

Only a Smile.

GEORGE MACDONALD. Only a smile that was given me, On the crowded street one day...

Like the sudden sunbeam's ray. The shadows of doubt hung over me, And the burden of pain I bore...

Only a smile from a kindly face, On the busy street that ray! Forgotten as soon as given, perhaps...

Religion in the Home.

REV. G. B. F. HALLOCK, D. D. A lady took a guest on a suburban train to a friend's home to tea. At the station she bought no tickets...

Each of these incidents and conversations happened in the presence of children. Thus, in a thousand trifling ways, are petty deceptions, peccadilloes, practiced by people who would scorn to be thought dishonest...

It may take courage to have religion in the home. Indeed, it usually does. It has been told of Judge McLean, of Ohio, that he was converted when on a visit away from home...

Thus He has set before us once and for evermore the true conception of life. Worldly wisdom says to us, "You are in this world for what you can get out of it."

We are, then, to have this word "service" writ large before our mind's eye. The summons that lies in it we must ever hear. Every temptation to forget it must be vanquished.

To secure religion in the home, parents should not hesitate to use a good degree of authority in their households. A boy did not want to go to church, but his Christian father kindly but firmly insisted that he should...

"Words are cheap." Yea, but often "words are mighty." Speech may be as the sting of the asp or as the carol of the lark. It may fill the blood with venom or inspire the soul with cheer. Pure, kindly, heartening words, words of hope and faith, if our lips be often filled with these, we shall thereby serve.

At a religious meeting in New York, a speaker asked, "Where are our young men to-night?" The next speaker was the chaplain of the State prison, and began his address by saying: "I can tell you where our young men are. I preached to four hundred of them in the penitentiary last night."

Service.

BY W. L. MCDOWELL, D. D. The secret of the universal homage paid to the life and character of Jesus of Nazareth is not far to seek. It lies revealed in the word "service."

Service is to be rendered in and through the performance of our specific tasks. Each of us has his vocation. We are serving our fellow-men when we do the work that belongs thereto faithfully.

"Never a word is said But it trembles in the air, And the truest voice has sped, To vibrate everywhere; And perhaps far off in eternal years Its echo may break upon our ears."

The service of deed stands next to this. "Lend a hand" is a precept with which we have grown more or less familiar. Some people are always leaning. Others there are who are always lifting. To which class do you belong?

Short Service Craze.

Lately, an intelligent young lady, visiting from the country was invited to attend service in one of the city churches. Before consenting she asked if the preacher was "long-winded."

The two remarks, coming from persons so widely separated as to age, environment, education, and Christian experience, being made concerning different ministers and in different churches, leads one to the conclusion that the craze for short sermons is decidedly on the increase. This we believe to be an unhealthy desire, and must be detrimental to both the character and usefulness of the Christian himself.

Father's Kneeling-Place.

The children were playing "hide the handkerchief." I sat and watched them a long while, and heard no unkind word, and saw scarcely a rough movement; but after a while little Jack, whose turn it was to hide the handkerchief, went to the opposite end of the room, and tried to secrete it under the cushion of a big chair.

It is doubtful if the effort is worth the cost. Such a congregation is very quick to divine the intention of the service, and goes for the entertainment offered, not for any permanent or spiritual blessing.

Paul the Missionary: The Secret of His Success.

BY AMOS R. WELLS. In the eight verses we study this week—the dying words of the great preacher, hero, and world-conqueror—he gives the secret of his success in five particulars.

In the first place, Paul was a fighter. "I have fought the good fight," he tells Timothy. His letters all march. His deeds were all charges.

In the second place, to set over against this bold characteristic, Paul was patient. "Withal long-suffering," he tells Timothy. Though his words could thunder, he could be as tender as a woman.

Thirdly, he was a well-rounded Christian. He was all things to all men, that he might win one man. He was a tent-maker, traveler, pastor, bishop, organizer, orator, writer, missionary, teacher, Jew, Gentile.

Fourth, he was ready, "instant, in season, out of season." Quite opposite from the timid Christians that "take no chances," he took all chances. He never saw an "unpromising field."

Finally, the sum of it all, he was faith-filled. He "kept the faith." Even from his dungeon gloom he saw the crown. He endured, as seeing Him who is visible.

memories of the old home? Oh, if there were only a "father's kneeling-place" in every family! The mother kneels in her chamber, and teaches the little ones the morning and evening prayer, but the father's presence is often wanting; business and the cares of life engross all his time, and though the mother longs for his assistance and co-operation in the religious education of the children, he thinks it is a woman's work, and too often leaves it to her alone.

God Reigns.

As Dr. Beecher was on his way to the post office one morning a parish ioner greeted him thus: "What's happened, dominie? I never saw you look so cheerful." To which he replied: "I had a vision last night. An angel came to me saying, 'Dr. Beecher, you have been making yourself a lot of unnecessary trouble lately. You want to manage the universe. Why not leave something to God? I'm a good deal happier now that I find he's looking after things.'"

I wish that angel would visit us every night. We are continually forgetting the blessed truth that God reigns—that even when he permits a tidal wave to destroy a city and hundreds of lives, he can and will overrule what we call a calamity for good.

Ready to Help.

We remember hearing a speaker tell how in his youth he and a young companion became lost in the maze at Hampton Court; they wandered about, tired, discouraged, but they felt sure they would find their way out presently, and they thought it would seem foolish to ask directions, though they saw an old man working not far off.

"Why," he answered, "that's just what I am here for; why did you not say you wanted to get out before? And he put them at once on the right track. There is One who stands ready to be our Counsellor, our Guide, our Light, in every labyrinth; instead of yielding to worry, let us simply ask Him to take us by the hand and lead us through.—The Quiver.

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