powerful, the great and the insignificant, is energy and invincible determination—a purpose once fixed, and then death or victory. That quality will do anything that can be done in this world; and no talents, no circumstances, no opportunities, will make a two-legged creature a man without it." It was this that made Disraeli prime minister of Great Britain. "I have begun several times, many things," he said, finishing his first speech in the House of Commons amid jeers and laughter at his failure, "and I have often succeeded at last; aye sir, and though I sit down now the time will come when you will hear me."

The man of decision always will do what he ought to do. He will never sink out of hard responsibilities under the plea that he cannot perform them. He knows that "impossible" is an impossible word in the line of duty.

"So close is glory to our dust,

So near is God to man,

When duty whispers low, 'Thou must,'

The youth replies, 'I can' "

This is the kind of life for a man—not a soft, pliable, wavering, invertebrate life, but a life of iron and steel, of quick vision, sober, steady judgment, and sharp, keen, decisive will. Every true man will be another John the Baptist. "What went ye out into the wilderness to behold? a reed shaken with the wind? But what went ye out for to see? a man clothed in soft raiment? Behold they that wear soft raiment are in kings' houses." Even so, but the kingly life and the kingly work are his who scorns the raiment of delicacy and who unshaken stands "foursquare to all the winds that blow."

#### Sabbath Observance at Summer Resorts.

BY J. G. SHEARER, B. A., GEN. SECRETARY  
L. D. A. OF O.

The writer had exceptional opportunity during July and August last of taking careful note of how the Lord's Day is observed in "The Highlands of Ontario."

There is much to commend—little to condemn. The great majority of cottagers, campers and boarders avoid all pleasure seeking and where possible, attend Church services. Practically, the only exceptions are the most gay and fashionable resorts and a few 'camps' where 'men only' (and His Satanic Majesty) are allowed—women and angels being under the ban. From these there is a certain amount of fishing, hunting, etc., and worldly gaiety unbecoming the Day of God. In many places a distinctly Christian atmosphere prevails. This is due mainly to the restraint and leavening influence of the Christian people who prevail in numbers at the various resorts. At many of them, regular services are held by resident pastors, students or visiting ministers or laymen each Sabbath. At

one resort where about thirty boarders were accommodated and where two ministers were of the number, daily family worship was conducted at 8 o'clock each evening. All the guests manifested their appreciation by regular attendance. If the ministers and laymen of the churches were more uniformly to see that services of this kind on the Lord's Day or on all days were held, the question of the observance of the Sabbath would not need to be raised.

Would it not be well, also, for the various Ecclesiastical authorities to give a little more attention to the supplying of acceptable leadership in such services, systematically, at the various summer resorts throughout our country. Something is being done along this line at present. Much more might be done. Would it not be possible for the Home Mission Committees of the various denominations to confer and cooperate so as to reach all such resorts with at least one service each Lord's Day, and yet avoid needless overlapping? This has before been suggested by some of the religious papers. I am persuaded it is worthy of more serious consideration. The atmosphere of our summer resorts must be maintained as distinctly Christian or the reflex influence upon the Spiritual life of our city and town churches will be serious.

In increasing numbers our friends from the United States are patronizing these Highlands of Ontario. A goodly number of these visitors are as appreciative of the value of our quiet Canadian Sabbath as we ourselves. Many others bring with them the conceptions of the Lord's Day as a mere worldly holiday which prevail in their own communities. Thin influence, thus far has been well held in check but it carries with it a serious peril, not only to the Sabbath of the summer resort, but to the religious life of the country.

#### Faith Healing.

On this subject the Belfast Witness says:

The Rev. G. Campbell Morgan who has gone to succeed Mr. Moody in charge of the work at Northfield, has felt constrained to state his views on faith healing, which is becoming a fanaticism in America. He says he believes in Divine healing, because there can be no healing which is not Divine. When ill he employs medical aid because he expects God to work through human skill. He maintains (and this is an important point) that he cannot assent to any system which claims that God must heal all who in faith ask to be healed regardless of the purpose of Providence. Therefore, he does not sympathize with those who teach faith healing as an integral part of the Gospel. Americans have evidently imported a level-headed man who will help to keep them sane and safe and sound on these subjects.

The children had written compositions on the giraffe. They were reading them aloud to the class. At length the time came for little Willie to read his. It was as follows:

"The giraffe is a dumb animal and can not express itself by any sound, because its neck is so long that its voice gets tired on its way to its mouth."

Character must stand behind and back up everything—the sermon, the poem, the picture, the play. None of them is worth a straw without it.—J. G. Holland.

#### Sparks From Other Anvils.

**Religious Intelligence:** With characteristic uprighteousness, the fakir Dowie reports to the assessor that his assessable property is worth \$50,000. The Chicago board of review places the Dowie valuation at \$500,000, and intends that he shall pay taxes accordingly.

**Christian Century:** Ties which bind us to Christ.—These seven 'togethers' are seven links of a chain which bind us indissolubly to Christ: Crucified together; quickened together; raised together; seated together in heavenly places; suffered together; heirs together and glorified together with Christ.

**Christian Observer:** Every duty we perform helps us to perceive, and to be readier to perform, some other duty. And as John Ruskin says, "every duty we omit obscures some truth we should have known." Thus we are all the time gaining or losing in the line of right doing. Each time it is easier, or harder, for us to do next time as we should do.

**Lutheran Observer:** It is profoundly significant that the supreme illustration of hope for the world was furnished by him who came into closest and deadliest contact with its evil, and who knew it, therefore, in its strength and blackness as none other has ever known it among the sons of men. Yet the world's greatest optimist was Christ. For the world, about which some people are ready to despair, he was willing to die.

**Sunday School Times:** Balancing the accounts of giving and getting is pretty poor business for any servant of God. It is more important that giving should proceed unceasingly, without thought of return, than that return should accrue to the giver at all. The man who cannot give of his time and money and strength to God's service without thinking of what he will get out of it in thanks or credit or place or honor has not yet learned to give.

**United Presbyterian:** The movement for Sabbath rest gains favor and is making headway in Europe. Of this we have an evidence from some of the postal stamps, as in Belgium, which have printed on them, "Not to be delivered on Sunday." This is printed on the bottom of the stamp and may be detached. It is in the direction of no Sabbath delivery and gives the sender the opportunity to keep his correspondence from the postman's pouch on that day.

**Presbyterian Banner:** To too great an extent parents throw off all sense of responsibility for the training of their children, and children almost from their earliest days assume an independence of judgment and action which is wholly unbecoming. These things pertain to a very marked degree to our country and need to be guarded against in order that we may increase what of good we already possess in our national life, and remove the influences of evil which would demoralize more and more.

A lawyer, about to furnish a bill for costs was requested by his client, a baker, to make it as light as possible. "Ah," said the lawyer, "you might properly say that to the foreman of your establishment; but that is not the way I make my bread."