

The Christian Life.

THE AVAILING PRAYER.

If, when I kneel to pray,
With eager lips I say:
"Lord, give me all the things that I
desire—
Health, wealth, fame, friends, brave
heart, religious fire,
The power to sway my fellow-men at
will,
And strength for mighty works to
banish ill"—
In such a prayer as this
The blessing I must miss.

Or if I only dare
To raise this fainting prayer:
"Thou seest, Lord, that I am poor and
weak,
And cannot tell what things I ought to
seek;
I therefore do not ask at all, but still
I trust Thy bounty all my wants to
fill"—
My lips shall thus grow dumb,
Thy blessing shall not come.

But if I lowly fall,
And thus in faith I call:
"Through Christ, O Lord, I pray Thee
give to me
Not what I would, but what seems best
to Thee
Of life, of health, of service, and of
strength,
Until to Thy full joy I come at
length"—
My prayer shall then avail,
The blessing shall not fail.
—Charles Francis Richardson.

UNRECORDED SERVICE.

Now that the long and terrible struggle at Port Arthur is ended we shall have, doubtless, for many a day to come stories of the bravery shown by those attacking and those attacked. Newspaper correspondents will discover and give to the world instances of heroism and unselfishness such as serve to stir the heart. But when all has been said how much will remain unspoken. The man whose name is sent out through all the world linked to some deed of high courage will be the exception, for the great mass of those who have gone down to death during these months of stern conflict will have no monument, their deeds of valor no chronicler.

It is not otherwise in life taken as a whole. Some few are lifted out of the ranks of the unknown, their names made familiar to a continent, possibly to the world, their deeds recounted in the hearing of their fellowmen; but the multitudes live and die unknown save to the few who are close to them. This may not be a welcome thought but it is the truth and we ought to reckon with it in our plan of life. It is folly to map out a line of conduct the prompting to which comes from craving for public attention. We may succeed in gaining the attention of the little circle in which we move, but what then? Is it ever worth while to live with chief reference to attracting public attention? Even if we succeed in this we shall fail in something of a vastly greater importance, viz: in reproducing the character of Jesus Christ.

That there is a subtle and strong temptation just here cannot be doubted. Jesus recognized it and warned his hearers against it; warned them not to

enter into religious exercises in order to be seen and heard of men. He even demanded secret almsgiving and secret prayer in order that these things might be real and not mere performances. The pull of this temptation is felt by multitudes of Christian men and women and yielded to by not a few. It is easy to assign a high and unselfish motive for our selfishness, and claim that we seek publicity and newspaper mention only that our influence may be extended. If we succeed in believing this we are all alone for no one else will. If we will but take the time to dive down into our hearts, be absolutely honest with ourselves, we shall most surely come to confess that when we seek fame we go on the quest from promptings that are purely selfish.

But there is another side to this matter and one more pleasant to look upon. Those of us who are trying to do our best with that which God has given us, who seek to invest our lives in such a way that the world shall be happier and better for our being here, can take to our hearts the assurance that the value of our service is not measured by the extent to which it is known and commented upon. Some of the best work in this world cannot well be made a matter of record. The very character of it forbids this. When one is sorely tempted and you are able to impart strength, when a heart is breaking and you can bear comfort, when one stands bewildered and questioning and you are permitted to give guidance and direction, who shall say that Christ's work is not being done? Yet this is service of which the world cannot know. It is never included in reports from the churches or sent in by the ubiquitous correspondent of the religious paper.

There is a cheer in this thought for those who are serving Christ in all faithfulness but who see little or no tangible results from their toil. Many a pastor goes through the years filling them with unselfish ministry, but seeing little fruitage that can be measured and set down in a table of statistics. Were it not that he knows how small a part of the work which God does through his agents can find earthly record, his heart would fail him and he would abandon his task. But he realizes that often most is said concerning that which is of smallest value. His sermons are discussed approvingly, his baptisms duly reported; but over and above this there are numberless ministries by which he is building the kingdom of God, although they find no general recognition. He touches the hearts of children and ties them to his own and so makes it possible to affect their lives for good. He embodies the mind of Christ and by so doing holds many an one to confidence in the religion of Jesus who, lacking this evidence, might have lost his faith.

Many years ago a Christian man became superintendent of a country Sunday school. He did his best, but during the two years in which he served he saw nothing of that for which his soul greatly longed in the conversion of the scholars. Removing to a large city he often thought with a twinge of pain of that which he called his failure in Sunday school work. Years had passed when one Sunday in his city church a young man accosted him and said: "I want to thank you for what you did for me when you were superintendent

of that country Sunday school and I was a boy. Because of you I am a Christian." It is only to few that such revelations come in this life, but we know that in the day when the secrets of all hearts are revealed and we know even as we are known, there will come to those who have done faithful work for Jesus Christ wondrous discoveries of that which God has wrought through their earthly ministry.

The need is to keep our motives pure and our courage high. When the community is buzzing over that which has been done by some fellow-worker there may fall upon us a desire to do something "to be seen of men," that we too may know the gratification which comes from public praise. The moment that we yield that moment we lose the approval of our Lord. He searches the heart and judges not as men judge but according to that which we really are in inmost purpose. It takes stamina to resist this subtle temptation, and nothing less will enable us to hold to our courage and hopefulness when we sow but are not permitted to reap. We need to take long time views of life and remember that the revelation of the harvest is not yet. All that God asks of us is unselfishness and service.—*Bap. Standard*.

DESIRING ONE THING.

What a multitude of desires struggle within us! Sometimes they conflict with each other, but the clamor increases more and more. No doubt the psalmist had a multitude of desires—desires for the prosperity of his kingdom, for the happiness of his family, for the health of his kindred—but one desire overtopped them all and swallowed them up. His one desire was for communion and fellowship with God. "One thing have I desired, and that will I seek after, that I might dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord and to inquire in His temple." In another place it is expressed in this language, "My soul longeth, yea, even fainteth, for the living God."

It is a good thing not only to think of God occasionally, but to long for and desire Him intensely and continually. This is a good test of our relation to Him. It shows clearly that the heart is in the right place. One man may truly say, "My one desire is to be rich." Another might say as truly, "It is my one aim to be a great scholar." This proves conclusively that these men are of the earth earthy. But if we can truly say, "It is the supreme desire of my heart to draw near to God, to know more of Him, to enter into more intimate fellowship with Him in thought, word, deed, and sacrifice," then we may know assuredly that our heart is right with God.

"Nearer, my God to Thee!
Nearer to Thee,
E'en though it be a cross,
That raiseth me;
Still all my song shall be,
Nearer, my God to Thee,
Nearer to Thee!"

THE GLORY OF GROWING OLD.

Growing old and getting old are very different things. There are many in the world who get old, but who never grow old at all. Growing old is a progress, liking growing wise or growing good. As the years pass by some people they bring gifts, they add continually to their lives. As they pass others they are for-

ever taking away something, subtracting from their lives.

One man loses physical powers; he cannot eat as much or sleep as well or enjoy his bodily life as thoroughly, and it is all a loss and a burden. Another man goes through the same experience and he discerns it to be God's voice saying to him, "You cannot now live as much in the body as you have been doing; you cannot get your pleasure that way; you must look to the mind and the heart and the soul for pleasure and interest and power in living." The first of these gets old and it brings nothing to him.

The second grows old and it is an enlarging, enriching, beautifying experience. Aging is like every other way of life; if we take it from God, as God meant it to be taken, it is a great blessing; if we miss the divine providence in it, it may be misery, and even a curse.

This Medicine is Breathed.

That's why it is sure to cure Catarrh. You see it goes direct to the source of the disease,—its healing vapor repairs the damage caused by catarrhal inflammation. "Catarrhzone" always cures because it goes into those tiny cells and passages that ordinary remedies can't reach, goes where the disease actually is. Impossible for "Catarrhzone" to fail as any doctor will tell you. Don't be misled into thinking there is anything so good as Catarrhzone,—use it and you'll soon say good-bye to catarrh.

The important thing about writing a letter, after all, is to know what it is one wants to say. Think out clearly in advance what you are going to write about. Emerson says in one of his essays, "The secret of eloquence is to know your facts."

A Clear Healthy Skin.—Eruptions of the skin and the blotches which blemish beauty are the result of impure blood caused by 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.

Learn the use of capitals and be frugal in giving capital letters to common words. Capital letters go with proper nouns and other proper articles of speech, not with common ones.

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.

Learn the art of punctuation. Commas for quarter parts of a sentence, colons or semi-colons for half of the sentence, and a full stop or period at the end.

If your children are troubled with worms, give them Mother Graves' Worm Exterminator; safe, sure and effectual. Try it, and mark the improvement in your child.

When you do not know whether to write a letter or not, postpone writing until you know your own mind better.