

The Christian Life.

SPEAK GENTLY.

BY SALLIE V. DU BOIS.

"Speak gently; it is better far
To rule by love than fear;"
A kindly word, in accents mild,
Will check the falling tear;
While words of wrath oft fall like lead
Upon the heart's dark stony bed.

Speak gently to the erring one,
Thou mayest not even know
The anguish of his secret soul,
The depth of his great woe,
And if thou canst not understand,
Crouch out to him a helping hand.

It may be that his life has led
Him where deep torrents flow;
Where no kind, helpful words are said,
That thou canst never know,
But say one gentle word in love—
'Twill echo in the realms above.

Speak gently to the sorrowing soul
His heart with grief is overcast,
His hope is vanquished and he feels
No good thing of this world doth last,
Then point him to the heavenly goal,
The refuge of each sorrowing soul.

Speak gently to the little child,
Life is all sunshine to him now,
Thou has not touched his tender form,
Nor care has marked his sunny brow,
The cares of life will come too soon,
Blight not his tender, happy noon.

Speak gently to the aged one,
His feet are weary with the race,
His lips are trembling, dim his sight,
He cannot with thy steps keep pace,
Find time to cheer his lonely way,
Make sunshine while it yet is day.

Speak gently every hour and day,
Life at the most will soon be o'er,
If thou hast kindly words to say,
Wait not till death knocks at the door,
For words of love are all in vain,
To lips that answer not again.

SELF-FORGETFULNESS.

The excellency of the Gospel and the glory of Christ enabled the great apostle to forget himself and his magnificent record in the past, and to plunge into his work remembering nothing but the grandeur of the cross. Self-forgetfulness is good proof that we are doing God's work. This grace imparts added charms to childhood, and not less to manhood and womanhood. There is no pleasure in the company of conceited, self-centered people. Some one has well said: "A saint loses his saintliness when it is perceived that he thinks himself saintly." It is true that at times the Lord Jesus was self-assertive. By the uniqueness of his nature, the necessity of his being, the exigencies of his mission, and for the sake of his disciples, he declared his virtues. At the same time he was a servant among men. How he wrought for the good of others wholly unconscious of self. He came down from heaven, thereby emptying himself of his glory, to seek and to save the lost, and the lost he went about seeking and saving, denying himself and forgetting himself to an extent unmatched by any of his devoted followers. With self-forgetfulness comes the increase of power and efficiency. It is

well-known that one who loses all thought of self in the grandeur of his work enlarges his nature and augments his usefulness. On the other hand, a selfish man, a man who makes self the all-engrossing centre of his thoughts and plans and deeds, loses force by the suspicions he awakens in others. It is impossible to better answer the arguments of unbelief, to better disarm men of their prejudices, than by manifesting in our lives that pure, deep humanness which is the very essence of practical Christianity, which takes a man out of himself, broadens his sympathies, increases his sympathies and usefulness, and presents to the world a living, moving Christ, in him incarnated.

And then what happiness flows from this kind of service. If all knew the happiness they experience whose lives are devoted to deeds of philanthropy, all would want to be philanthropists. All may be. If we eagerly avail ourselves of every opportunity of doing good unto our fellowmen that presents itself day by day, we shall taste more and more, and drink deeper and deeper of the happiness that springs from self-forgetful service for the Master. We ought to be thankful for the divine law of inequality observable in society, which gives the strong the power to mother the weak, the educated the ability to impart knowledge to the ignorant. It is ordained that people in different conditions shall help each other. The low need the high, and the high need the low. The poor need the rich and the rich need the poor. The law of inequality creates opportunities for mutual helpfulness and happiness. What is required for the fullest possible cup of blessing is the exercise of a proper disposition on the part of one class toward another, or of the cultivation and display of the beautiful grace of self-forgetfulness in service. Take any one, if he recalls the most joyous moments of his life, those in which he experienced the deepest satisfaction, he will find them to be the moments when he was so wholly absorbed in labors for others that he became for the time oblivious to self. Unutterable is the joy of an unselfish ministry.

Jesus Christ came to our world to turn men from thoughts of self, and to focus their affections in Him, and thus to fulfill the conditions of true happiness. And when by his wonderful grace, their thoughts are so turned and their affections so focussed, they lose themselves in their most arduous work in their admiration for him. Christ becomes entangled within them — their light and life and inspiration. And, depend upon it, Christ in the heart of a man is a force that manifests itself in the world. The man shines not by effort consciously, but without effort, unconsciously. Moses when he came down from the mount wist not that his face shone; but the people, who awaited his coming from the foot of the mount, saw it, and knew it, and beheld in it the glory of the Lord. When our faces shine from the Christ-light, kindled and flaming in our souls, they shine unconsciously to ourselves, but consciously to a dark and needy world. As jewels sparkle, as birds sing, so spontaneously and self-forgetfully does Christ's man, the true believer, the Father's real child, love and serve him. —Christian Intelligencer.

PERSONAL EVANGELISM.

Personal evangelism is the combined zeal in individuals in spreading the Gospel through individual endeavor. Conspicuous among the rewards of personal evangelism is the aggressive vigor of the local church. When all your membership, in whole-hearted loyalty to Jesus Christ, are harmoniously and steadfastly zealous in spreading the gospel, the Lord will continue to add to your church precious souls, and will help you individually to grow in grace and knowledge. The early church at Jerusalem was noticeably vigorous, and of its membership we read: "They continued steadfastly in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, and in the breaking of bread and the prayers." They were all at it, always at it, and at it all together; and "the Lord added to them day by day those that were saved."

Personal evangelism makes the church aggressive, and laudably successful; and it graces the individual with rich rewards here, and hereafter. Not long ago I had a wayside talk with a man who was peddling oil. He assured me that his oil was exceptionally good, and his profits comparatively small. He also informed me that he had lapsed from the habit of regular church attendance. I urged him to begin again to attend some church regularly, that thus he might let his light shine before men; and assure himself of that godliness which is profitable unto all things.

By persistent and consistent evangelism you can let your own light shine laudably before men; and can certify both for the life that now is and that which is to come. You will, also, be correctly classed with those blessed ones of whom we read, "They that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament, and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars, forever and ever." —Chris. Work.

SEE BOTH.

How many good people there are who can see the storm, but lose sight of the rainbow; who lament the deluge, but never dream of the ark; who see the cold Jordan at their feet, but never think of the mantle of Elijah. God has his antidote for every sorrow if men will but look for it. If there is a juniper tree, there will be an angel under it, if there is a profitless night on the water, there will be a Saviour on the shore in the morning, if there is a Gethsemane or a Calvary, "he shall see of the travail of his soul and shall be satisfied." —The Presbyterian.

GOD'S LOVE IN OUR SORROWS

A loved one gone from us may do more for us than ever before. Death may embitter, or it may soften hearts and enrich lives with a love that was possible in no other way. Certain it is that when a mother's heart is going out after a loved child that has been taken to heaven, her life interest is in the things of heaven as it never was before — and that ought to mean a deeper, more loving interest in God's work here and in all his children. The different members of a family, in their common grief for the going of a loved one, are lifted up into heaven; which means that they are drawn closer to each other than ever before. One is gone from the home circle; those who are left must close up the ranks and be more than ever before to each other, to make up, so far as each can, for the loss. God offers us his richest blessings as a part

of our deepest sorrows. When his Son was lifted up in death, He drew all men unto him. He permits the going home of one of the least of these, his brethren, to lift us closer to him, and to draw us closer to each other. Shall we reject this blessing? —S. S. Times.

A Tonic for the Debilitated.—Parmelee's Vegetable Pills by acting mildly but thoroughly on the secretions of the body are a valuable tonic, stimulating the lagging organs to healthful action and restoring them to full vigor. They can be taken in graduated doses and so used that they can be discontinued at any time without return of the ailments which they were used to allay.

No reasonable man expects to cure a neglected cold in a day. But time and Allen's Lung Balsam will overcome the cold and stave off consumption. Cough will cease and lungs be sound as a new dollar.

The eagle that soars in the upper air does not worry itself as to how it is to cross rivers.

To Prevent is Better than to Repent.—A little medicine in the shape of the wonderful pellets which are known as Parmelee's Vegetable Pills, administered at the proper time and with the directions adhered to often prevent a serious attack of sickness and save money which would go to the doctor. In all irregularities of the digestive organs they are an invaluable corrective and by cleansing the blood they clear the skin of imperfections.

Human nature is like water, once started on the downward way it will, if unrestrained, seek the lowest level before it stops.

You need not cough at night and disturb your friends; there is no occasion for you running the risk of contracting inflammation of the lungs or consumption while you can get Bickle's Anti-Consumptive Syrup. This medicine cures coughs, colds, inflammation of the lungs and all throat and chest troubles. It promotes a free and easy expectoration, which immediately relieves the troubled lungs from viscid phlegm.

If God can bring the most exquisite flowers out of the black and uncompanionable earth, may he not also bring usefulness and beauty out of the most unpromising life?

Pain Killer, the best all 'round medicine ever made. Used as a liniment for bruises and swellings. Internally for cramps and diarrhoea. Avoid substitutes. There is but one Pain Killer, Perry Davis'.

At ten years of age a boy thinks his father knows a great deal; at fifteen he knows as much as his father; at twenty he knows twice as much; at thirty he willing to take his advice; at forty he begins to think that his father knows something, after all; at fifty, he begins to seek his advice; and at sixty, after his father is dead, he thinks that he was the smartest man that ever lived.