

Alone.

Since she went home—
The evening shadows linger longer here,
The winter days fill so much of the year,
And even summer winds are chill and drear.

Since she went home—
The robin's note has touched a minor strain
The old glad songs breathe but a sad refrain,
And laughter ebs with hidden, bitter pain
Since she went home.

Since she went home—
How still the empty rooms her presence
blessed;
Untouched the pillow that her dear head
pressed;
My lonely heart hath nowhere for its rest,
Since she went home.

Since she went home,
Long, long days have crept away like
years,
The sunlight has been dimmed with doubts
and fears,
And the dark nights have rained in lonely
tears,
Since she went home.

—Robert J. Burdette.

What the Bible Has to Say to Fathers.

NEWMAN HALL, D. D.

Honesty is intimately associated with truthfulness. The eagerness for gain is easily aided by departure from truth. "It is naught, it is naught saith the buyer," when he desires to obtain an article at a less price than it is worth. Very often the dishonesty is gloried in rather than condemned. So also in selling. The value of the article is declared greater than its real worth, and the extra price obtained by the lie is regarded as the lawful price of sharpness. It is to be feared that, in most buying and selling, there is deliberate lying. This is considered by many dealers as of no consequence in little things, when in large matters it may cause absolute ruin, or enormous wealth. If fathers would avoid helping their boys to develop, in after years, into creators of guilty wealth or of wide spread ruin, let them be taught in early years to abhor lying and cheating. Similar hints might be suggested respecting industry and indolence. Time is property; opportunity for useful work is something given by the Heavenly Father to his earthly children, and to waste it is akin to trampling bread under our feet. Diligence in the child, and lead to diligence in after life, with happiness in others and beneficence to the needy. Modesty in behavior to little girls should be thoughtfully cherished in young boys as well as youths, who should be early trained to be the protection and reliant friends of their weaker playmates. Fathers should avoid all improper conducts towards young women, and all coarse language, if they would train their boys to virtuous and decent youths. Fathers should carefully watch the the studies and the sports of their boys. Latin or Greek books are often used in the school unit for translation, and though certain odes of Horace are marked off as forbidden to the boys, the very forbidding often attracts the perusal and plants the poison.

There are mysteries in the physical frame which cannot easily be explained to the young, which it is impossible to conceal. Is it right to disguise or hide them altogether? Will not the young ask questions most natural for them to ask, and important for them to know in order to behave themselves aright? If children are reproved for asking such questions, will not the same questions be asked from others not so able or so safely to be trusted? Some parents resort to fiction, and invent fables and fancies which are sure to be discovered and unraveled, and thus do great harm when the youths discover that they have been deceived. Will not the truth of facts, soberly and solemnly explained, be more conducive to purity, both in themselves and towards others, than any stern repression or any falsified delusion?

This course will be made easy if, in regard to all other subjects, there is diligence in explanation. Children from the first ask question, "How?" "When?" "Why?" Tell as plainly as their child minds can comprehend the origin of plants, the growth of seeds, the development of birds, the progress of nature in all its operations, and the mysteries connected with our own physical nature will greatly diminish; that is, will cease to seem indifferent from anything else. So with many of the difficult parts of the Bible. Never let us deceive children by mere fancies. What God has plainly revealed let us as plainly make known, or distinctly declare to be one of other parts of the sacred history that are reserved for their knowledge in after years. If children come to us asking for explanations, let us not reprove them as too curious, but welcome their desire

for knowledge, and let us explain as far as we can. If young persons come to us with some theological difficulty, let us welcome such signs of religious curiosity and do all we can to satisfy it. So if they ask us to explain some difficulty in the sermon they hear, let the difficulties they speak of encourage us as symptoms of religious investigation. Let not those difficulties distress us. Tennyson says that there may be more truth in some skeptical doubts than in half the creeds. If we know how to take this aphorism, this is true.

At the age of eighty-five, looking back on a long experience of fathers and children in many families, there are hints I feel disposed to add, which might prove more or less commendable or useful, but my space is already occupied. A parent's chief duty and endeavor should be to bring up his children as children of God, and therefore to cultivate the divine life. But there is danger lest external forms should take the place of religion itself. A child may be drilled into attitudes and forms which look like real piety, but injuriously exclude it by the outward show of it. Better the real beating of the young heart toward God than any amount of mere pretence. Beware of mere premature piety. Old age sobriety is not juvenile virtue, nor is childish uproar a proof of ungodly tendencies. The development of nature does not of necessity indicate immoral impulses, but may rather be the early germs of pure tendencies. Do not expect to find in children or in young men what is befitting the solemnities of age. Carefully separate and condemn what is immoral, but at the same time smile on all that is true and may be accepted from God. Specially be ware of introducing to your children stories that involve sin, and at the same time show your interest in entertaining books and youthful games which make your children understand that you are not opposed to their daily amusements. Be careful in your discipline not to reprove innocent fun, and never be severe over faults which may only be neglect of some of the orders of the household. Do not treat foibles as crimes. Take your part in youthful pranks. Laugh with the laughers in innocent mirth. Show approval of what interests your children, and give greater emphasis to your condemnation of what is wrong. Take obvious interests in their early struggles to learn, to speak, to sing, to recite, to work. Encourage outbursts of natural temperament. Encourage the fullest confidence with their parents. Urge them never to do, or read, or find pleasure in anything which they would be ashamed to tell father or mother; and whatever they would keep secret from them, let them resolve never to do themselves.

Be careful of the conversation you encourage in their presence. Never make game of religion or religious people. Do not ridicule or censure people who may belong to some other church or denomination. Treat all who love God and wish to live godly lives as, with themselves, sons and daughters of the Lord God Almighty. Try to teach them that all belong to the same family of heaven who try to serve and please God. Tell them that, in after years, they may learn what these difference mean, but meanwhile we must love them all as children of God. Let them, above all things else, try in every thing to please their Heavenly Father, and so best to give joy to yourselves. Let not your prevailing topic of discourse be social quarrels, or commercial schemes, or the gain or loss of money, but the fear of God, which is "better than riches, and the gain thereof than find gold."

Delayed Triumphs.

One of the weaknesses that enter every life at some time is the desire for quick returns. Things delayed are too often counted among the discounted or lost things. It is so hard to believe that waiting may have very much to do with the objects sought. The short cut is followed in every sort of endeavor. People throw buildings together because they are in a hurry for profit. Garments are thrown together because the money for making will come the sooner, and the customer is at the door to take them. The desire to get away from delay enters every work that pleads for the doing.

There are voices that say best things do not come at once. They say clearly that time is a necessary element for worthy tasks. The largest victories always come slowly. They often come through shadows. Their real worth and success may be hidden often within the smoke of the battle or within the dust of the effort. The seed that is put so carefully into the ground will have a hard time of it for a while. It

will meet many things that are against it. It will have decay and death to fight. In the process of change there will be a time when corruption will seem to be having its own way. It would be easy then to believe that nothing living was within those marks of death. But let the work go on. Be patient and wait. The seed-life conquers. The plant comes forth to live its life.

It is constantly true that we cannot know by what we see what is working out from the task. Sometimes the very best things attempted will not show themselves until hard and patient work has been done. The reward for work and waiting may not be seen until the work is finished. The sky rocket as it goes up does not tell by flash or flare what jewels of beauty it carries to throw out at the end of the course. The greatest beauty is hidden until the end. The artist cannot look upon his ideal on canvas or in marble until the last moment of work has been given. At any other moment he can see only blotches of paint or crude carvings of stone.

Choose the right seed, plant it, wait for it. Choose the right work, have faith in it, expect its fruitage. Have faith in your purpose and in what you seek to do. Time spent in waiting for the results of right kind of work is not wasted time. The one who waits in faith and hope is prepared by the waiting to give a more appreciative welcome to the results when they do come. The waiting time gives a more lasting character to the results themselves. The apples that ripen latest in the season have the best keeping qualities. If this was believed, very much more good work would be done in home and school and store. There would be more faith, more courage and more patience.

However long the winter tarries and hides the flowers and fruits from sight it is still believed that work is being done and at the right hour the doors will be unlocked and the expected life will be ushered into sight. In all that concerns the life, such faith is safe. The good once planted and cared for must grow and its fruitage must appear. In matters that concern the heart and soul the most, such faith is safe. Do right. Let time vindicate the choice. Truth and right must rise.

Warmer suns ere long shall bring
To life the frozen sod;
And through dead leaves all hope shall spring
A fresh the flowers of God.
—Good Work.

The Gifts Of The Spirit.

No one can read the Bible without being struck by the variety of gifts which are bestowed by the Holy Spirit. It was He, for instance, who in the beginning of the world moved like a dove on the face of the waters, and it may well be by slow and gradual processes, wrought out for us that which in His beauty and in its order was pronounced to be very good. It was that same Holy Spirit who, in the language of holy writ, breathed into man's nostrils the breath of life so that man became a living soul. I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord and Giver of life. Wherever we see life—life in the plant, or in the bird that sings to us, or in the little child that is playing in our nurseries; life natural or life spiritual—there we see the handiwork of the Holy Spirit of God. He also spake by the prophets. Prophecy came not in old time by the will of men, but holy men of old spoke as they were moved by the Holy Ghost makes men able to seek out cunning inventions, and gives us also what is beautiful and wonderful in art. We are told that it was the direct inspiration of the Spirit which wrought in the artisans of tabernacle and temple, and made them cunning architects to build up houses for God fragrant with cedar, and beautiful with color, and bright with ornaments of gold; and that same Spirit which gives us our treasures of art gives also what is beautiful in action. It was He who inspired in David his courage and who gave to Samson his strength and filled Gideon with his spirit of patriotism, and gave to Solomon his understanding heart. There are diversities of gifts. To some men God gives to be able to work miracles of healing; to others He gives the power of great inventiveness; to others skill to interpret for us a discovered secrets of nature; to others eloquence; to others perhaps the best gift of all, the pure and simple heart. But in all these worketh the one and selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as He will. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variation, neither shadow that is caused by turning.—The Watchman.

The Fullness Of Christ.

I recall the wonder and delight with which I saw tide come up the Bay of Fundy and fill the empty river beds. Through the hours of the ebb, the Nova Scotian rivers dwindled and shrank within their banks. Broad and barren reaches of sand exposed themselves; ships listed heavily on their sides, by the feeble stream trickling in mid channel.

Then came the tide up the Bay of Fundy, up from the abundance of the unfathomable sea. You could hear it coming with a distant sound of motion and life and unmeasured power. You could see it coming, with a pure white girdle of foam that looked in sunlight like a zone of fire. You could smell it coming, with the smell of freshness, the breath of coolness, the waft of far-off scents from breeze blown ocean leagues. You could almost feel it coming, for the heart stirred at the sight of it, and the pulse quickened at the rush of it, and the joy of strength arose in the soul.

It came from the mighty fullness that could afford to give so grandly; it came from the opulence of an ocean that could spend itself without fear of poverty, that could pour itself itself out to fill a thousand rivers yet be not diminished; it came, as Arnold said, with "murmurs and scents of the infinite sea." It entered the river bed; it filled the empty channel as one fills a picture at the fountain; it covered the barren sands with motion and sparkling life; it lifted the heavy ships, gave back to them their rights of buoyancy, set them free upon the broad water-way of world-wide opportunity; it changed the very face of the land from sadness and apathy and dullness to animation and color and glittering activity.

So Christ comes into empty human lives and fills them with His fullness which is the very fullness of God. So stops the ebb of power, entering with His flood of strength. The difference between a life without Christ and a life with Christ is the difference between ebb and flood; the one is growing emptier, the other is growing fuller.—Charles Cuthbert Hall, D. D.

Personal Effort to Win Souls.

Comparatively little is done by the Church for the salvation of sinners save what the preacher does in the pulpit on Sunday. Satan does not dread the sermons of the preacher half so much as he does the personal interview of a warm-hearted Christian with an unconverted soul. The heavy artillery of our prepared and elaborated sermons does not alarm him. An army fighting with heavy artillery is not very dreadful. The fighting is done at long range. There is a deal of noise, a vast amount of smoke, fabulous quantities of ammunition expended, but very little execution. It is when the charge is made on the flank or the center that the battle is won.

Much of our fighting with the enemy is at long range. Much of our artillery is heavy, some of it very heavy. The noise reverberates among the hills and the smoke is dense, but the execution is not what we would like. The work of God is said to be sharper than a two-edged sword, piercing to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit. But one cannot fight with a sword at long range. He must come close enough to the one he wishes to pierce to see his eye and feel the warm breath of his mouth. If a whole congregation of Christians should go out some day, each one to see an unsaved soul and try to bring him to God, hell's foundation would quiver before twenty-four hours.

Croupy Coughs Of Children.

The tendency to croup is a foe that all 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. Adamson's Botanic Cough Balsam is a blessing to all families where there are children subject to attacks of croup or any mean cough. It has a wonderful reputation for its efficiency and fully deserves it.

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 he 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.

Adamson'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 safe guard which no mother who knows about it will dispense with. All coughs and inflammation of the throat or bronchial tubes are cured by the Balsam with promptness that surprises. All druggists sell it 25 cents. The genuine has "F. W. Kinsman & Co." blown in the bottle.

The Hidden Sin.

A majestic tree fell at its prime—fell on a calm evening, when there was scarcely a breath of air stirring. It had withstood a century of storms and now was broken of by a zephyr. The secret was disclosed at its falling. A boy's hatchet had been struck into it when it was a tender sapling. The wound had been grown over and hidden away under exuberant life, but it had never healed. There at the heart of the tree it stayed a spot of decay, ever eating a little farther and deeper into the trunk, until at last the tree was rotted through and fell of its own weight when it seemed to be at its best.

So do many lives fall when they seem to be at their strongest, because some sin of fault of youth has left its wounding and its consequent weakness at the heart.—Dr. J. R. Miller.

A poor Indian was asked one time what his conscience was. Putting his hand over his heart, he said; "It is a little three-cornered thing in here. When I do wrong it turns around and hurts very much. If I keep on doing wrong, it will turn until it wears the edges all off and then it will not hurt any more."

God does direct the path of His faithful servants. They may go here and there and seem to very much at random, but there is a Guiding Hand not simply a principle or a purpose, but a Guiding Hand which leads them.

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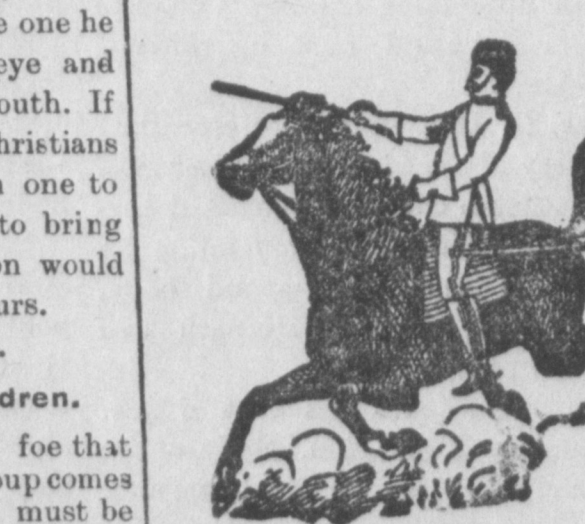
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