

MOTHER'S DAY.

This is Mother's Day. Primarily the object of keeping this day is to honor the mothers of our land. It is appropriate that the Sunday Schools, should devote one day to honor the mothers. We can not by any services we may conduct, by any program we may render, by any words we may speak pay adequate tribute to the mothers of our country.

In honoring our mothers, in emphasizing their virtues, and recounting their splendid qualities of mind and heart, we are made better boys and girls, better men and women and go out into the world better prepared to discharge our duties as citizens and as Disciples of Christ.

MOTHER, A GREAT THEME.

I have addressed numerous audiences, upon many
different subjects. I have had the honor of speaking in
the United States House of Representatives upon some of
the great national issues; but I have never before spoken
upon a greater topic than that which is my theme this
morning - Mother.

In 1881, James A. Garfield fell stricken with a deadly wound from the assassin's bullet. When the sad news was told to his aged mother she said, "How could they hurt my boy". Garfield had been a teacher, a general in the army, a Representative, a United States Senator, and was then the President of the United States. ~~XXXX~~ He was still his mother's boy. So we never go too far away or get too old to have the love and sympathy of our mothers.

MOTHER'S INFLUENCE.

We are in Washington, the Capitol of the Nation. Here live the President, the Members of the Cabinet, the Judges of the Supreme Court, Members of Congress, and other high officials of the Federal government. These high officials by their words and deeds exert a mighty influence among the people of the United States. But the influence of all the officials of all our Federal, State and local governments is infinitesimal compared with the power wielded by the mothers of the land.

DEBT TO MOTHERS.

The Department of Commerce, through the Census Bureau, recently issued a bulletin showing that the Federal, State and local governments were in debt nearly \$5,000,000,000. The reports of the Department of Agriculture indicate that the farmers of the United States owe not less than \$5,000,000,000. The report of the Comptroller of the Treasury shows that the corporations of the United States, in outstanding bonds, are in debt \$37,000,000,000. Indeed, the total money indebtedness of the people in the United States in all forms is so large that the human mind can not comprehend it. But combine all public and private indebtedness in one ~~grand~~ grand total and it does not equal the debt of gratitude we owe to our mothers; for that debt is so precious, so pure and so sacred that it can not be measured in dollars and cents.

MOTHER'S INSTRUCTIONS.

I have in the library at my office the last report of the United States Commissioner of Education. There is much in this volume that intensifies our admiration for our country and its splendid educational institutions. It gives statistical information about our great universities, our smaller colleges, our seminaries and public and private schools. It shows that we have 18,000,000 pupils in our public schools, in the support of which we expend annually \$482,000,000. Our educational institutions are highly creditable to us as a people; we are lavish in our expenditures for their support; and as American citizens we have a right to be proud of them. But our greatest teachers are our mothers and our greatest school is being conducted by them around our fire-sides in the 20,000,000 homes of the land.

MOTHER'S MUSIC.

The great majority of people love music. Some men and women distinguish themselves as musicians. In the display of skill upon some musical instrument, or in the use of the voice in singing they attain world-wide fame. To see and hear these great musical celebrities, people will go hundreds of miles and pay extravagant fees for admission. With all this, no other ~~musicians~~ musicians are listened to with such trust and confidence, with such profound attention and rapture as are mothers; for, after all, the sweetest songs in the world are those that our mothers sing.

MOTHER'S EXAMPLE.

History is full of the lives of great men and women. Many of them have accomplished things which command and deserve our highest admiration. Many of them have achieved such success in life that we may greatly profit by studying their lives, and characters. In the great Book of Time are written the names of many persons who have been benefactors of the human race - whose lives were pure, noble, exalted, and sublime. We may well imitate these great characters. We will be better boys and girls, better men and women, if we shall copy their virtues, tread in their footsteps, and follow their examples. But mothers are the best ^{are} examples, the safest and truest models, and we can not do better than personify their virtues.

MOTHER'S LOVE.

The dawn of the 20th Century is characterized with great things - great ideas, great discoveries, great inventions, great undertakings, and great achievements. We have great buildings, ^{bridges, tunnels,} great railways, and great canals. We have great corporations, great industries, great mercantile establishments, great banks, and great wealth. But ^{none} of these great things of the age, equal the greatness of mother's love. Throughout centuries without the great things of our times, the world made progress. But the human race never could have attained the height^d of the 20th century, had it not been for the uplifting power of mother's love.

A MOTHER'S COUNSEL.

In all ages there have been wise men. No important country is without its sages and philosophers. Solomon's wisdom comes down to us through the Bible. In the early days of this country the wise sayings of Benjamin Franklin became household words. We are not without wise men to-day. Young people may profit greatly by following the advice and counsel of wise men. But Mother is one to whom we may go, with all our troubles and problems, big and little, with perfect trust and confidence, ~~knowing~~ knowing that in her we have a wise adviser, a safe counsellor, a trustworthy monitor, a true guide and devoted friend.

Mother's Sympathy.

Here in the National Capital is the Bureau of ~~Standards~~
Standards. Its work is to discover, develop and perfect
methods and standards ^{which} by things may be accurately
tested and measured. Astronomers long ago measured the
distance to the remotest stars. ~~Scientists~~ Scientists
have measured the earth and weighed the universe. But
neither the Bureau of Standards nor the most learned scientist
will ever be able to discover a unit or standard ^{which} by to
correctly and accurately measure a mother's sympathy.

MOTHER'S INTEREST.

One of the great characteristics of a mother is her interest in our welfare. When I was young, and would leave home for any purpose - out beyond her over-sight - the final words of mother ^{were} "Be a good boy." When I grew to manhood, I went out into the world to fight the battles of life. Though living hundreds of miles away, I would go home occasionally to visit mother. When the visit was over, and I came to leave, Mother's farewell admonition would be "Take ^{good} care of yourself". Some times, years passed that I did not go back to the old homestead. But mother's love was strong enough, her interest in my welfare was deep enough to reach out across the prairies to my home a thousand miles away.

So it is with all mothers. The boy or girl, the son or daughter, can never ^{get too} ~~go too~~ far away to get beyond the reach of mother's interest.