

God's Love In Nature.

Nature is one aspect and manifestation of God's love toward us. We are immediately conscious of this at many points. Its grand machinery so exquisitely balanced and regulated, its beautiful arrangements of soil and shower and sunshine, wheatfield and fruit tree, spring and stream, to supply our physical needs, the perfection with which it fits and satisfies our senses, the beauty that is so lavished upon landscape and leaf, sea and sky, flower's petal and insect's wing, are evidences of the good will of the Creator towards us, our Father's love displayed in the house he has built for us. Yet there is another side to nature that seems the opposite of love. Its storm and lightning, the treacherous sea and the pitiless desert, and especially disease and pain and death, the many arrangements that seem only as cunning traps to catch us, the multitudinous microbes that are so many unseen assassins, are these the manifestations of love? Faith affirms that they are, and reason can do something towards making good the affirmation. The hard side of nature has its beneficent uses and may be just as kind to us in the outcome as its soft side. Nature makes us toil for our bread: this sometimes seems hard, but toil is a great teacher; by means of it we grow physically, mentally and morally. The people in the tropics, by as much as they are released from toil, fall in the scale of manhood. In this northern region where we must wrest our bread from rocky soil and frost fingers we grow masterful in the struggle, but machines are made out

Our Young People

The Pathway to Peace.

Topic: for February 9. John 14: 25-31. Isa. 26: 3.

If I were asked what words of the Bible I find it hardest to believe, I almost think I should repeat those two words of Isaiah, which are part of our lesson this week: "Perfect peace." If Isaiah meant heaven, I could understand it; for in heaven, I know, there will be no sin, no pain, no sorrow, nothing to disturb peace. But Isaiah did not mean it for heaven, but for earth; and how can we expect to have perfect peace on this earth, where there are so many troubles and frets, so many fears and uncertainties, so many sicknesses and disasters? Has any of us ever passed a day in perfect peace? What, then, did Isaiah mean?

I think he meant just what he said. I am sure the Bible makes no mistake. It tells us that there is such a thing as perfect peace, and that any one can have it. We have only to trust in God, and it will come to us. If we do not have it, it is only because we do not trust enough in God.

For it is God's peace. That is where our New Testament reference comes in. "My peace I give unto you," Christ said. His peace was perfect peace. Even in the hours of sore temptation in the wilderness it was perfect peace. Even when His neighbors in Nazareth thrust him out, He was perfectly at peace. Even before His cruel judges, His peace was untroubled. If it is His peace that we are to have, it may well be perfect peace.

Our life is like the great desert of Sahara, with its hot, arid surface, swept often by the winds, and with rare pools of water, easily dried up. But they have found broad subterranean lakes, deep under the surface of the desert, stretching out underneath that barrenness, and men have only to sink their wells, and the desert blossoms with flowers and glows with verdure.

If we live surface lives, we shall find them desolate as any desert; but if we choose to reach down into the depths of God's love which underlies all existence, we may bring an unfailing supply of peace—the perfect peace which seems to the world so impossible of attainment. I pray that at this very meeting many will seek the well of Living Water, of which if any one drinks, he will never thirst.

Daily Readings.

on.,	Feb. 3.—Peace with God.	Rom. 5: 1-10
ues.,	" 4.—Peace with men.	Luke 2: 8-14
ed.,	" 5.—Peace with self.	Phil. 4: 4-9
urs.,	" 6.—Making peace.	Matt. 5: 1-9
ti.,	" 7.—How peace comes.	Rom. 12: 16-21
t.,	" 8.—How peace goes.	Isa. 48: 16-22
on.,	" 9.—Topic. The pathway to peace.	

Our Members Testify.

When Martin Luther was in trouble he used to calm his spirit by singing the forty-sixth Psalm, "God is our refuge and strength." We get peace in the same way.

We have most of us read the life of that noble missionary hero, John G. Paton, and we know how full it has been of hardships and dangers. He says in one place that whenever he has faced death for Christ's sake, though he could not say that he was entirely without fear, yet out of the darkness he could always hear Christ's words, "Lo, I am with you always." That was the secret of his peace.

In one of Longfellow's best known poems he gives us the secret of the perfect peace which the Christian longs for. It comes from doing God's will. Longfellow's lines are these:—

"Let us then labor for an inward stillness,—
An inward stillness and an inward healing;
That perfect silence when the lips and heart
Are still, and we no longer entertain
Our own imperfect thoughts and vain opinions,
But God alone speaks in us, and we wait
In singleness of heart, that we may know
His will, and in the silence of our spirits,
That we may do His will, and do that only!"

A sentence that is likely to become one of the most famous ever written is the one that gives its name to our lesson this week. "The Foot-path to Peace" was written by Henry Van Dyke, and it is well worth trying to memorize. Here it is:—

To be glad of life because it gives you the chance to love and to work and to pray and to look up at the stars; to be satisfied with your possessions, but not contented with yourself until you have made the best of them; to despise nothing in the world except falsehood and meanness, and to fear nothing except cowardice; to be governed by your admirations rather than by your disgusts; to covet nothing that is your neighbor's except his kindness of heart and gentleness of manners; to think: seldom of your enemies, often of your friends, and every day of Christ; and to spend as much time as you can with body and with spirit in God's out-of-doors,—these are little guide-posts on the foot-path to peace.

To be my very best this very hour, to do the very best for those about me, and to spend this moment in a spirit of absolute consecration to God's glory, this is the duty that confronts me.—D. J. Burrell, D. D.

If I can put some torches of rosy sunset into the life of any man or woman, then I feel that I have wrought with God.—George MacDonald.

"We are not here to play, to dream, to drift. We have hard work to do and loads to lift. Run not the struggle—face it, 'tis God's gift. Be strong."

Yes, God helps the man who helps himself, but we would think He would rather help the man who helps somebody else!

Children will put up with very poor teaching on Sunday, providing they are very sure the teacher loves them all the week.