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"The Presbyterian Review" has the largest sworn circulation of the Presbyterian newspapers in Canada.

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The Presbyterian Review.

Important Announcement for 1887.

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THE PEACEFUL LIFE.

"Count not attention to the daily duties, not the strictness of the Christian life, to be bondage, but count it the sweetest liberty and the only way of true peace. Wherever this is accounted hard, that state which is embraced instead of it will be found harder."—John Rogers, of Durham, 1585.

THE working life is the life of peace,
The words of the wise are golden;
And down the line of three hundred years
Comes the truth of these words grown older.

Not the days that are passed amid songs and flowers,
In dreamy inactive leisure,
But the days that are strong with stress of toil
Are those of the truest pleasure.

The eyes that look straight toward God and heaven,
Nor turn from the path of duty;
Are the eyes that see, in this changeful world,
The sights of truest beauty.

Who lives for earth and to self alone
Must find his enjoyment shallow,
While he who lives but for God and right
Finds something each day to follow.

He who is bound by the yoke of love,
And regains his freedom never,
Has his perfect liberty here on earth,
And he shall be free forever.

O, life is short, and its skies sometimes
Are darkened with care and sorrow,
But the loyal hearted, the brave of soul,
Has always a glad to-morrow.

Then let us patiently bear the cross,
Our service and love confessing,
For the life of labour and faith and love
Is the only life of blessing.

—Marianne Farningham.

COMMUNION THOUGHTS.

WERE we invited by a friend to a feast, it would be an insult to our host to eat and satisfy our hunger before going. It would imply that we thought the food of our table more palatable than his. So, to come acceptably to the feast of the Lord's Supper, we come hungering for the bread of life.

There we find spread for us a feast which could never be equaled though one had all the wealth of the world in his treasury. Our Host says: "This is my body, which is broken for you; take, eat;" "I am the living bread which came down from Heaven—if any man eat of this bread he shall live forever;" "Blessed are they that hunger, for they shall be filled."

Neither, if we are invited to a feast, do we take anything with us to supplement the feast. If we go by invitation, it is implied that our host will provide all that is necessary. So, "Nothing in my hand I bring," is the confession of every welcome guest at the Lord's table. We honour our Host when we sit down at His table, believing that He is able to provide enough for us all, and expecting that He will. It is the guest with "great expectations" that is helped the most bountifully at the Lord's table.

Nor, when we have partaken of the feast, do we attempt to render an equivalent for it. However rich the repast, we honour our host by accepting all as a free gift.

So our Lord expects none of His guests to perform any deed which may be regarded as a compensation for favours received. It is appropriate that offerings be made at the Lord's table, but not as payment of indebtedness. They are expressions of love for Christ's poor. They are a recognition of the command, "Freely ye have received; freely give." "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these, my brethren, ye have done it unto me."—Rev. A. J. Quick in *Homiletic Review*.

"DO PRAY FOR ME, WON'T YOU?"

THE following story of Spurgeon's is worth telling:—A friend remarked to him one day about another brother: "Oh! he's the meanest man I know; he never gives to anybody." "Indeed," replied Mr. Spurgeon, "well I must have been an exception to the rule, then." "How so?" asked his friend. "Well, he gave me something once," said the preacher, and proceeded to narrate the circumstance. "One evening after meeting during my early ministry, this brother surprised me by putting into my hand three half crowns, bidding me purchase a new hat, as he thought I needed one. A few nights after this, he came to me and said, with much emotion, 'I astor, I wish you'd pray for me.' 'Why, of course, my dear brother, but what for particularly?' I asked. 'Oh,' he replied, 'that I may overcome covetousness.' 'But,' I said, 'it's only a few nights ago you gave me good proof of your liberality, 'Ah,' he replied, 'the Lord told me to give you four half-crowns, and I only gave you three, but here's the other. Now, do pray for me won't you?' It is not often those who need praying for so much realize it so fully, understand so well the way of escape from the bondage of business. *Giving and praying* will cure the worst case of business in the world.

THE JAPANESE IN AMERICA.—A Japanese church has been organized in California, consisting of forty-two members in connection with the Presbyterian Church. There are now 400 of these people in San Francisco, and they are still increasing. God is sending the heathen into Christian countries under the sound of the Gospel.

Mission Work.

ARABIA.—The Hon. Keith Falconer, has left Scotland, to commence his mission in Arabia. His headquarters will be near Aden, on British territory, among the Mohammedans dwelling there. From a visit to Arabia, his interest in that neglected part of the world was deepened, and he has now gone forth himself to carry the Gospel to it.

KOREA.—Medical mission work has opened even the doors of the royal palace in Korea. Dr. Allin, and Miss Ellers, a devoted nurse who went to Korea last summer as a missionary, have been invited to attend the Queen, and the native physicians to Her Majesty have all been discharged. It is to be hoped that they may be spared to follow up this advantage they have gained, and that many of the royal household may be won for Christ.

JAPAN.—What a spirit of progress now pervades the people of Japan! It is said that in Tokio, there are now not less than thirty societies organized for scientific investigation. The Methodist Church in Canada has a prosperous mission in that country. Large additions have been made to Protestant missions, now carried on in that land. But, over against the cheering facts, we have this offset: Japan has a population of 37,000,000, many of whom are still heathen.

SARDINIA.—The Island of Sardinia presents a very interesting field for Bible work. Though it contains but 700,000 inhabitants, yet only ten in one thousand can read. Last year, no less than 182 Bibles, and 523 Testaments were sold, and none were given away. In some of the remote villages, cheese and eggs were taken in payment for Bibles. The most efficient colporteur is a Welshman, who both speaks and writes good Italian. God is wonderfully opening up the way for the Bible in this land.

PARTNERS IN THE WORK.—Bishop William Taylor has begun two chains of missions across the dark Continent, and projects two more. He makes a compact with the chiefs and people, agreeing on his part to furnish good teachers and preachers, without expense to the tribes, and to buy tools and machinery for industrial schools; he asks, in return, a thousand acres for each school farm, a few acres cleared and planted to provide food for teachers and preachers; houses built for workers, and a small monthly fee for tuition of day scholars. Boys and girls may work for their tuition; and those who wish a full course must remain five years. By these equitable mutual agreements, the natives are made to feel that they are partners in the work, and a permanent and self-supporting basis for the missions is secured.—A. T. Pierson.

A SUGGESTION.—Here is a suggestion from the Rev. A. T. Pierson, D.D., than who there is not in the world a more earnest or inspiring advocate of foreign missions. We commend it to the consideration of all our pastors and missionary societies. "Our congregations need systematic information about our mission fields. Each pastor may not find it practicable to prepare fully on all the various missions; let there be some arrangement and distribution of the work. Let each choose some definite field, and make careful preparation, and then by exchanges among themselves a whole series of thrilling addresses on India, China, Japan, Siam, Syria, Africa, Turkey, etc., might be given in each of the churches in turn, with all the advantage of variety of presentation and individuality of manner and fullness of matter. We shall never wake up the churches by a single blast. There must be peal on peal, till the thunder rolls all round the sky, and the lightning flashes at every point in the horizon. The world, the flesh, and the devil never sleep; their appeals are perpetual. We must learn wisdom from the vigilance of our adversary, his persistence, his variety and continuity of effort. Let us give the people, line upon line, percept upon percept, here a little and there a great deal! A fire may be fanned with wind, but it can only be fed with fuel; and the fuel of all missionary zeal is a knowledge of facts."

Woman's Work.

CHRISTIAN TRAINING OF CHILDREN.

BE with your children, reign in the nursery. Receive all their little experiences of joy or sorrow. Bring the thought of God's love and interest into their most common, everyday life. Never let them grow shy of religious conversation. Make it easy and natural to talk together, both of God and to Him. Secure to them a comfortable place for daily devotions. Be sure that the Sabbath is the brightest day of all the

seven. Have books, toys, Noah's ark, Scripture plays and puzzles reserved especially for it. Give them little rewards for good lessons, and orderly habits practised during the week. Take them early to church, and be watchful lest the service so sweet to you, become a weariness to them.

Save your Sabbath afternoons for home instruction. The "Peep of Day" series will be of the greatest help. But study the Bible together, search it; there is no other work more delightful. Keep the fingers busy. Let the children build the tabernacle with their blocks till they know its structure and contents by heart. Help them write out Bible chronology and commit it to memory. While you read they can draw maps of Bible lands, trace Christ's tours and Paul's journeys. Teach them the books of the Bible, the Commandments, the Sermon on the Mount, some of the Psalms, the dear, old standard hymns, and whole gospels and epistles. It is wonderful how fast little efforts count up and accomplish great things. Don't shrink from teaching them the good, old catechism and proof texts. If they do not understand now, they soon will, and can never fail to be grateful for this "form of sound words" stored in their memories. Do not omit this course when the duty of example may seem to demand your children's attendance upon the church and Sabbath school. Know what they are taught there, and the influences surrounding them, and make sure that the home school is the pleasanter of the two.

And, secondly, in these precious Sabbath homes, awaken their interest in work for others. Tell them of the needs of the wide world. Twenty cents will secure the "Mission Day-spring," full of pictures and incidents of the work in foreign lands. If it comes to one of the little ones in her own name it will be doubly prized. Let them draw maps of mission stations, build mission houses and fill them with the proper workers of the station represented.

Nothing will so strengthen their interest as praying and praying, not in the mass, but for specific objects. Devise ways in which they can earn the pennies they wish to contribute. One cent a week for the poor, another for the sick, and so forth after each meeting, and stints accounts.

Some little ones have begun with much less than this would amount to. Having only sixty cents in each purse, they printed with a lead pencil, little notes to the secretaries of six benevolent organizations, enclosing ten cents for each cause as a Christmas gift to the dear Lord who gave Himself for them. Every succeeding Christmas season has been celebrated in like manner, though the purses sometimes contain a score of dollars each, and the letters have increased from six to a dozen and more. Let me add that these six little notes, the first efforts in systematic beneficence, were so kindly responded to by the care-burdened, yet child-loving men who received them, that each officer is held as a warm personal friend, and his name is a household word, often following an emphasized adjective of affection.

Let the children work, too, with their unskilled fingers for the sick and needy. If there is no mission band in your church, form one. If too isolated for that, have one at home. A society of a single member may accomplish great results. Do what you can, however little, and the Lord will wonderfully increase your ability. Doors into new and delightful fields of labour will be opened.

A thought of kindness is a seed from Heaven's own granary. Plant it and it will bring forth fruit unto life eternal perhaps, for many souls. Cast it aside, with the conviction that it is too small and unpromising to have any value, and only the arithmetic of eternity can compute your folly and loss. Act on the first suggestion, taking no anxious thought for the morrow, and after-thoughts will be given you, richer and fuller and more helpful, and in this life you will reap an hundred-fold.

How many proofs could be given. They lie all about us. Two little bags, each containing a Testament, book mark, needle-book, thread, buttons, tape, thimble and wax, always with a little note of loving interest, have gone each Christmas for ten years to Dr. S. H. Hall, of the American Seaman's Friend Society, to be given to sailors just leaving the port of New York. Responses have been received from all parts of the world, with such expressions of help received, courage strengthened, faith increased and promised prayers for the givers, as surely must enrich any life. A mission circle, auxiliary to the Woman's Board of Missions, though never having more than four working members, and two of them non-residents, and not active, has contributed in six years, \$550 to the Boston treasury. If it were asked, "How could two children secure that sum?"—the answer would be—"They never had a sail or fair, or entertainment; they never asked any gift but from God; yet He constantly opened hearts and hands for their help, even strangers over the seas becoming friends and co-workers." The truth will always hold, that a worker for God is a worker with God, and He is able to do exceeding abundantly above all we ask or think."—*Field Treasury*.