...NAL RESOURCES

These Unique Assets — ...erior Department.

...phones in Canada.

...s Men Quarrel?

The Sunday School Lesson

JANUARY 11

The Last Judgment, Matt. 25: 31-46. Golden Text—Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my breathren, ye have done it unto me.—Matt. 25: 40.

ANALYSIS.

I. THE MESSIAH'S THRONE, 31-33.
II. THE FINAL SEPARATION OF THE RIGHTEOUS AND THE UNRIGHTEOUS, 34-46.

INTRODUCTION—Jesus, entering the Holy City as Messiah, cleanses the temple, and is taken to task by the authorities, and required to explain his commission or "authority." He does so, and in a series of discussions explains the true relation between the Jewish state and the kingdom of God, the nature of the life to come, and the supreme importance of love to God and man (Matt. 22). Then, in a great outburst of holy anger, he condemns the hypocrisy of the Pharisees, who have stood in the way of God's holy purpose for the nation (Matt. 23), and from this passes on to proclaim once again the doom which awaits the city at the approaching judgment, when as Messiah he will come in the glory of the Father (Matt. 24). Finally, in a series of parables, he reminds his disciples of the solemn issues of that judgment, and bids them "be ready, because the Son of man comes in an hour when they think not" (Matt. 25). To this chapter belongs the Parable of the Sheep and the Goats, which forms our lesson for to-day.

It is probable that Jesus often spoke of love to the poor and the needy as the characteristic mark of the genuine disciple. Men asked, "Whom will the Messiah recognize as his own, as his loved ones and friends, in the day when he sets up his kingdom?" And Jesus answers: "Those who have served humanity, who have given themselves to deeds of love and mercy."

Love to humanity is the mark of the Messiah's friends. Jesus will acknowledge such before the angels, and make them to sit down in his kingdom of salvation. In the present parable the same thought provides a picture of the universal judgment. All nations will be gathered before the throne of the Messiah, and blessedness or doom will be measured out according as men have or have not given themselves to loving deeds after the example of Jesus.

I. THE MESSIAH'S THRONE OF JUDGMENT, 31-33.

V. 31. The "Son of man" is the heavenly one, who, according to Daniel 7: 13f, is to come before God, and to receive an everlasting kingdom which shall not pass away. Jesus will so come in his "glory," that is, no longer in humiliation and suffering, as on earth, but in the radiant light of his eternal majesty, and with every mark of the divine favor. He will have the angels of God as his assessors round his throne.

V. 32. Then "all the nations" will be gathered before him. This means, not his disciples only, and not the Jews only, but the Gentiles from every land. All must at last receive their judgment from the Messiah. On earth they have all been divided in various ways, but before the Messiah's throne a higher and truer division will take place. All will be divided into *two* classes.

V. 33. The division between "sheep" and "goats," meaning respectively the elect and the reprobate, would be familiar to Jesus' hearers. What is *new* here is the principle on which the separation is made.

II. THE FINAL SEPARATION OF THE RIGHTEOUS AND THE UNRIGHTEOUS, 34-46.

V. 34. At the solemn hour of judgment, the friends of the Messiah, his true servants and associates, will stand on his right hand. They will be addressed as the "blessed" of Jesus' Father, because they have God's own approval; and the kingdom of God which they shall inherit has been prepared for them "from the foundation of the world." This means that everything that has happened from the beginning has been intended to secure for these faithful ones the bliss and enjoyment of God's eternal presence.

Vs. 35-36. And why are those on the right hand recognized as the elect? Because, Jesus says, "I was hungry and you gave me food, thirsty and you gave me drink, naked and you clothed me," etc. Loving deeds done to Jesus will be the test before the judgment throne. Did any one appease the Messiah's hunger, slake his thirst, shelter him from the elements, take charge of him in sickness, visit him in prison? These are his friends, his loved ones, and his own. A very simple test, but how searching!

Vs. 37-39. Naturally these men, who have come out of every nation, and hardly one of whom ever saw Jesus face to face, will be astonished beyond measure at this greeting, and will ask wonderingly "Lord, when did we see thee hungry, etc?" It was never their privilege on earth to see Jesus with the eye of flesh.

V. 40. Then Jesus will explain. The Messiah identifies himself with sinning and suffering humanity. The hungry, the thirsty, the naked, the sick, the condemned on earth are his representatives. On earth Jesus loved them, and gave himself for them, and now they are to be understood as standing in Jesus' stead, as the proper objects of Christian love and kindness. The Messiah makes their cause his own. His friends are the friends and lovers of mankind. This was a thought which had never crossed the minds of men until Jesus spoke.

Vs. 41-46. Then comes the dark side of the picture. Who are the enemies of the Messiah, those whom with sorrow he rejects from his presence and from his kingdom, and appoints to everlasting punishment with Satan and his associates? They are those who have not loved men, who have not been the friends of humanity. These will be set on the left hand of the Judge, because they did not show love to Christ. Expecting to find a place in the kingdom, they are overwhelmed to find themselves cast out, and to hear the Judge say that he was hungry, and they never gave him food. Yet so. They did not see that Jesus was one with suffering humanity, and so they threw away the chance of everlasting life. They meant perhaps to help the needy, but they forgot. Or they thought that the sufferings of others were no concern of theirs. Or they were simply taken up all the time with themselves. In any case, they did not do the thing which Jesus loves.

How solemn is this picture! "Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these brethren of mine, you did it not to Me." Little wonder that this parable has inspired more charity, more practical Christianity, than anything else in the literature of humanity.

UNCONSCIOUS VIRTUE.

The reward of a good deed is to have done it. Kind hearts perform unselfish deeds as a matter of course, as naturally and unconsciously as the birds sing. Jesus said of another class who did their alms in sight of men, and with unworthy and self-righteous motives, that the Publicans should enter the kingdom before them. The proof that anyone belongs to the kingdom, is found in the doing, under the intuitive urge of great-hearted compassion, the same sort of deeds that Jesus went about doing when on earth. He was ever helping, healing, comforting and uplifting both souls and bodies of men, and for ever seeing with the keen insight of loving eyes, capabilities, and possibilities that others failed to find. In the story before us, the righteous are amazed that the multitude of trifling services they had performed and straightway forgotten, should merit any glorious reward. Unconscious goodness is the highest form of goodness.

HOUSE HEATING RANKS AMONG EARLIEST DEVICES OF MANKIND

House warming is an art as old as history. Man was not favored by nature with a coat of fur. He was born very frail—frailer than any of the higher animals and openly exposed to the elements, as well as innumerable enemies. In the course of our evolution we have had to fight just as much against the attacks of variable climates as against other adverse forces. We have had to clothe ourselves to meet all climatic changes that have occurred between the long glacial ages and the more torrid periods. And we have had to design our buildings to meet these great variations in the climate.

Primitive House Warming.

Primitive man lived in caves and made tents. When the weather became cold he simply lighted a log fire, just as hunters and fishermen do to-day. This did not afford a comfortable heat, but it protected the people's health. Later on, when tents were invented and used for dwellings, a more elaborate and effective means for warming was devised. This was an iron brazier or charcoal grate. The Babylonians, Assyrians and Egyptians used these grates extensively, and their use has been preserved until to-day by the Persians, the peoples of Central Asia, Tibet, India, Afghanistan and the Arabs of Arabia and Africa. Charcoal grates are of great antiquity and widespread use. They have been employed for warming houses far more extensively than any other means devised for heating. They always have been simple devices—merely open metal containers furnished with air holes to assist in the combustion of the charcoal, wood or other fuel used. In the Oriental cuntries, where petroleum is common, oil fuel was used, and also oil lamps for warming the smaller rooms in dwellings.

The homes of the Egyptians were beautifully designed, furnished and kept. They were a sociable as well as an extremely artistic people, and lived most comfortably. They never allowed the weather to interfere with their comfort and health. When it was warm weather, their rooms were thrown open to the ingress of free air. When it became cold, charcoal furnaces were requisitioned, and these warmed the rooms. The houses always had exceptionally high ceilings and opened out to long, large halls or courtyards. The large air spaces thus obtained were relied upon to dilute the fumes from the charcoal and to prevent poisoning.

High State of Civilization.

The Greeks and Romans accepted the principal customs of the Egyptians and subsequently adopted new ones. They attained a degree of civilization which has not been approached. When we read of the classical writers, inspect their art works, visit Rome and Athens and see the magnificent ruins of their public buildings, we may form an idea of the high degree of taste and artistic appreciation they reached.

The Athenians and Greeks, as may be conjectured after seeing or reading a description of the public baths in Pompeii, were just as advanced in steam heating as we are to-day. They attained the same heating comforts in their buildings by almost the same means used in our time. They were familiar with hot air, hot water and steam heating, and used each method.

The Evil of Permitting Live Stock to Tramp Over the Manure Pile.

Manure from diseased animals, especially those suffering from tuberculosis or contagious abortion, is usually heavily infested with the bacteria responsible for either of these two much-dreaded cattle diseases. Many cattle owners pay very little attention to the manure as a possible source of infection or spread. Cattle are frequently permitted to trample and browse over the manure from the stables which they occupy, picking up and eating pieces of soiled hay or straw, and carrying back into the stables on their feet and legs germ laden filth, which may eventually find its way into the cow's stomach or into the milk pail. In the light of modern stable hygiene, progressive cattlemen are now planning their stable, yard and manure shed arrangements in such a way as to prevent, in so far as possible, the cattle coming in contact with the manure.

PULP AND PAPER INDUSTRY OF CANADA

BIG INCREASES MADE IN 1924.

Substantial Order From Great Britain Recently Received by Canadian Company.

Newsprint production in Canada, which has for some time been slowly but surely overtaking that of the United States, made a big stride in the first nine months of 1924, and at the present time the Dominion is producing at a rate but very little below that of the Republic. For the first time on record in the period, newsprint production for the first nine months of the year in 1924 exceeded the million-ton mark, reaching 1,009,837 tons as compared with 941,442 tons in the corresponding period of 1923 an increase of 7 per cent. United States newsprint production in the same period was 1,096,973 tons, as compared with 1,126,192 tons in the first nine months of the preceding year, a decrease of 3 per cent.

From 1920 the increase in Canadian newsprint production has been rapid and steady except for the year 1921, when there was a decrease of 80,345 tons as compared with the preceding year, whilst in the United States the movement has been irregular. For the first nine months of 1924 production in the United States has been 4 per cent. lower than in the corresponding period of 1920, whilst in Canada the production has increased 53 per cent.

For the first nine months of the current year the total exports of pulp and paper from Canada were valued at $103,050,333, compared with a total of $104,636,736 for the corresponding nine months of 1923, a decrease of $1,586,403. This decrease in total volume is, however, rather pleasing than otherwise, the exports of wood pulp being responsible and there being an increase of nearly $5,000,000 in the value of paper exported. The total value of paper exported in the nine-month period was $74,270,296, in which newsprint accounted for $68,[illegible]03,040, as against $69,421,621 in the same period of 1923, when newsprint was responsible for $63,277,966.

Export Mechanical Pulp, Sulphite and Pulpwood.

In the nine-month period of 1924 the value of export mechanical pulp has been cut from more than $8,000,000 to less than $5,000,000; that of both bleached and unbleached sulphite by more than $1,000,000; and of sulphate by nearly $1,000,000. In the period total export of pulpwood amounted to 990,425 cords valued at $[illegible],140,838, as against 1,159,733 cords valued at $11,091,429 in the same period in 1923.

Meanwhile the work of expanding plants and erecting new ones is still proceeding at a rapid rate foreshadowing a tremendously increased production for the future. Fort William is to have a $3,000,000 pulp and paper plant, one unit to be in operation in a year and the mill completed in two years. The Thunder Bay plant at Port Arthur has recently doubled its capacity for the output of wood pulp. A ninety-ton sulphite pulp plant is being erected at Prince Rupert. At Bear River, Nova Scotia, an old mill has been rehabilitated, and new machinery installed, and there is probability of the establishment of a pulp grinding mill at Liscomb in the same province.

New Construction.

A new mill is being erected at St. Joseph d'Almo, Quebec, to have a production of 200 tons of paper a day by January, 1926, and 600 tons by 1929. The Western Quebec Paper Mills, which has been in course of construction for a year, has commenced production at East St. Andrews, Quebec, and is manufacturing the higher class of light weight papers. The International Paper Company at Three Rivers, Quebec, is installing three new machines, and by October, 1925, will have the greatest paper mill in the world with an output of more than 600 tons per day. Assurance is given of the establishment of a large mill at St. Boniface, Manitoba, to be supplied from timber limits running along the east side of Lake Winnipeg. The agreement provides for the erection of a mill costing not less than $2,000,000, with a daily output of not less than 100 tons of wood pulp, 50 tons of which shall be made into paper at the mill.

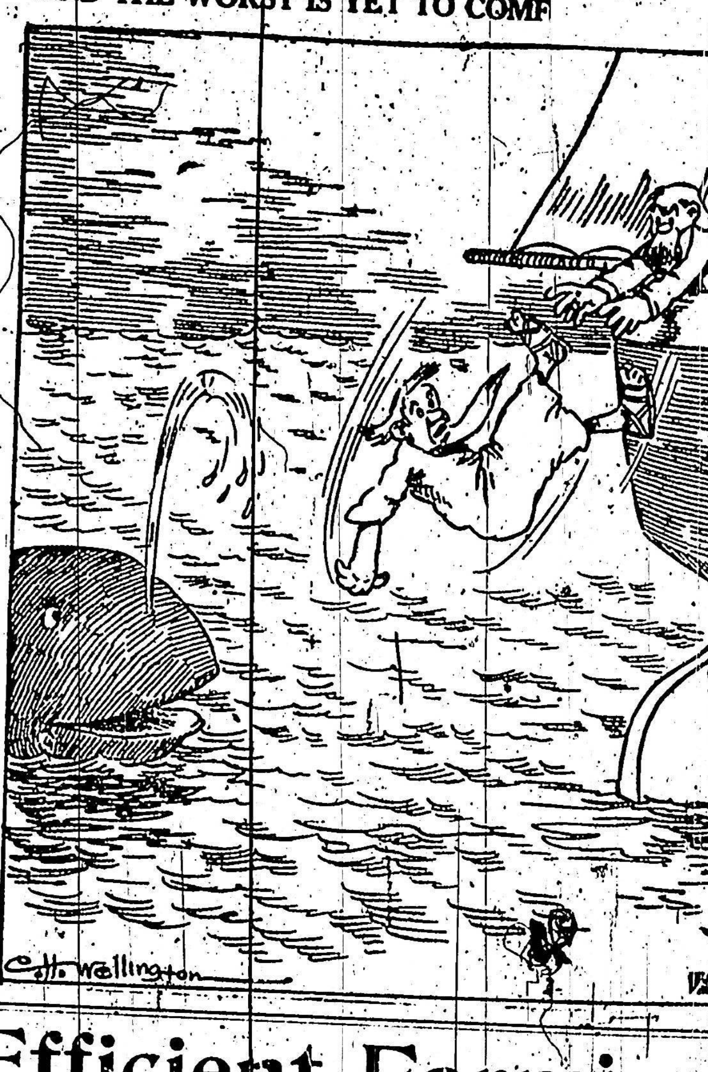
The Canadian Export Paper Company is looking forward to a new field opening in the British Isles for Canadian newsprint, where imports of the Canadian product in the past have been largely negligible. A Canadian newsprint company recently entered into an agreement with the London Daily Express to supply regular large shipments of newsprint. The amount covered is understood to be in the neighborhood of 15,000 tons, which covers a daily production of 50 tons. It is thought that this may be the first of many substantial orders to be received from the British Isles.

Direct Sunlight a Factor in Animal Growth.

Plant physiologists have long known that sunlight played a most important part in the development of all green plants. Animal physiologists have recently adopted the same view with regard to the growth of animals. Nutritional studies in which sunlight and no sunlight were the main considerations in the feeding experiments, have demonstrated that sunlight is a very important factor in growth and normal development of young animals.

Sunlight is free if we are prepared to receive it outdoors, but to have abundant sunlight in the buildings where live stock are housed is sometimes costly. Nevertheless it is well worth while. All live stock buildings should be planned in such a manner that sunlight may enter and reach, during some part of the day, every square foot of floor space possible.

—AND THE WORST IS YET TO COME



Efficient Farming

PROSPECTS IN THE HOG MARKET.

In planning the number of sows to breed, or, in other words, the pig crop, farmers are now looking ahead a year as the progeny of the sows bred now will be on the market next fall. It is, therefore, of great importance in the interest of a wise decision, that the situation as it exists at the moment of breeding should not be allowed too large a place in the factors considered. After all, what has to be taken into consideration is, what are the conditions likely to be next fall, and present conditions should only be considered to the extent that they indicate the future.

Undoubtedly the biggest single factor in the price of hog products on the world's markets is production in the United States. The hog population in the United States on January 1, 1921, is given as 56,097,000, in 1923 as 68,427,000, and in 1924 as 65,501,000. The pig survey of June, 1924, indicated that there would be a decrease of about 8,000,000. The United States has an immense consuming population but, of course, like every other country, endeavors to export her surplus, which in 1923 amounted to 1,794,000,000 lbs. of pork products. The comparatively high price of grains this year caused the American farmer to put his hogs on the market during the last few weeks in unprecedented numbers, the receipts on the Chicago market for Monday, Dec. 15, being about 122,000 hogs. The first two weeks of December saw the biggest deliveries of hogs in the history of the United States. Too big a percentage of these hogs are light and unfinished, which means the farmer is liquidating his hogs. The effect is to decrease the total pounds of pork produced. During the first nine months of this year 372,000 more hogs were marketed in the United States, but about 114,000,000 less pounds of pork was produced than in the same period last year. Undoubtedly these conditions will have a big effect on the number of sows that will be bred this fall for next year's market. Denmark and Ireland are also feeling the pressure of comparatively high priced feeds.

This situation is of immense interest and importance to Canadian farmers and packers. After carefully reviewing the whole situation Canadian packers feel that next year is going to be a "hog year." That is, they believe if producers will improve the quality and furnish to the packing houses their normal quota of hogs, properly managed hog production will be profitable to farmers. If farmers and packers pull together they should be able to make another considerable step in establishing our Canadian bacon on the British market.

Last year saw very low prices for grain and big hog production; this year a sudden jump in grain prices with consequent prospective reduction in breeding operations in the United States; high cost of production in countries like Ireland and Denmark, that have to import a considerable proportion of their feeds, and a slackening of breeding in Western Canada. Packers strongly believe that this situation is one which should induce hog producers in Canada to breed their full number of sows and that an increase in production is perhaps a safer policy than it was last year when everybody was feeding cheap grains. Probably sows kept as breeders never were better property.

It is not likely that the prices of grains will decline to what they were in 1923, but one can normally look for a recession in price in 1925 because it is likely that the grain and corn crops of the world will return to normal. For these reasons packers believe the Canadian farmer is well advised to maintain his production of hogs. But, with this, improvement in quality is vital.

High Standard of Canadian Products

The world superiority of certain Canadian agricultural products has now come to be fairly generally recognized. The Dominion, for instance, has for so many years been an elaborate and consistent prize-winner at the International Hay and Grain Show for certain cereals that she is now looked to to carry off annually her substantial quota of championship honors. More recently the Dominion has established the high place occupied by her dairy cattle through exhibiting at the National Dairy Show, where in 1924, in addition to many individual awards, she secured the state herd awards for Ayrshires and also the second place.

Canada is continually broadening the scope of her agricultural production and when new lines of production are definitely established it is frequently the case that in desirable points they surpass that of older established countries. Canadian agricultural production, whilst having definite limits, is being continually expanded beyond the confines placed upon it a decade or so ago, and results go to show that uniformly the standard is very high.

The British Empire Exhibition, putting Canadian products into comparison with those of other countries, drove this home to many people for the first time. This is evidenced in a survey of the inquiries at the Canadian Trade Commissioner's office in London for a single week. Among a variety of products, asked for from Canada were apples, cheese, evaporated fruits, canned fruits and vegetables. After viewing a comprehensive exhibit of Canadian apples a large importer sent an agent to Canada with a free hand to buy. The large catering firm of J. Lyons undertook to serve Canadian Cheddar cheese exclusively in its forty restaurants in London for a year. The Alberta Minister of Agriculture returned to Canada with orders to handle large quantities of Alberta butter provided the supply could be made continuous throughout the year.

Canadian agricultural products invariably make a fine showing when brought into competition with those of other countries. Recently a number of British Columbia fruit growers exhibited at the Imperial Fruit Show at London England, and won a sweeping victory. They were awarded twelve firsts and one second in the Overseas Section, the firsts being for Wealthies, Snow, MacIntosh Red, Jonathan, Cox, Pippen, Spitzenberger, Newton, Wagner, King, Spy and Delicious. The Pacific Coast province was first in the desert class with MacIntosh Reds and second with Cox and Pippins. In the cooking class the same province took first with Greenings and likewise carried off the gold challenge cup donated by the agents-general of British Columbia, Nova Scotia, Ontario and Quebec.

Simultaneously the highest honor was achieved by Canadian bacon when the premier award for this product at the World's Dairy Show in the same city went to Gunn Limited, Montreal, which firm secured also the second prize. This bacon was purely a Canadian production, being Dominion grown and cured, and illustrates that the farmers of Canada are producing a good type of bacon hog and sending them to market in such a condition as to compete with and defeat the best producers in the world.

Items of this nature are of frequent occurrence, illustrating in the clearest manner the fruitfulness of Canadian soil and climate in producing beyond the capability of other sections of the globe. A rather novel instance was noted recently. One thousand British Columbia rose bushes were shipped one week from Victoria to Portland, Oregon. This American city, popularly known as the "Rose City," is famous all over the continent for its roses and is buying the varieties produced in British Columbia because they are believed to be the hardiest and best in the world.

Sprouted oats can be made by soaking the oats in a pail of warm water to which has been added about ten drops of formalin to prevent mold. Then the oats are spread out on trays to a depth of one inch. The trays should be placed in a room where the temperature will not go below sixty degrees. The oats should be sprinkled each day and may be stirred for the first two days while there is no danger of breaking roots. At the end of a week they will usually be in good condition to feed to the hens at the rate of a square inch per hen per day.

FOR HOME AND COUNTRY

Farm Your Own Diamonds—By Emily J. Guest, M.A.

No one is satisfied with his environment.

Everybody is hungering for something.

Yet probably no one could be found who would exchange his condition of life in its entirety for that of anyone else. Parts of it, a bit here and there, yes, certainly. But there would always be the reservations, the conditions or possessions about which he would say, "Oh, I want [illegible] would not give that up for [illegible] the other person's power [illegible]." So when the complete summing up came to be made, he would find that the favorable balance was on the side of his own environment.

The reason for this [illegible] be found in his own personality.

Individual conditions are largely the result of individual character. Character is partly inherited, partly made. To a great extent one person has made and is making his character by the opportunities [illegible] life which he accepts [illegible].

The thoughts [illegible], with their resulting desires and consequent action, the one growing out of the other, as steadily and surely as do the root, the blade, the ear, the corn, just as steadily and surely [illegible] his environment. Thus [illegible] his own creating, because [illegible] suits him better on the whole than that of any other's making, however [illegible] it may appear at first glance.

Yet the truth remains that no one is satisfied with his environment.

Largely, this is due to the fact that, being spiritual as well as physical, man is capable of infinite growth. What was satisfying last year is not enough for this year.

He is vaguely uncomfortable, conscious of inadequacy—in friends, money, health, education, in his life work.

Also because he does not [illegible]. Chafing at the [illegible] limitations, or poverty of his [illegible] has never opened his eyes wide enough to take a clear survey of the wealth awaiting discovery in himself and his surroundings.

Some years ago a number of people left England for South Africa. They came out to where they could get land in plenty and at a low price. They expected to make a success of farming. But the land was poor, unresponsive, stony.

Year by year they [illegible] the same way. Year by year they were disappointed. They grew bitter, tired, disgruntled, disgusted with the country. It was no good. Some died, others moved away, the rest struggled on in poverty.

Their children had no luxuries and scant opportunity, but with the merry heart of childhood, they found chances to play; they invented games and found their own playthings on the farm.

One day a traveller with a sympathetic heart and seeing eye passed that way and perceived the [illegible]. He came near and found them playing with stones. He took one and [illegible] look, went into the house and asked where the children found the stones.

"On the farm," he was told. "That crop was plentiful on this [illegible] it was about the only [illegible]"

"Might he have some?"

"Oh, yes, all he liked," rather contemptuously.

Selecting a number, he took them to a skilled worker to be cut [illegible] to be polished. Finally he [illegible] Europe again, carrying with him gems from the world's richest diamond mines.

Because they did not know, did not see, the farmers of [illegible] the soil was too stony to yield a living. Plodding blindly along the dispiriting ruts of poverty, [illegible] with their bodies and not with their minds, they saw only stones [illegible] ment.

And all the time their children were playing with diamonds!

Everybody has hidden [illegible] his life, awaiting the se[illegible] have. Your diamonds [illegible] discovered, undeveloped [illegible] dormant abilities of hand [illegible] Perhaps you are farming [illegible] blindly and unskilfully [illegible] South African farmers [illegible]

Possibly you never even [illegible] think how many and [illegible] these life jewels of yours were. Do it now. Study yourself [illegible] the boys and girls as they go to school to study themselves [illegible] mind, intelligently.

Roughly, people fall into two classes: those who work most happily in the world of Idea—the thinkers, workers with the mind; and those who find themselves happiest in the world of Things—the doers, workers with the hand.

From the first class come professional men and women: preachers, teachers, writers, lawyers, physicians, inventors, organizers, statesmen, financiers, industrial leaders [illegible] those whose occupation demands as a first requisite the patience, alertness and devotion to hard, silent work necessary to thinking the way to convincing conclusions which are the preliminaries to action.

The second and larger class is of the producers and conservers of material wealth, raw and manufactured: food, clothing, shelter, roads, appliances, machinery, publications, [illegible] whose occupations arise from the adaptation of the natural resources of the world to the needs of [illegible] sphere of action.

To discover to which class he belongs is the first problem for any [illegible] studying himself or helping another do so, for finding the right life work is a greater factor in making a satisfactory environment than any other, except perhaps health. From the threefold point of view of happiness, success and service, it is important. We can all summon from among our acquaintances a mental vision of a round peg trying to fill a square hole, or a square peg striving to adapt himself to a round hole, neither of them very happy, very successful or rendering conspicuous service as a result of their endeavors.

The reasons for the importance of wisely chosen work are obvious.

First, we like doing it, and as we spend a large proportion of our waking hours at work, this is a big consideration.

Second, when it is done, we contemplate the result with satisfaction, for as we like doing it, we enter into it with zest of heart as well as energy of hand and head and the efficiency which comes from this ensures self-respect and the respect of our fellows. This again leads to success both in the position occupied among men and in a monetary way, for though money is not the first nor only point to be considered in the choice of a career, yet the material returns are not to be despised nor neglected, for, as the old pioneer farmer said, "Poverty may be no disgrace—but it's mighty unhandy."

Thirdly, the right work draws about the worker persons of similar tastes and interests, and he finds a steadily enlarging circle of congenial friends and acquaintances. The outcome of this is almost sure to be the deepening and broadening of the powers and personality of the whole man so that he is able to render the greatest service of which he is capable to the community.

Clearly then, your Koh-i-noor, the big one among your diamonds, is the discovery of the work for which Nature has best fitted you. But how to proceed? What to watch for, and when, and where? There are four main lines of observation: temperament, tastes, talents, and health.

Make a sober, impartial study of yourself, being careful neither to overestimate nor underestimate. Write down the results. Put them away for three or six months, then take them out and go over them critically. Do you still agree with your self-estimate? Where are you strong? What are the weak points? How could the strong ones be cut and polished, made more valuable? How could the weak ones be strengthened? Do this periodically.

Is your temperament quick or slow? Irritable or patient? Controlled or impulsive? Do you get the best general results from work which demands of you intense concentrated spurts or from that requiring calm, steady routine? Are you an individualist or a co-operationist?

Tastes reveal themselves at play, in the favorite books and magazines, in the choice of companions, and in the school records.

In play, is it lively games full of action and companionship, of making and doing things, which appeal, or the quieter amusements, one or two companions, walks, talks, and explorations by stream and in field or woodland? What tendencies are revealed at play? Is the individual a leader, a follower, or a co-operator, good at team-work? On what occasions and under what circumstances does he show initiative? Do the favorite books and papers deal with fact, biography, science, the practical side of life, or do poetry, romance, adventure, the imaginative writing make the stronger appeal?

The kind of intimates chosen from among acquaintances is worth study also as an indication of tastes.

What tastes and talents are revealed in the school records? Was the student strongest in mathematics, science, languages and literature, commercial or artistic subjects throughout his course? Did he express himself with more ease and ability in the practical or imaginative lines of activity?

What interests you most at the Fall Fairs? Where do you spend most time, to what exhibits do you feel like returning oftenest?

At a certain prison farm whose aim is less to punish than to help, this sort of observation is one of the guides to wise direction. During the first week the prisoner is required to do nothing, allowed to go where he will, look at what he pleases of all the varied occupations and manufactures of the establishment, and perform any work he chooses voluntarily. Unknown to him, however, a close record is being kept of the activities which attract him most, those to which he returns oftenest, and about which he displays a desire for knowledge. The one which arouses his strongest and most persistent interest is then selected as that in which he is to receive special training, the ultimate purpose being to turn out a citizen who can perform some kind of work well enough to gain for him his own respect and that of his fellow-men as an efficient workman. This equipment, with a new suit of clothes and a few dollars in his pocket, has started a gratifyingly large percentage of those sent there afresh on the road to a self-respecting life.

Where the tastes and talents are not very outstanding, such an investigation may mean the expenditure of considerable time and patience, but it is none the less worth doing.

Health is the setting for your diamonds. Guard it if vigorous. Build it up if weak by an intelligent study of the body and its needs and management. If the setting is not what it should be, much of the beauty and effectiveness, even the safety of some of your gems, may be imperilled.

When you have made a survey of your diamonds, big and little, cut them, polish them, invest them in such a way as to get satisfactory returns in real life values.

Do your own thinking. If you don't some one else is going to do it for you. The one who does the thinking is more likely to gather in the rewards. Farm your own diamonds!

Books.

Books are keys to wisdom's treasure;
Books are gates to lands of pleasure;
Books are paths that upward lead;
Books are friends. Come, let us read.
—Emilie Poulsson

Never leave a spoon in the saucepan if you wish its contents to boil quickly.