

The Christian Life.

THE SWEETEST LIVES.

The sweetest lives are those to duty wed,
Whose deeds, both great and small,
Are close-knit strands of an unbroken
thread,

Where love ennobleth all.
The world may sound no trumpets, ring
no bells;
The Book of Life the shining record
tells.

Thy love shall chant its own beatitudes
After its own life working. A child's
kiss

Set on thy singing lips shall make thee
glad;

A poor man served by thee shall make
thee rich;

A sick man helped by thee shall make
thee strong;

Thou shalt be served thyself by every
sense

Of service which thou renderest.

—Elizabeth Barrett Browning.

CALAMITIES.

In some cases calamity is the direct result of sin. The poverty, hunger, and friendliness of the prodigal are immediate and necessary consequences of his transgressions. He reaps the fruit of his own doing. Families, cities, and nations are often visited with afflictions which they have brought upon themselves by their own wrongdoing. But it will not do to say that each severe visitation of trouble is a proof that the victim of the affliction is an object of the divine displeasure. He may not be worse than others who have not suffered. He may be far better. It is sometimes the good who suffer and the evil that escape. The Psalmist found it so; "Whom the Lord loveth He chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom He receiveth."

It is plain that calamities are sometimes fruitful of great good. Let no one say when he is afflicted that all these things are against him. It is not all dark. The night is as good as the day. Rain and storm are as useful as sunshine. If sunshine should prevail 24 hours every day and 365 days every year we should all soon perish. Winter is as needful as summer. Sorrow and pain bear fruits as rich and sweet as pleasure and gain. "All things work together for good to them that love God."

Affliction and calamity open fountains of sympathy. When one is sorely bereaved or sustains a heavy financial loss he soon receives messages of sympathy from his friends, and often from strangers. Offers of help come from sources he had not thought of. He never knew he had so many friends nor that their friendship meant so much to him. There are times when we are tempted to think that all men are selfish and cold, but deep sorrow proves the case to be far otherwise. Is not a flood of sympathy worth something?

Calamity breaks the hold of the world on the soul. The hold of the world is too strong. The patriarch said in his prosperity, "I shall never be moved." He regarded his condition permanent. He said moreover, "I shall die in my nest." His nest was quite comfortable. Many a man has a comfortable nest, and hopes that he will not be disturbed. But God knows what is good better than we. The old eagle knows what is good for the young bird. The young eagle, sleeping in a comfortable nest in a cleft of the

rock high up on the face of the cliff, is content to remain there. To venture out seems dangerous. But the old bird knows what to do. "The eagle stirreth up her nest." She tears it to pieces and compels the young to fly. This is necessary for their strength and safety. So God stirs men out of their nests that they may soar aloft.

Calamity develops the noblest qualities of manhood. What makes a good soldier? Not walking on velvet carpets and sitting in upholstered chairs a hundred miles from a battlefield. Hard marching, hard fighting, and hard fare make a good soldier. What makes a good sailor? Not sleeping in feather beds a thousand miles from the sea, but battling with storms on the great deep. Calamity develops strength, courage, patience, and hope.

Job understood the mission of calamity better than many modern Christians seem to understand it. Satan was disappointed in Job. He thought Job served God for profit. Had he not found it profitable to be good? The Lord had hedged him about and given him a full cup. Satan had found men who were very good while prosperity lasted, but when the wind turned against them they turned against God, and he thought Job would do likewise. But he did not understand the patriarch. Affliction did come. Calamities came down thick and fast, enough to try the faith and patience of any man. Job's wife wondered how he could hold out through it all and still trust in the Lord. Had not God turned against him? Was such a God worthy of confidence and service? Was such a life worth having? Was such a world worth living in? Why not make an end? But Job was not moved from his integrity. He said, "Shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil also?" Can we expect a good and wise God always to see fit to do according to our narrow desires? Who are we that we should require the great God to cause the wind always to blow in our direction? He has bestowed good on us. Is it not reasonable to suppose that He will find occasion to send some things which are not according to our pleasure? What son is he whom the father chasteneth not? God is

"Good, when He gives—supremely good,
Nor less when He denies;
E'en crosses, from His sovereign hand,
Are blessings in disguise."

Job was content. Paul was content. God is wiser than we. There is good in pain, in sorrow, in loss, in tribulation, in calamity.

Nothing can make the soul content in affliction but religion. Philosophy may harden us, but religion alone can comfort us. To know God and hide under His wings affords infinite consolation. "In the shadow of Thy wings will I make my refuge until these calamities be overpast."

A Good Complexion

Is a joy to every woman's heart and man is vain enough not to desire it. Beautiful complexion means pure blood, or in other words, a healthy body. Tens of thousands of women take Ferrozone because it's a splendid blood builder, keeps the system in perfect order and helps the complexion wonderfully. "I consider Ferrozone the best remedy to give you a clear ruddy complexion I know of," writes Miss Ada E. Brandon, of Pembroke. "My skin used to be sallow but after taking a few boxes of Ferrozone a rosy tint was noticeable on my cheeks. I can recommend Ferrozone as a tonic also." For good health and beauty use only Ferrozone. Price 50c. at druggists.

THE GOOD MAN.

BY ALEXANDER M'KENZIE, D. D.

The good man is well esteemed, but when we attempt to define precisely what we mean by the term it is not quite easy to tell. It means more than innocence, or not being bad. It is positive and active. The good man is virtuous, honest, trustworthy. Shylock in accepting Antonio did not go so far as this, but still insisted that the man would stand by his word when he gave bonds for his friend. "My meaning in saying he is a good man is to have you understand me that he is sufficient. Yet his means are in supposition." In the same way we say "he is good," meaning that his credit is good.

The good man is helpful, considerate. His generosity has much to do with this merit we confess. He is good-natured, genial, friendly—a man to be liked. St. Paul distinguished between the righteous man and the good man. The one is useful, like a telegraph post, the other graceful and attractive also, like a tree. He is impartial, good on all streets and all days, in all lands and worlds.

This is a high character, but many have possessed it, so that it is irrational to regard it as out of reach. It may be difficult of attainment; but we have great powers which can be set to no higher use,—as Reason, Conscience, Will. The New Testament assumes that one can be good and has no hesitation in requiring it. It is complained that in these times, with their temptations and competitions, it is nearly impossible to have complete integrity, and yet win what is called success. If this be so, men who have made the times and their usages should be willing to unmake them. In any case, they must assert all their faculties if this be necessary, and compel themselves to be right.

It comes back at last to the will; not to resolution, and intention, but to the fixed determined, stubborn will, to which the whole being is pledged. A man must be a coward who surrenders to evil influences when he could fight them back. The man is mightier than his surroundings if he wills to be. In this he has the divine support. "The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord; and He delighteth in his way. Though he fall he shall not be utterly cast down; for Jehovah upholdeth him with His hand."

It is said that men enter the world with evil tendencies. They enter the world with no tendencies they cannot resist. A man has fallen very low when he charges his misdeeds upon his father and mother. It is certainly true that men must be "born again," but that is readily accomplished when they will; that they need a Saviour, but the Saviour is waiting for them when they are born; that they need guidance and control, but the Holy Spirit is given to them for the asking. The need is real and great, but it is fully met. We can have the help we require. It is even urged upon us. Whosoever wills it can be made strong.

Let us believe that we can be good, and listen to no voice which would deny it. It may be an effort, possibly a struggle; but what is our strength for but to achieve goodness? We have not yet attained, but we are able to press toward the prize. The greeting at the last, the welcome to those who enter the joy of the Lord, is to those who are faithful and good.

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.

DISAGREEABLE CHRISTIANS.

Did you ever see one? You are not apt to see them on the streets. They are not disagreeable everywhere, but only at home. They look upon their religion as they do on their Sunday clothes, not to be worn except in company.

If one of them happens to be a wife, her husband is very unfavorably impressed with her religion; in fact, he fails to see in her the Spirit of Christ at all. She is querulous, and seldom speaks to him or the servants in a pleasant tone of voice; and, often, when he asks her a question, she will not answer. He cannot say anything to her without receiving a curt, irritating reply that stirs up anger; but, if the pastor or some other visitor comes in, her tone is sweeter than honey.

If the husband be the disagreeable Christian, then the wife is the victim of his unfortunate disposition. He is cross, petulant, and pouting; and does not speak to her for a week at a time. There is very little congeniality between them. The upas never sheds more deadly influence upon the body than do such Christians upon the soul; and yet, like the upas, they are unconscious of their influence. Those who profess Christ should above all things, cultivate his spirit; it is the only way in which they can commend his religion to others. It is easy to say, "Cultivate his spirit;" but remember, "This kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting."—Chris. Observer.

A Merry Heart Goes All the Day.

But one cannot have a merry heart if he has a pain in his back or a cold with a racking cough. To be merry one must be well and free from aches and pains. Dr. Thomas' Electric Oil will relieve all pains, muscular or otherwise, and for the treatment of colds and coughs a splendid medicine.

If we look down, then our shoulders stoop. If our thoughts look down, our character bends. It is only when we hold the head up, that the body becomes erect.

By Medicine Life May be Prolonged.

—So wrote Shakespeare nearly three hundred years ago. It is so today. Medicine will prolong life, but be sure of the qualities of the medicine. Life is prolonged by keeping the body free from disease. Dr. Thomas' Electric Oil used internally will cure coughs and colds, eradicate asthma, overcome croup, and give strength to the respiratory organs. Give it a trial.

A man is always what his object is; if Christ is a man's object, he is a Christian.

Scald head is a disgusting and obstinate disease, unfortunately frequent in children. The proper treatment includes perfect cleanliness and a generous application of Weaver's Cerate, so what softened. Mothers will be glad to learn this.

It takes a good man to get along with those who are as disagreeable as he is himself.

The weak and delicate people envy the strong and robust. We are told that "The D & L" Emulsion builds up solid flesh and that it does not disturb the digestion. Why not ask your druggist about it?

It is impossible for that man to despair who remembers that his Helper is omnipotent.—Jeremy Taylor.