

Pray Without Ceasing.

Unanswered yet, the prayer your lips have pleaded... In agony of heart these many years? Does faith begin to fail, is hope declining...

than reformation. More and more our wisest Christian workers are seeking the early conversion and wise training of children. More and more do such workers see that the devil ought not to have sway over the earlier years of our young people...

receive even the devil's castaways; but that very day, while at dinner at Lady Huntington's, he was called out to meet two women who were sinners and to whose broken hearts and blasted lives that remark gave hope and healing...

He Feared the Gate.

Late one stormy evening the old doctor was summoned to see a man who had been attacked with sudden illness on the cars and had stopped at a little inn near the railway station, about three miles from the village...

The two men were silent a moment. 'What is there?' Joyce repeated, harshly. 'You are a member of a church—a Christian. I have no religious belief. Tell me, for the love of God, what is there beyond. If I may go to-morrow, what shall I find?'

Joyce did not speak for awhile, and then gave a forced laugh. 'I need your help more for this than for my disease. I'd rather talk to you than to a clergyman. You are a shrewd man of the world and a good man. Sometimes I am greatly depressed, thinking of this darkness into which I am going. For thousands of years men have gone out into it, leaving their loved ones behind, and not one has sent back word to say how it fares with him—not one.'

In the silence which followed the rain beat against the windows. There came a slight whimpering cry from without. 'You are an old man, doctor,' said Joyce, turning quickly on him. 'You are not far from the gate yourself. Are you not afraid of what may be beyond?'

He rose and opened the door. Outside, in the dark hall, lay a little fox-terrier, drenched with rain. He was crouched on the floor, his eyes fixed on the closed door.

This is my dog, a bright, affectionate little fellow. He has followed me through the storm and has been lying outside the door, knowing I am in this closed chamber. He never was here before. He did not know what was in this room. He did not care to know. I was in it, his master, whom he loves, who has cared for him. He was not afraid.'

One of the First Steps.

Seeing goes before doing. Every great and good work starts—as Christ's did in the Jordan, as Paul's did on the Damascus road—with a vision of opened heavens. The beginning of every great creation is in light. The business man who gains is the one who sees the possibilities of trade; the general who wins is the one who sees when and where and how to fight...

you will. That done in sincerity, you will not fear the gate, nor all that lies beyond.—Youth's Companion.

Encouragers.

In a story describing a country parish in Scotland mention is made of a church member who belonged to a band of "encouragers." He was an elderly man, who had heard many a sermon from many a preacher...

Now, there are different ways of encouraging a minister. Elderly people may do so by speaking well of his sermons, but this would hardly be becoming in those among his hearers who are not yet grown up. It is not for us all to speak; but we may all listen, and a really good listener—not one who simply sits still during the sermon, but one who pays attention to what is being said—is as much of an encourager as is one of those who praise.

It is only too often the case that young people who would very much resent being told that they haven't brains enough to understand what the teacher says in the school room, will say of themselves:

"Oh, it is of no use for us to try to listen to the sermon! It is intended for old folks, and we cannot understand half of it."

If, instead of wondering how much longer the sermon is going to last and wishing one could sleep sitting up, a young churchgoer would try as hard to understand what the preacher is saying as, on week-days, he or she tries to make sense out of long rules in grammar and arithmetic, the preacher would soon notice the difference in the expression of his listener's countenance, and begins to feel very much encouraged indeed.

We all have our troubles, and as school children feel when the answer to their sums don't correspond with those in the book, or when they find that they have completely forgotten a whole tense of the verb they were sure they had by heart, so does the preacher feel when he finds that he is not interesting the young people who have to sit still while he is in the pulpit.

When people talk to us out of church, ordinary visitors or those we happen to meet on the street, it would be considered impolite for us to show them by our looks that we are not paying attention to what they have to say, no matter how foolishly they might talk; there is far less excuse for us to treat with such discourtesy the speaker who is talking to us of the most important thing in the world—the way of salvation.—Classmate.

Catch the Falling Jewel.

A genuine conversion makes a man solicitous of the welfare of others, and eager for their salvation. This makes a large call on a man's wisdom and tact, and then the well-meant efforts of many young Christians to win others or to remonstrate with them about their ways, are not always marked by such insight. Some, from a too eager spirit of interference with others' spiritual welfare, after a few failures and rebuffs, fall into permanent discouragement.

Both extremes are to be avoided. We are to seek the good of others with patient tact, and also with gentle persistence. Better than rescue are warning and prevention. How often may a wise and loving word, spoken in the nick of time, stop a soul on the very verge of a fatal precipice! George Eliot somewhere says that when the conscience of the race is developed, we shall run as eagerly to prevent a man's or a woman's fall as we should to save a beautiful mantle-piece ornament in danger of coming to the ground and being dashed to pieces. That will be when the constraining love of Christ has had its way in the hearts of His people.—London Christian.

One of the First Steps.

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atoned for by the impeccability and the efficiency of his procedure. First to see, then to do,—that is the way of good workmanship forever. Vision is as needful as good tools or bread and butter. We can all, then, raise for ourselves the blind man's petition, 'Lord, open thou mine eyes,' that we may see.—Sunday-school Times.

The Atmosphere We Live In.

A Flemish physician planted in a pot of earth weighing two hundred pounds a willow branch weighing five pounds. He kept the plant well watered, and in five years the willow had gained one hundred and sixty-four pounds in weight, while the earth in the pot had lost only two ounces. Van Helmont inferred that the plant's growth was due only to the water which had been supplied. Modern botanical science proves that the gain was in a great measure due to the carbon absorbed from the air. So it is true that strong spiritual characters are built up out of the spiritual atmosphere in which they live.

The willow needed the earth to support its roots. It needed the water. It needed the sunshine. It needed the atmosphere. Deprived of any of these elements, it would have failed to grow, if not to live. So we need a soil to grow in, which is the Word. We need the water of life, the Holy Spirit, and we need the Sun of righteousness, and also the atmosphere of Christian sympathy.—Herald and Presbyter.

OPPORTUNITY.—In one of the old Greek cities there stood long ago, a statue. Every trace of it has vanished now. But there is still in existence an epigram which gives us an excellent description of it; and, as we read the words, we can surely discover the lesson which those wise old Greeks meant that the statue should teach to every passer by.

The epigram is in the form of a conversation between a traveller and the statue:—

"What is thy name, O statue?" "I am called Opportunity." "Who made thee?" "Lysippus." "Why art thou on thy toes?" "To show that I stay but a moment." "Why hast thou wings on thy feet?" "To show how quickly I pass by." "But why is thy hair so long on thy forehead?" "That men may seize me when they meet me."

"Why, then, is thy head so bald behind?" "To show that when I have once passed I cannot be caught."—Christian Press.

RED CHEEKS and bright eyes are often, alas, signs of lung disease. Better secure the beauty of true health by using Adamson's Botanic Cough Balsam for all lung troubles. 25c. all Druggists.

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