

The Christian Life.

A MOMENT'S PAUSE.

From the noise of many voices,
From the tread of hasting feet,
From the eager buying, selling,
Of the market and the street,
I have gained a little moment
For the hush of thought and prayer,
And the comfort of deep silence
Is around me everywhere.

Now come near to me, my Saviour,
Whom I most desire to see;
Give Thy rest to me, world-weary,
All my longing is for Thee.
Speak to me, I am Thy servant,
Yet awhile from work I cease;
Give to me for my refreshment
Thy sweet benison of peace.

Then renewed, restored and strengthened,
After weariness and pain,
I will gladly, at Thy bidding,
Take my well-loved work again;

Not in vain a moment's respite,
Great indeed Thy boon of rest;
Yet, for all my life, dear Master,
Joyous work for Thee is best.

—Marianne Farningham.

CONCERN FOR SOULS.

BY REV. S. E. WISHARD, D. D.

The Word of God is not fiction. Its statements concerning immortality, life and retribution, heaven and hell, time and eternity are not fables. They are the tremendous things that concern us here in this life. All other things are as chaff, in contrast with these divinely established realities. And yet it is the visible things that take hold upon men, enlist their energies, tax their powers and exhaust their time and strength.

Solicitude for the eternal welfare of souls is Scriptural. The prophets were moved by it. Jeremiah cried out under the burden of anxiety for the perishing, "Oh, that my head was waters, and mine eyes a fountain of tears, that I might weep day and night for the slain of the daughter of my people." Moses threw himself between the guilty people and divine justice, pleading, "Oh, this people have sinned a great sin, and have made them gods of gold; yet now, if thou wilt, forgive their sin; and if not, blot me, I pray thee, out of thy Book which thou hast written."

This same solicitude for the lost is the first impulse and evidence of the new life. Andrew must hasten to Peter with the glad tidings, "We have found the Messiah." Philip bore the sweet message to Nathanael. The woman at the well forgot her water pot and hastened back to the city with the message, "Come, see a man that told me all things that ever I did; is not this the Christ?" Every child of God knows that the first experience of the new life is the outgoing of a great compassion for the lost about us.

It must be apparent, to those who are toiling and watching for souls, that the church has to an alarming extent lost that deep concern for souls which has characterized the living church in all the ages. There is still a general interest in the effort to increase the membership of the church. That is apparent from the interest in the showing of statistics. In many directions that has come to be a business. Work is carried on, not so much for setting forth the claims of divine law, or the perils of

sin, as for the definite purpose of increasing our membership. This labor to be seen of men has its reward. The church is tending in the direction of a social club, instead of a mighty spiritual life, seeking the transformation of souls. The world is coming into the church, with its low and indifferent views of godly living. The sea is coming into the ship, and if it is not driven back there can be only one result—the vessel must go down. We are not planning that disaster for the church, for the Master of the vessel has promised that the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. This promise, however, was not made to relieve us from fidelity, but to encourage our faith and call us to new effort in time of danger.

We must look for the causes that have led to this loss of zeal for the salvation of souls. How and whence comes this light estimate of the work of priceless souls?

How is it that we have come to deal with souls on religious questions as the public is dealt with on political or financial questions? How is it that cold argument and human logic have taken the place of the flaming sword, the "two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder the soul and the spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart?"

How did we lose our intense concern for the souls that are marching down to perdition? We once had this prayerful solicitude. We were pressed forward by it into service for individuals.

"Where is the blessedness I knew
When first I saw the Lord;
Where is the soul-refreshing view
Of Jesus and His Word!"—

a view that would not let us rest until we had exhausted all possible effort for the salvation of our fellows?

Need it be written that we have lost a realizing faith in the glorious and the awful revelations which God has given us of heaven and hell, of Divine love and human guilt?

Has not the Spirit of God been grieved by our wayward living? Have not our hearts been hardened through empty words, when they should have empty words, when they should have been intercessions with groanings (spiritual aspirations) that cannot be uttered?

Some one, who for a time is a prophet of the Lord, will tell us how and when the Church of Christ is to be lifted into the place of power that has characterized it in the days of the right hand of God. His promise will then be fulfilled—"A little one shall become a thousand, and a small one a strong nation: I, the Lord, will hasten it in his time."—*Herald and Presbyterian.*

So rapidly does lung irritation spread and deepen that often in a few weeks a simple cough culminates in tubercular consumption. Give heed to a cough, there is always danger in delay, get a bottle of Bickle's Anti-Consumptive Syrup, and cure yourself. It is a medicine unsurpassed for all throat and lung troubles. It is compounded from several herbs, each one of which stands at the head of the list as exerting a wonderful influence in curing consumption and all lung diseases.

Increasing God's Opportunities.

Some one has said that "each human life is another opportunity for God to display His grace and power." So it is, and the thought will grow upon you as you meditate upon it. Just think, "I am God's opportunity!" Isn't it wonderful! Isn't it glorious? When we look at others whom God has richly blessed and honored in service, we can see how it is; but do we ever think of ourselves as God's opportunity.

Every one that responds to God's call, "Come!" gives God a larger place in the world.

Every one who obeys God's command, "Go!" assists God in gaining a larger place in the hearts of men. Every regenerated heart and life is a new garden in which God plants His seeds of love and grace; a fountain out of which flow constant streams of healing power.

Take it home, dear young friend, and say to yourself, "I am God's opportunity." Be that and your life will become unutterably grand and your experience unspeakably sweet. — *A. W. Spooner, D. D.*

Here a Little, There a Little.

Every child of God knows what it is to rise in the morning with the feeling that there is so much to be done it is impossible to get through it. When this is the case, we sometimes allow the thought of our work to worry and flurry us till we are quite unfit to do anything at all, or else we try to do half a dozen things at once and end by doing nothing properly. Where we make the mistake is in looking at our task as a whole, instead of taking it piece by piece. God only asks us to live a moment at a time, and when we try to open our arms wide enough to take in the whole day, no wonder we fail. He who has prepared our work for us and us for our work, knows exactly what we can do, and what time and strength we require for the purpose.

GIVE WHAT YOU HAVE.

How many Christian people are willing to give what they cannot give; how slow many are about giving such as they have. Many of them would endow colleges and build churches and libraries and hospitals, if they were millionaires. The churches are full of people who would teach in our Sunday schools and speak in the prayer meeting if they had a "talent for it."

The good Samaritan bent in sympathy over the wounded Jew and "set him on his own beast." An automobile or an ambulance would have been much better, but he had neither of them. He had only a small donkey, and such as he had he gave to the service of the man who needed his help. The question is not what we would do if we had wealth, but what we are ready to do right now, however poor or ignorant we may be.

THE MINISTER'S ATTITUDE.

The temptation of young men is to show their learning; the temptation of middle-aged men is to demonstrate their "influence;" the temptation of old men is to preserve their dignity and position.

Some young men have learned that to display learning in the pulpit too often makes the learned smile; and when the unlearned learn why the learned smile, they smile also. Some middle-aged men have learned that attempts to demonstrate influence often diminish it, and that influence always demonstrates itself when really exerted. Some old men have learned that spiritual power,

a loving heart, and the absence of pessimistic thoughts will conserve both their dignity and position.

But the minister—young, middle-aged, or old—who bears in mind "the purpose of his profession" will be trusted, loved, and honored by those whom he teaches, advises, shepherds, and guides through his whole ministerial life. For him to "grow old gracefully" will be comparatively easy.—*Christian Advocate.*

SELFISHNESS.

Selfishness is exceedingly subtle and persistent. We must be on our guard lest it enter into our religious experience. There is danger that it may do so even in our relation to Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour. We are so ready to think of Christ and our interest in him as a shelter from evils which threaten us because of our sins. He is this, but he is more. He is also a remedy for sin, and our interest in him secures to us such restoration of our spiritual activities as enables us to live as we ought to live here and now, for the glory of God and the good of men. This is the positive and richer aspect of our interest in Jesus Christ.

Try to Prevent Lung Trouble.

It's the direct sputum floating around in the air that gets into your lungs and causes consumption. A sure preventive is fragrant healing Catarrhzone, which is inhaled right into the lungs, kills every germ, heals the sore membranes and cures thoroughly every type of catarrh, bronchitis, asthma and lung trouble. "I caught a severe cold which developed into catarrh, and finally settled on my lungs," writes Mr. A. Northrup, of Bedford. "Catarrhzone relieved quickly and cured me. I recommend Catarrhzone highly." Two months treatment \$1.00; trial size 25c.

During the year 1903 the various boards of conciliation and arbitration in Great Britain are known to have settled 788 cases of labour trouble. Most of the actual stoppages were settled by the parties themselves or their representatives. The number of stoppages settled by arbitration and conciliation were 26, involving 21,700 workpeople.

It Needs no Testimonial. — It is a guarantee in itself. If testimonials were required they could be furnished in thousands from all sorts and conditions of men in widely different places. Many medicines are put forth every year which have but an ephemeral existence and then are heard of no more. Dr. Thomas' Eclectic Oil has grown in reputation every day since it first made its appearance.

The cost of life incurred in making and distributing drink in England and Wales during the past ten years is said to have been the lives of 29,210, many from 25 to 65 years of age, of whom 12,000 would not have died had they not been engaged in this particular trade.

Something More Than a Purgative. — To purge is the only effect of many pills now on the market. Parmelee's Vegetable Pills are more than a purgative. They strengthen the stomach, where other pills weaken it. They cleanse the blood by regulating the liver and kidneys, and they stimulate where other pill compounds depress. Nothing of an injurious nature, used for merely purgative powers, enters into their composition.

The total number of ordained missionaries in the foreign field is 5,863. From America, 1,999; from Great Britain, 2017, and from Germany and the Netherlands. The average number of conversions in the mission work is about 17 to each ordained missionary.