

Little Kindnesses.

You gave on the way a pleasant smile, And thought no more about it; It cheered a life that sad the while, That might have been wrecked without it; And so for the smile and its fruitage fair You'll reap a crown sometime—somewhere.

Spiritual Decay.

The Church may appear to prosper in some respects, and at the same time it may decay spiritually. There is such a thing as backsliding in heart, while outwardly there may be signs of health and strength.

Great care should be exercised in forming an opinion concerning the spiritual state of an individual or a church. Many considerations enter into the account, and unless we look on all sides we shall take a narrow and inadequate view.

We may find one indication of spiritual life in the preaching of the times. There have been times when Christian preachers did not appear to have the slightest conception of the true character of a Gospel sermon, and they entertained their congregation with the discussion of all sorts of curious questions.

Another index of the spiritual condition of a community is seen in the way the Sabbath is observed. Where the inner life of the people is strong and healthy they will remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.

Another index of spiritual life is found in the attitude of Christian men and women toward the Bible and the Church. True Christians, in whose hearts the love of God is richly shed abroad, search the Scriptures daily.

when nothing extraordinary is expected they are otherwise occupied. This means spiritual decay. Note the attitude of professing Christians toward the church in any community, and you have a sure test of the spiritual life of that community.

The fruits of special religious services also should be noted. Evangelistic services are held from time to time in every place. The time was when the announcement of such special services among Methodists was the signal for a grand campaign, which was not without good results.

Come nearer home. Enter into the more private religious life of Christian men and women. The religious life of the home is a good index of the spiritual condition of the community and the church.

These considerations may cause a feeling of discouragement in the minds of some. But it should not be so. We might well be discouraged if left to ourselves.

Key to the Pentecostal Revival. If you would find the key to that pentecostal revival the description of which is recorded in the second chapter of the Acts of the Apostles, you may find it in the fourteenth verse of the first chapter.

Every word in this passage is emphatic and deeply significant: 1. They gave themselves to prayer and supplication as the means by which to secure the much-desired endowment of power.

2. They all prayed—not one or two on behalf of the rest, but the whole company, individually and unitedly, special mention being made of the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brethren, as participants.

3. They all prayed with one accord for one object, with one faith in one and the same spirit, without jarring or discord, without rivalry or jealousies,

without suspecting one another or praying at each other, their supplications ascending as a single volume of prayer to storm the mercy seat of God.

4. Moreover they prayed on and prayed through until blessing and victory came; and so we read that "these all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication," etc.

No wonder that the next chapter begins by saying, "And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all in one accord in one place; and suddenly there came a sound from heaven, as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting; and there appeared unto them cloven tongues, like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them; and they were all filled with the Holy Ghost and began to speak with other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance."

Shooting Low.

A Minister felt that for some reason the words he spoke from Sunday were not bearing the fruit they should. One Saturday morning after he had finished writing his sermon, the thought occurred to him, "Perhaps I shoot too high; I will go down and see if Betty can understand it."

He went to the kitchen and called her to come and hear his sermon. She hesitated. He insisted. She came. He read a few sentences and a kid, "Do you understand that?" "No," she replied. He repeated the idea in simpler language, and then asked her if she saw it. "I see it a little."

He returned to his study and re-wrote his sermon in the simple style that Betty could understand. On Sabbath morning he went to church, fearing and trembling lest his people should be disgusted with his sermon, but fully resolved to try the experiment.

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Common Lives.

The common people have always been Christ's best friend. It was the common people who heard him gladly when the great were persecuting him; from the common people his church has been most largely recruited; even so today the hearts of the common people are the greatest bulwark of the faith.

Christ uses common lives, not because they are common lives, but because they are willing to be used by him. God requires not talents, but submission. It matters little to him whether a life be common or great, as the world views it.

Most of the work that needs doing in this world does not require exceptional ability. The diffusing of cheer is discouraged surrounding, the repression of sharp and critical words in the ver-occurring moments of temptation, the speaking of messages of encouragement and sympathy, the habit of kindly forbearance, the daily humbling of self for other's sake—these are the common ways in which common lives may be used by Christ.

Greatness in heaven is not measured by greatness on earth.—Forward.

British Troop Oil Liniment is unsurpassed by any liniment on the market to-day. It is composed of the healing soothing and cleansing vegetable oils and extracts. It is put up in large bottles for the small price of 25 cents.

God Constantly Speaks to Us.

The longer I live the more sure I am that to the devout soul God is constantly speaking by the little incidents of daily life. Such a man will have that experience corroborated by the word of God on the one hand and sympathetic circumstances on the other.

It may be that this relates to the giving up of habit taking a certain course or stepping out in some untrodden path, but the man knows that he knows the will of God. If, however, you do not know, do not act. If I had a little child who could not tell what I wanted, who at the same time needed to know my will, I would explain even to the option of the simplest speech and the shortest words.

God also works in man "to do." When you know what God wills, you know that you have sufficient power to do what He purposes. You must not wait to feel it. Believe it is there.—F. B. Meyer.

A Ministry Without Words.

If Christian service were all talking and praying in meetings and visiting the sick, it would be discouraging to some talentless people. But are our tongues the only faculties we can use for Christ? There are ways in which even silent people can do service for God and be a blessing in the world.

"Noble deeds are held in honor; But the world would sadly needs Hearts of patience to unravel The words of common deeds."

God's Love.

The seasons come and go; spring's young bloom—the blossoms and spring grass and flowers and the running water, released from its icy bonds, and the happy songs of the birds—changes into summer's heat and beauty, and that again into the sweetness and deliciousness of autumn, with its beautifully tinted leaves, its hazy atmosphere, its flowers, peculiar to it alone; this merging into the ice king's reign, when the earth is covered with a mantle of snow, which transfers all outdoor objects into visions of beauty.

Croupy Coughs of Children. The tendency to croup is a foe that parents have to fight. Croup comes in the night, when the help must be right at hand if it is to be helped at all.

You cannot tell what night your child may wake up choking to death with croup. In such a case what do you do? Send for a doctor and wait an hour, or perhaps two hours, while the child is gasping for breath? How much simpler where the true specific for croupy coughs and all throat troubles is right at hand. Indeed, no other way is safe with young children in the house.

Adamsom's Cough Balsam is a most delicate medicine for children, relieving the little throats at once. Its action is soothing and certain. It clears out the phlegm, which produces the croupy condition, and is a safeguard which no mother who knows about it will dispense with.

"I will send my prayers in my wagon," answered a farmer who was asked to pray for a poor widow.

"It is time my sympathies oozed out through my finger tips," thought a young girl who had been feeling sorry for an over-worked mother.

pure," decided a man whose heart had been touched at the need of the heathen.

"My sociability needs to be mounted on shoe leather," concluded a well-meaning but home-tied church member, as she thought of her duties toward some new comers.

"I will try to coax my heart into the palm of my hand," the usher whispered to himself, as he was about to reach out for a perfumery hand-shake with a stranger.

"O Love, come sit on my lips while I speak to that careless one," invoked one whose good intentions had a fashion of hiding in the heart.—Christian Endeavor World.

A dime or a sixpence held close to the eye can shut out the sun. Resolute effort is needed to prevent the small, intrusive present from blotting out the transcendent greatness of the final future. And for lack of such effort men by the thousand fling the mis-elves away.—Alexander McLaren.

The only real and Christian way of purity is to live in the open world and not be of it, and keep the soul unspotted from it. There are no fires that will melt out our drossy and corrupt particles like God's refining fires of duty and trial, living as He sends us to live, in the open fields of the world's sin and sorrows, its plausibilities and lies, its persecutions, animosities and fears its eager delights and bitter wants.—Horace Bushnell.

Of all earthly music, that which reaches the farthest into heaven is the beating of a loving heart.

This hour is mine with its present duty; the next is God's and when it comes His presence will come with it.—Anon.

INFLAMMATORY RHEUMATISM.—Mr. S., a clerkman, commercial traveler, Belleville, writes: "Some years ago I used Dr. Thomas' Electric Oil for inflammatory rheumatism, and three bottles effected a complete cure. I was the whole of one summer unable to move without crutches, and every movement caused excruciating pains. I am now out on the road and exposed to all kinds of weather, but have never been troubled with rheumatism since. I, however, keep a bottle of Dr. Thomas' Oil on hand, and always recommend it to others, as it did so much for me."

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Something for MOTHERS.

EVERY CHILD born into the world with an inherited or early developed tendency to distressing, disfiguring humors of the skin, scalp, and blood, becomes an object of the most tender solicitude, not only because of its suffering but because of the dreadful fear that the disfigurement is to be lifelong and mar its future happiness and prosperity. Hence it becomes the duty of mothers of such afflicted children to acquaint themselves with the best, the purest, and most effective treatment available.

Warm baths with CUTICURA SOAP to cleanse the skin and scalp of crusts and scales, gentle applications of CUTICURA Ointment to all itching, irritation, and inflammation, and soothing and healing followed in the severe cases by mild doses of CUTICURA RESOLVENT, afford instant and grateful relief, speedy cure, and leave nothing to be desired by anxious parents.

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covers a wide field. There is no better application for Cuts, Wounds, Ulcers and all Open Sores, as the soothing and healing properties of this remedy are unsurpassed.

"I must spell my pity with my wagon," answered a farmer who was asked to pray for a poor widow.

WOMEN WILL TALK

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