

The Christian Life.

WHAT HAVE WE DONE TODAY?

We shall do so much in the years to come,

But what have we done to-day?

We shall give our gold in a princely sum,

But what did we give to-day?

We shall lift the heart and dry the tear,

We shall plant a hope in the place of fear,

We shall speak the words of love and cheer,

But what did we speak to-day?

We shall be so kind in the after-while,

But what have we been to-day?

We shall bring to each lonely life a smile,

But what have we brought to-day?

We shall give to truth a grander birth,

And to steadfast faith a deeper worth,

We shall feed the hungering souls of earth;

But whom have we fed to-day?

We shall reap such joys in the by and by,

But what have we sown to-day?

We shall build us mansions in the sky,

But what have we built to-day?

'Tis sweet in idle dreams to bask,

But here and now do we our task?

Yes, this is the thing our souls must ask,

"What have we done to-day?"

—Nixon Waterman.

FAITHFUL TODAY.

Faithfulness is not a very popular virtue; but it is an exceedingly valuable one. Other qualities are more brilliant, but none more indispensable. Nothing imparts more satisfaction to work or friendship than trustworthiness. And in Christ's thought this homely virtue is fundamental to life. Indeed, he seems to make it his standard of judgment. His question is not, "How successfully has one achieved?" but, "How faithfully has he tried?"

Men measure their fellows by the visible, tangible, practical results they accomplish. The fortunes they make, the problems they solve, the machines they perfect, the knowledge they acquire; these are the things by which the world judges. But Christ sets his judgment seat behind all these, in the realm of motive and purpose and attempt, and to him outward failure might signify real success. Success is almost worshipped in these days. The marvellous examples of it in this land hold the public eye. So enamored of it are men that often the questionable methods employed in pursuing it are condoned, if it is achieved. But real success consists in keeping the integrity of manhood, and whoever does that, even at the sacrifice of fortune, is worthier than he who attains power or wealth at the expense of manhood.

Simple fidelity to duty is golden. Rich is the reward it brings with it. Of itself it is a blessing. The conscience rests at ease even as the boat in the cool, smooth, strong embrace of the water. And that is a reward,—to be able to look up out of one's work while the hands are yet buried in it, even though they seem to be doing but little, to the Master as he comes day by day conscious of an honest purpose that he understands. And beside this, that faithfulness is fitting for larger

service all the while. That, too, is a reward that one enjoys in the very midst of living. Efficiency is gained through service. Promotion to larger service is the reward of fidelity.

The urgency of the present duty is appreciated when it is seen to be the foundation upon which rests all that is to be to-morrow. A clear recognition of this fact is a defense against the worry and neglect of to-day. To-morrow's greater task that causes anxiety cannot be done without to-day's lesser one. He who lets it rest there in the future and gives himself to the duty that fills his hands now, will come up to it prepared. His powers need the training of the few things before him now to fit them for the many things then. This is true in regard to all man's work under the sun. Here is one who makes great plans for the future. Whether he will ever realize them or not depends upon how faithful he is to-day.

And it is so in regard to character. Every one holds within his breast a vision of the man he ought to be, that he wants to be, that he hopes to be some day. The path to that far-off goal runs right at his feet. He must pick up the trail where he stands to-day, and follow it through the forest of life to its end. He cannot spring up to it at one bound. He must come to it step by step. The first and nearest duty is a step toward the ideal. Faithfulness to-day leads him in that direction. Here lies the philosophy of the great doctrine of justification by faith. The divine estimate of life does not rest upon what the man is or does to-day; but upon what he is trying to be and to do. God sees in the ideal that the man is struggling for the promise of the man he will be. And the faith that holds the Christ-life steadily in view, and that journeys through its imperfect present into that perfect future wins the divine approval.

Heaven itself is a growth as much as a reward. The heaven of the blossom upon the tree in spring is the golden and ruddy fruit of autumn. So the heaven of a human soul is that splendid to-morrow that shall have grown out of a succession of faithful to-days. It is no artificial gift of idle rest to which illuminated hope looks forward, but the natural result of noble service in which immortal faculties have been trained, a larger service in which unwearied powers, a sublime life in which unsullied characters rejoice.

So to-day is the foundation of all the to-morrows of earth and beyond. Faithfulness to the present duty, whether it be small or great, takes one a step forward toward the goal of the ideal. The difference between the man who succeeds and the man who fails is not the difference between the realist and the idealist, between the doer and the dreamer. Always the grandest doer is a dreamer, too. It is rather the difference between the man who waits for the ideal to come to him all fulfilled, to whom it never comes, and the man who works for the ideal by being faithful to-day. He sees the day draw nigh. —Chris. Intelligencer.

Information is the true foundation of missionary interest. Special appeals will arouse enthusiasm for a time, but it will not last.—Charles Cuthbert Hall.

PALM TREE CHRISTIANS.

"The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree."

When the Psalmist uses the palm tree to set forth the life of the righteous, he uses a very strong, impressive and instructive illustration. There are some features of the Christian life that would be aptly portrayed by any living tree, which firmly planted in the soil from which its roots take the nourishment that gives to the tree life, and growth, and vigor to withstand the fierce elements that may at times assail it, lifts its head up towards the heavens, and stretches out its limbs, offering shelter to all who may seek beneath them protection from the heat of day or the damp of the night.

Any tree thus growing, very fittingly illustrates the Christian, united to Christ, and drawing from him that spiritual nourishment that shall fit him to withstand all bitter opposition that may be arrayed against him by the world, the flesh and the devil, and in the midst of it all to grow.

But while any tree may be used to represent the general characteristics of the Christian, the palm tree possesses some special features which are adapted to strongly emphasize particular traits in the Christian life.

Some of the special features of the palm trees are these:

It grows in pure soil. It abhors the dunghill. It does not flourish in filthy soil, but it seems best content when standing beside rivers of pure waters. So the Christian is expected to flourish best in the midst of good surroundings, but whatever they may be, he must draw that which is to nourish his soul, and make it develop and flourish from that which is pure and good. He cannot grow if fed only with that which is untrue and wicked, or if fed only with the husks that the swine eat.

The palm tree is tall and graceful, lifting its high head above its surroundings; and its limbs all look upward, too. Heavy weights cannot prevent this upward growth, nor turn them from their straight course. The heavier the burden, the higher will be the upward advance.

In this upward tendency, a straight course, how the palm tree illustrates the true life of the Christian, which should ever be upward, turned aside by nothing, and by the burdens and trials and cares of life, only made to grow the faster, the stronger, the higher, getting constantly nearer and nearer to the great Sun of righteousness who is the source of all his growth.

The palm tree when young is very tender and weak. When planted they are placed in groups, and as they grow up together, they are mutual supports to each other; thus illustrating how Christians, who in their early Christian experiences may be weak and tender, may by joining together become mutual helps.

The palm tree is always green, showing a constant life and vigor; bears a very pleasant and delicious fruit.

So the Christian life should manifest a constant freshness and vigor, and one that produces abundant and delicious fruit.

Then in the palm tree the Psalmist gives to us a very beautiful and impressive picture of what the true Christian life should be. Such are the Christians that shall flourish. Those who have their roots deep in the rich soil of divine truth from which they are drawing nourishing food. Trusting in Jesus Christ as their Saviour, and drawing their strength and vigor from him,

they stand beautifully conspicuous for their spiritual height, uprightness, freshness and abundant fruitfulness.

DESTINY MAKERS.

The terror-inspiring notion which used to be taught by some theologians, that some men are born to be lost in spite of all they can do, has heard its own death-knell. The world has no need for that doctrine of infuriated justice that would lead a parent to clasp his hands and shout glory while his own offspring are being cast into outer darkness, even if men of a former generation did preach such inhumanity (to use a kinder, though not a truer, term than demonology) in order to support the justice of God's eternal decrees. God has marked out laws, but the interpretations of men, colored by personal feelings and desires, have made some of the outlines to crook around in fearful fashion. If God has taken wholly into his own hands every man's destiny, it leaves man a hopeless brute or a lifeless thing. Men are makers of their own destiny. God puts before them the material for their character, but he does not erect the building. That is for man alone. He begins to weave his fate when he first obeys or disobeys the call of duty. We determine our destiny by the way we answer that call. Away with the idea that man is powerless! He has been clothed with so much power that he may well tremble at the responsibility of its misuse or abuse. Let it be burned into every man's soul that he is the arbiter of his own destiny, with God at his side encouraging him, and we will have fewer men deformed into devils, and blaming God both for their course and destination.—The Telescope.

Sniffing and Sneezing Colds.

Can be stopped in a few minutes and permanently cured in one hour by inhaling Catarrhazone. No remedy compares with Catarrhazone for cold in the head and nasal catarrh. It soothes and heals the inflamed mucous membranes, prevents sneezing and coughing, clears away the "stuffed up" feeling in the forehead. If you haven't used Catarrhazone, get it to-day and try it on your next cold. You'll be surprised at the efficiency of this delightful inhaled treatment, which pleases everyone because it cures so quickly. Complete outfit \$1.00; trial size 25c.

Facts are the fingers of God. To know the facts of modern missions is the necessary condition of intelligent interest.—Arthur T. Pierson.

A Clear, Healthy Skin.—Eruptions of the skin and the blotches which blemish beauty are the result of impure blood caused by unhealthy action of the liver and kidneys. In correcting this unhealthy action and restoring the organs to their normal condition, Parmelee's Vegetable Pills will at the same time cleanse the blood, and the blotches and eruptions will disappear without leaving any trace.

There never was a brighter day in the history of missions than to-day. The obstacles have all been surveyed, and all have been surmounted.—John Potte.

A Requisite for the Rancher.—On the cattle ranges of the West, where men and stock are far from doctors and apothecaries, Dr. Thomas' Electric Oil is kept on hand by the intelligent as a ready-made medicine, not only for many human ills, but as a horse and cattle medicine of surpassing merit. A horse and cattle rancher will find matters greatly simplified by using this Oil.