

effect was very fine. Sometimes a ball would be missed, when a shout of derision would go up, but was stopped suddenly as the next ball hit more surely was sent over the heads of the crowd.

I must say we heartily enjoyed the fun, the fireworks, the noise, the crowding, and all, for perhaps we for the first time in China felt that we were a part of the crowd, and welcome too, and not merely outside foreign devils.

We have this year great hopes over the protection of our property by the police. The newly appointed street policeman assures us that he can trace any stolen goods and arrest the thief. I guess likely he can, for he is the man that once stole the bricks off our wall and then brought them to sell to us.

A slight rain, the first we have seen since early last fall—and there has been no snow—fell a few nights ago. The prospects for a spring crop are very poor, as little wheat was sown, and where the land is not irrigated the crop will be poor. Mr. Slimmon has gone to meet our friends just now arriving in Tientsin. As no cable was sent announcing their departure, the first word we heard was a wire from Shanghai announcing their arrival there. When they arrive here there will be room for all till new houses are put up, and work, heaps of work, for all.

Chang te-Fu, 25th Feb., 1902.

### David's Safeguard.

"Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against Thee." "I will meditate in Thy precepts and have respect unto Thy ways." "I will delight myself in Thy statutes; I will not forget Thy word."

David had found the safeguard against sin when he said, "Thy word have I hid in mine heart." We know God through His Word; we love Him only when we know Him. How important, then, is the study of God's message to the world! Is Christianity the first business of life? Then nothing but the best Christianity will do, and to know the best we must study and learn.

We diligently prepare for everything we undertake. The lawyer, the physician, the teacher, the artist, and the artisan think no time too precious, no labour too severe to be expended on perfecting their work. Yet some Christians seem to think that the fitness for their careers will descend in some mysterious manner from the skies, and pass into their souls. It is not true. We must work for all we gain.

Holy living is not something separated from daily life and laws thereof. It is the most natural thing in the world, and the good Christian achieves perfection in the same way a good lawyer does—by study, consecration, and practice. God has left us a text-book in which the wisest and best men of the past have recorded what they learned and what was revealed to them as God's will. In this book we find what was revealed to us in every emergency of life, but we must have the word in our hearts if we would use it. This book also reveals to us the life of our Saviour in such grace and tenderness that we learn to love him as naturally as we learn to sympathize with Keats when we read his short, sad life story.

Learn more of your Bible; spend hours upon it where you have been spending minutes, and you will soon see the fruit of it in a better life.—Christian Standard.

He who kills time murders good opportunity. Think you he should go unpunished?

## Our Young People

### Jesus the Living Bread.

John 6: 22-35, 48-58.

Topic for 11th May.

### Our Leader Speaks.

No food for the body has been found that will answer well for all persons. No set of foods has been found that can be prescribed as sufficient and best for any person under all circumstances. If you read the books giving advice as to what to eat, you will find great differences of opinion among the wise men. Some will say that we should eat no wheat bread, others that we should eat no coarse bread, others that we should eat no bread at all. Some will urge meats, on the ground that they are easily digestible. Others object to all meats, on the ground that they carry disease from the slaughtered animals. Every fruit has its advocate and its opponent. So has every kind of drink.

But in the life of the Spirit, a perfect food has been found. It is a food that is equally adapted to all persons. It meets the need of all circumstances. It has been proved under the tropic sun and amid the polar snows. It has been tested in prison and on the march, in the harvest fields and in the sick room, in King's courts and in the huts of the very poor, for the old and the young, the wise and the unlearned.

And everywhere, whoever tastes of this food discovers at once a new life running through all the veins of his spiritual nature. He finds himself leaping with joy. He is master of his powers as never before. The world has become a new place to him. His work has become the most delightful of tasks. His troubles are all gone, and perfect peace has come in their place. In short, this food has won, from all who have tried it, entire approval of the name given it by the one who first brought the food to earth—it is indeed the Bread of Life.

Other food is hard to obtain; this may be had for the asking. Other food spoils with time; this food grows better with age. Other palls on the appetite; this food is the more enjoyable the longer it is used. Other food is for the fleeting needs of a temporary body. This food is for the eternal needs of the imperishable soul.

Is anyone here that has not received the Bread of life? Oh, will you not make it your own to-night?

### Daily Readings.

Mon.,	May	5.—The water of life.	John 4: 5-15
Tues.,	"	6.—Spiritual meat.	1 Cor. 10: 1-7
Wed.,	"	7.—Manna and revolt.	Ps. 78: 12-33
Thurs.,	"	8.—Come and drink.	John 7: 32-39
Fri.,	"	9.—"Broken for you."	Matt. 26: 26-30
Sat.,	"	10.—Meat and drink.	John 4: 31-38
Sun.,	"	11.—TOPIC. Jesus the Living Bread.	John 6: 22-35, 48-58

So much we miss,  
If love is weak; so much we gain,  
If love is strong! God thinks no pain  
Too sharp or lasting to ordain  
To teach us this. —Helen Hunt Jackson.

### Thoughts on the Topic.

Food means growth. Without food there is no growth. Even the air plant must get its food from the air. The reason for the puny spiritual life of so many is their scanty, hurried meals of Scripture and prayer.

Dr. Cuyler tells of an old negro who one day told his pastor that he had been thinking if the crumbs of joy that fall from the Lord's table in this world are so good, what must the great loaf in glory be? "I want to get hold of the full dish," he said.

The manna lay all around the camp of the Israelites. They could not stir from their tents without doing one of two things—either gathering it or trampling it under foot. So it is with the bread of life; you must either take it into your life or spurn it from you. Which is it that you are doing?

We may receive the bread of life in the Lord's Supper in a very peculiar and especial sense—a genuine gift of strength and joy and grace such as can be obtained precisely the same from no other source. But we shall not receive any such blessing from the Lord's Supper unless we prepare for it, and carry to it hearts that are hungry for just that blessing.

If Christ had called Himself "the living pomegranate" or "the living nectar," He would have taught us His preciousness, but He would not have taught us His accessibility. He loved to compare Himself to the most common things. He is the water of life, He is the Bread of life—bread and water, things that are found in all lands, everywhere understood and everywhere used.

### God Over All.

BY WILLIAM WORDSWORTH.

One adequate support  
For the calamities of mortal life  
Exists—one only: an assured belief  
That the procession of our fate, however  
Sad or disturbed, is ordered by a Being  
Of infinite benevolence and power,  
Whose everlasting purposes embrace  
All accidents, converting them to good.

Reverence is the chief joy and power of life—reverence for what is pure and bright in your youth, for what is true and tried in the age of others, for all that is gracious among the living, great among the dead and marvelous in the power that cannot die.—Ruskin.

To do what we ought, is an altogether higher, diviner, more potent, more creative thing, than to write the grandest poem, paint the most beautiful picture, carve the mightiest statue, or dream out the most enchanting combination of melody and harmony.—George MacDonald.

It has been said that a good lesson should be like a good dinner, prepared with a great variety of materials, well-cooked, tastefully served, easily digested and highly nutritious.

Dear teacher, God saved the child Moses, but his mother daubed the basket with pitch and made it water-tight. Do your part well and God will co-operate in saving your boys.