

**DO IT NOW.**

I had thought to send a flower to a sick friend, but decided: "To-morrow will do as well." Next day the flower was laid on a still, cold form.

Because of busy, happy work, I neglected for a month writing to a dear friend far away. The tardy missive brought answer:

"Dear One,—Your letter is a comfort to me. I have waited for it through a month of heavy trial. I know you would have written sooner if you could, or had you known the comfort your words would be."

Two friends misunderstood each other. "Soon," I thought, "I shall speak the little word that will clear their skies." The events of a day separated us all for ever, and the little wrong was not made right.

An earnest youth was in need of a helping hand. I longed to extend the help, but self-interest answered: "You cannot; God will take the will for the deed."

Then the spirit within took me to my knees, and I prayed: "O God, shall this poor will, and nothing more, be offered thee? Then thou hast naught. Oh, make it thine, that loving deed may prove the will to serve!"

And in that hour the youth's need was supplied, nor was self the poorer.

Oh, the blessed now, which is all of time I have! God help me to use it for him! And if there is a word to be spoken, a flower to be sent, an alabaster box to be broken, God help me to do it now.—S. M. Ritter.

**A SECRET SIN.**

"He that covereth his sins shall not prosper." Most men try to cover their sins. They shall not prosper in their effort to hide them. They shall not prosper in their prayers. The man with a secret sin, coming to the mercy seat, comes in vain. Men may find no traces of his sin. He may persuade himself that it was not sin. But the power of prayer is gone. He shall not prosper in his attempt to serve God. He may hope to make amends by diligence in the vineyard of the Lord, but his service is not acceptable. There is a secret evil that neutralizes all his good deeds. He shall not prosper in his own soul. His effort to find happiness is vain. A drop of bitterness mingles with every draught. He does not grow in grace. His hope is vain. He is a stranger to peace. The hideous thing which he has hidden haunts him.

"I dug a grave and laid within  
Its secret depths one secret sin.  
I closed the grave—and know full well  
That day I shut myself in hell."

**NEED OF SELF-EXAMINATION.**

Let us examine ourselves; let us be honest as we examine into the evidence of departed blessedness. A man is really what he is when he is alone with God. There is no ear listening that he wishes to captivate, no eye that he seeks to favor. Just as you are with God, that you are really and will find, yourself to be on the last day. So your drooping may be traced. A life without religion fades. What water is to the plant, what winding is to the watch, just that is prayer to the Christian. There may have been times when you cried out, "Oh, for a closer walk with God!" If this is your spirit, you are near the Lord.—Rev. Madison C. Peters.

**A "RARE" SIN.**

BY CHARLES H. SPURGEON.

I asked a question some years ago of a person whom I believed to be one of the most covetous individuals in my acquaintance, and I received from him a singular reply.

I said: "How was it that St. Francis de Sales, who was an eminent confessor to whom persons went in the Romish church to confess their sins, found that persons confessed to him in private all sorts of horrible sins, such as adultery, drunkenness, and murder, but never had one person confessed the sin of covetousness?"

I asked this friend whether he could tell me why it was, and he made me this answer, which certainly did take me rather aback:

He said: "I suppose it is because the sin is so extremely rare."

"Blind soul! I told him that, on the other hand, I feared the sin was so very common that people did not know when they were covetous, and the man who was most covetous of all was the last person to suspect himself of it."

**IS IT ANY HARM?**

"Don't be saying, 'Can I do this, and can I do that?' or 'Is it any harm?' Christianity is not a no-harm religion. It always means good. When you face a question, don't stop and ask, 'Is it any good?' If you study your Bible carefully and pray faithfully, trying to be a winner of souls constantly, you will neither be barren nor unfruitful. Keep away from the danger line. The devil has practised on this old world for over six thousand years now, and he is pretty skilful at his trade. His joints never get stiff; he never has the rheumatism, the asthma, or neuralgia. I never heard of his being short of breath, and if you get over in his door-yard playing tag, sooner or later he will beat you and get your tag. But work for the Lord Jesus, and the devil will have no power over you."—Selected.

**NO NEW STAR POSSIBLE.**

"Do you see that star?" asked the old captain of the helmsman as he turned to go below.

"Aye, aye, sir," the helmsman replied.

"Steer straight for that star till I return."

He had not slept an hour when the helmsman roused him: "Come up, come up and give me another star."

The captain said: "Steer by the star I gave you."

"Oh, I have passed that star long ago, and left it far in the rear."

Yes; the foolish and ignorant steersman had turned the ship completely around, and was headed for disaster.

Christians do no less who have behind them those means of grace, those great truths, those habits, which have blessed the world in the past. And how many of them have gone on the rocks in consequence!

A certain man would never go to a place of worship. When he heard the bells rung for service he would say to his wife, "Go you to church, and pray for yourself and me."

One night he dreamed that both he and his wife were dead, and that they knocked together at heaven's gate for entrance; but the angel who acted as porter suffered the wife to enter in, but kept the husband out, saying, "She is gone in both for herself and thee."

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**"Suppose Thee and I make a Beginning."**

The late William E. Dodge, Sr., used to relate that his honored father, David Dodge, an earnest Christian, was once in conversation with a devout and ardent Quaker, who, like himself, immensely desired to hasten the triumph of Christ's kingdom. They were dwelling upon the strange apathy of the church; the inertness, dullness and sluggishness of most Christians as to the salvation of souls, the progress of the church, and, in general, the glory of God on earth. They agreed as to the immeasurable importance of greater zeal, the sin of unbelief, of indolence in Christ's service, and the instant demand that Christians should awake to agonizing prayer, when the honest Quaker broke in: "Friend Dodge, suppose thee and I make a beginning." No better suggestion was ever made. The place to begin is here, and the time now. Christians here on earth are not chiefly spectators to see how others work, and the glorious results, but are themselves to be workers, and co-workers with God. Aristotle says: "The beginning is more than half." Let every Christian who is deficient begin at once. *Carpe diem.* The time is short. If not "thee and I," let it at least be "I" now and here will make a beginning.—*The Presbyterian.*

**Tonsillitis is Going Round**

And everybody is wondering what to do. Here is a simple cure. Use a gargle of Nerviline and water as recommended in the directions, and rub your throat and chest vigorously with Nerviline. This has been tested and proved successful a thousand times. Nerviline is a specific for tonsillitis, and in fact we know of nothing half so good for breaking up colds, curing tight chest and all muscular pains. A bottle of Nerviline, price 25c.

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In the spring and in the fall a good flesh building tonic is required whenever weakness or loss of weight is apparent. "The D & L" Emulsion will be found admirable for this purpose.

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A crowd is an opportunity. Crowds ought never to appal the saint, but ought rather to appeal to the saint.