

He Hears.

By thoughts are good and those art kind,
E'en when we think it not;
How many an anxious, faithless mind
Sits grieving o'er its lot,
And frets and pines by day and night,
As G. d. has lost it out of sight,
And all its wants forgot.

Ah, no! God ne'er forgets His own,
His heart is far too true;
He ever seeks their good alone,
His love is daily new,
And though thou deem that things go ill,
Yet He is just and holy still,
And all things He can do.

The Lord is ever close and near
To those who keep His word;
Whenever they cry to Him in fear
Their prayer is surely heard;
He knoweth well who love Him well;
His love shall yet their clouds dispel,
And grant the hope deferred.
--Paul Gerhardt.

That the Ministry Be Not Blamed.

The blamelessness of the ministry is the strength of the Church. To safeguard the character and reputation of the ministry is to maintain the Church in its rightful position as the strongest moral and spiritual force in our civilization.

Christian people are sometimes too thoughtless in their talk about ministers, especially before their children. Your minister may not be the most learned or the most eloquent or the most original preacher in the world; but he is your minister, and your children's minister, and to them, if not to you, he represents the Master whose name he speaks and the Church whose commission he holds.

And a minister's reputation is peculiarly sensitive. His calling brings him into close relations with all classes. He is consulted by all sorts and conditions of men upon questions of the widest variety and highest importance. Homes are open to him as they are not to a stranger, and the secrets of the hearth are entrusted to his keeping.

The pty of it is that ministers themselves are so careless of their own and their profession's good name. Perhaps no graver charge can be brought against the ministry than this. One of the causes of the unspirituality of long-vacant congregations is the harsh criticisms which "candidates" pass upon one another.

And if it is the duty of the people to speak well of their ministers for their own and their work's sake, and if it is the duty of ministers to speak well of one another, it is no less the duty of the Church, through its colleges and courts to see to it that the ministry deserves to be well-spoken of by honorable men.

weaking, the trifler, the buffoon, the morally indirect, ought not to find a refuge behind the "Divine rights" of the ministry. It is this that gives reason to the enemy to speak reproachfully. Presbyteries and conferences and bishops may have all charity, but they must also look well to the character and conduct of the men admitted and retained, in a privileged place, "that the minister be not blamed."

Wives of the Devil.

Those who manage the affairs of wickedness in this world perform their task with consummate skill. The strategy of the most skilful general in the field, manœuvring for position, taking advantage of the geography of the country, concealing his plans, deceiving the enemy by false movements, is more than matched by the masterly schemes of the workers of iniquity.

Nearly all modern inventions and forces of civilization have been pressed into the service of evil. The printing press, the railroad, the steamship, have been made to do work for Satan. Music, painting, and sculpture, those fine arts in which the genius of man has expressed the beauty of heaven and earth for the culture and elevation of the soul, have been dragged into the service of sin.

With what satanic skill have the snares of evil been adapted to the nature and condition of men! Why is the saloon more attractive to young men than the churches and the Young Men's Christian Association? Partly because men love darkness rather than light, and partly because "the children of this world are wiser in their generation than the children of light."

Evil-doers study the art of finding men. They do find men. They know how to spread the net and bait the hook. They are fishers of men. They catch men. They catch the young men fresh from the country, the brilliant men who are sent to the capital of the State to make laws for the people.

They are always alert. With intelligence sharpened by the touch of an evil spirit, they are quick to discover every open door through which they may introduce the engines of wickedness to curse the souls and wreck the lives of men. President Schurman, Chairman of the United States Commission to the Philippines, in a recently published article says: "I regret that the Americans allowed the saloon to get a foothold on the islands. That has hurt the Americans more than anything else, and the spectacle of the Americans drunk awakens disgust in the Filipinos."

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Love's Overflow.

God delights to bless us overflowingly. He who is Love cannot be content with giving us bread and clothes and light and air. He must put in a thousand things that are not merely necessary—the glad indulgence of His love to us. The stars must look down heaven's kindness upon us.

Is the Church Growing Worse?

If this question means the Church Universal, visible and invisible, it will strike the true Christian as an absurdity. If it means the General Church, the visible, militant Church throughout the earth, our answer is, "No."

But if the question means simply the local church, or even whole associations of local churches, over definite areas and for periods of time shorter or longer, we are sadly compelled to recognize that tendencies backward and downward are in many localities dominant.

Oh, the victories of prayer! They are the mountain-tops of the Bible. They take us back to the plain of Mamre, to the fords of Peniel, to the prison of Joseph, to the triumphs of Moses, to the transcendent victories of Joshua, to the deliverances of David, to the miracles of Elijah and Elisha, to the whole story of the Master's life, to the secret of Pentecost, to the key note of Paul's unparalleled ministry, to the lives of saints and the deaths of martyrs, to all that is most sacred and sweet in the history of the church and the experience of the children of God.

Hands Up, and Hands Down.

Many more are ever ready to throw up their hands in favor of a good cause than are willing to put their hands down, take hold of, and actually do the work needed to make the cause prosper. It is said that years ago, while in Detroit, Mr. Moody, having told about his work of sending religious literature to prisoners, suddenly asked: "How many of you believe in this work? Hold up your hands."

Do Something.

Each member of a Christian church should be a worker for Christ. Our Lord has never granted a dispensation to a single one of us; would any of us desire that He should? His vows are upon us all, without exception. Are we each obedient to His word, "Occupy till I come"? Are we putting out our talents to interest? If we are not doing so, we can never enter into rest.

Cheerfulness and sweetness of disposition are often as great a force in trying situations as sheer intellectual ability. The power of restraining one's temper under provocation, of looking on the bright side of things in discouraging circumstances and of not construing a difference of opinion into a personal matter is one of those chosen attainments whose wisdomness men almost universally recognize.

Have Not Seen the Plans.

A gentleman who was walking near an unoccupied building one day saw a stonecutter chiseling patiently at a block of stone in front of him. The gentleman went up to him. "Still chiseling?" he remarked, pleasantly. "Yes, still chiseling," replied the workman, going on with his work. "In what part of the building does this stone belong?" asked the gentleman. "I don't know," replied the stonecutter, "I haven't seen the plans."

The best reforms of this earth come up through waste and storm and doubt and suspicion; the sun itself when it rises on each day wastes the radiance of the moon and blots the starlight from the skies, but only to unlock the earth from the clasp of night and plant the stars anew in the opening flowers. Behind that sun, as behind this movement, we may be sure there stands the Lord God Almighty, Master and Maker of the universe, from whose hand the spheres are rolled to their orbits, and whose voice has been the harmony of this world since the morning stars sang together.—Henry W. Grady.

Victories of Prayer.

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A Harassing Cough.

Dr. Low's Norway Pine Syrup cured me of a Harassing Cough and Hoarseness. I know of no better remedy for healing and soothing the lungs and bronchial tubes. Price 25c.

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