

THE BETTER WAY.

Grumble? No; what's the good?
If it availed, I would;
But it doesn't a bit—
Not it.

Laugh? Yes; why not?
'Tis better than crying, a lot;
We were made to be glad,
Not sad.

Sing? Why yes, to be sure;
We shall better endure
If the heart's full of song
All day long.
Love? Yes; unceasingly,
Ever increasingly.
Friends' burdens bearing,
Their sorrows sharing,
Their happiness making;
For pattern taking
The One above
Who is love.

BE STEADFAST.

An even, persevering type of Christian life is essential to religious happiness and usefulness. To be out of the way much of the time, and to be vacillating between right and wrong is a very unsatisfactory state of heart and mind. Some people are in such a tangle as to their relation to the church and the world that they are in real misery. They find little comfort in their religion because there is so little of it; and they cannot enjoy the world because of the restraints of their profession and church relation.

Be steadfast in faith. Faith as a principle can be so strengthened and made a fixity in one's character as to become immovable. Men become Christians by believing; they become doubters by doubting. Our perception of truth is governed largely by our attitude towards it, when presented to us. To doubt when it requires an effort and costs a struggle not to believe blunts and keener sense of perception concerning truth, and cultivates a habit of doubting. Steadfastness in faith tends to intensify our power of perception of truth, and hence makes apprehension of truth easier, and removes the individual farther and farther from doubt.

Be steadfast in service. The responsibility of a definite assignment of work is a thing of vital importance to any Christian. To be continuously free from such responsibility cannot prove seriously detrimental to faith and grace in the heart. They who are pressed most by practical church work make the greatest strides toward stalwart manhood in Christ Jesus. Close observers well know that it is a hazardous thing for any man to throw off service, and fall back to the inactive ranks. Many who have arbitrarily done so have soon grown cold, and have lost almost all trace of interest in the welfare of the church and in their own salvation.

Inactivity in the church is not a friend to grace. Idleness brings poverty of soul as well as poverty of purse. Work! work! is not the cry of the faithful. We are not saved by works, but it is doubtful weather we can be saved without service.—Selected.

WHAT IS HOME?

Recently a London magazine sent out 4,000 inquiries on the question, "What is home?" In selecting the classes to respond to the question it was particular to see that every one was represented. The poorest and the richest were given an equal opportunity to express their sentiment. Out of eight hundred replies received, seven gems were selected as follows:

Home—A world of strife shut out,
A world of love shut in.

Home—The place where the small
are great, and the great are small.

Home—The father's kingdom, the mother's world, and the children's paradise.

Home—The place where we grumble the most, and are treated the best.

Home—The centre of our affection, round with our heart's best wishes twine.

Home—The place where our stomachs get three square meals daily, and our hearts a thousand.

Home—The only place on earth where the faults and failings of humanity are hidden under the sweet mantle of charity.

HOPE.

Hope is a fighter.
Hope holds on.
Hope is a believer.
Hope causes things to happen.
Hope surmounts difficulties.
Hope is radiant and cheerful.
Hope perceives the better time coming.

Hope inspires to noble deeds of daring.

Hope smiles at the pessimist.

Hope breathes the air of a higher life.

Hope feasts on the joys of a better world to come.

Hope sees a silver lining to the darkest cloud.

Hope, the Christian's hope, defies despair and triumphs after death has done its worst.

THE SECRET OF HAPPINESS.

Many of the troubles and vexations which come into the lives of sinners and which they think keep them from getting saved, would be cast into the sea of forgetfulness if they would yield to God. People give way to their impatience, anger and other base feelings when things go wrong in the home and elsewhere, and they imagine that their troubles are the great hindrances to their salvation; when in fact, these very troubles would vanish if they had their hearts made right. The outside trials which are not of our own making would be met and endured with patience and sweetness, and our souls be developed and strengthened by contact with them, rather than they keeping us from enjoying the love of God.

If souls would only learn this grand truth and see the divine philosophy of things, how sublime and glorious would their lives become; and what untold sorrows heartaches and harrowing reminiscences would be avoided. Life is too short and its responsibilities too great and awful, for us to be thus deceived by the adversary and kept from the secret of true happiness and success. Men make their own characters, and decide their own destinies either for heaven or hell. The palm branch of victory over every sinful, bitter, hateful spirit, is within the reach of every soul. But he who yields to impatience, self-sufficiency, censoriousness, bitterness, clamoring, evil speaking and other carnal traits must inevitably find himself enveloped in a sea of troubles, from which there is no escape, only by hearty, humble confession of sin and consecration to God. Then the so-called "trying circumstances" will vanish; for God has promised that sin should have no more dominion over them. Blessed be his name.—Pentecost Herald.

THE LITTLE WIDOW.

In a missionary home in India there is a young girl who is now happy for the first time in her life. Her parents died when very young, and when she was only nine years old her aunt married her to a man of forty-nine. The little girl had to work hard for her new master until at the end of seven years he died, leaving her nothing to live upon.

The poor little widow was very miserable. Everybody despised her for being so unfortunate, and no one loved her enough to give her a home. She was a Brahmin, and had been taught that it was wrong to work, so she went out into the streets to beg. But she longed for comfort as well as for food, and arranged to go with some other widows on a pilgrimage. They thought if they washed in a sacred river they would obtain salvation. When they were on the way, however, an English lady missionary met them. She told them about the true salvation that comes through Christ, and soon afterwards, finding the little widow homeless and hungry in Bombay, she took her to a real home where she might live a happy life. "Now," says this young girl, "I can read the Marathi Bible and sing hymns. I thank the God who guided my feet here. I am happy now. I believe that Jesus alone can save me from my sins and I wish to die a saved woman. Please pray for me."—C. & M. Alliance.

A HERO.

A few years ago a fire broke out in a charming little Swiss village. In a few hours the quaint frame houses were entirely destroyed.

One poor man was in greater trouble than his neighbors even. His home and cows were gone, and so also was his son, a bright boy of six or seven years. He wept and refused to hear any words of comfort. He spent the night wandering sorrowfully among the ruins.

At daybreak he heard a sound and saw his cows coming, followed by his little boy.

"Oh, my son, he cried, "are you really alive?"

"Why, yes, father. When I saw the fire I ran to get our cows away to the pasture lands."

"You are a hero, my boy!" the father exclaimed.

But the boy said, "Oh, no! A hero is one who does some wonderful deed. I led the cows away because they were in danger, and I knew it was the right thing to do."

"Ah," cried the father, "he who does the right thing at the right time is a hero."—S. S. Evang.

WHO IS A HERO?

Who is a hero today? The man of many battles, on whose bloody banner victory has often perched? No. Is it the great statesman whom the dignitaries of earth love to honor? No. Is it he who has braved death to save human life? No. Who then is a hero?

Is it the man who believes what he reads in the Bible and dares to live up to it.

If you don't think that is heroism, try it honestly for a few months and tell me what you think.

Preach to men that they must have a living experience, which brings constant and conscious communion with heaven, that saves every day from sin, and that without such an experience men are dead in trespasses and sins. Preach that the conditions of such an experience are an utter separation from the world and a strict conformity to that part of the old Methodist discipline which says, "I renounce the devil and all his works, the vain pomp and glory of the world, making all the restitution possible and living a blameless life in the sight of God. Some ministers see the necessity of such plain preaching and realize that it would unchristianize a large portion of their congregations if not themselves also, and they shrink back, preferring the praise of men rather than the approval of God. Such a stand, it is true, makes one unpopular with the world, but Christ was not popular with any but true saints and such as earnestly desired to be, and we are not better than our Master.—Pentecost Herald.

LOVE.

S. H. JOHNSON.

Much has been said and written on this wonderful and glorious subject, yet we seem never to tire of repeating the same thing over and over again. This subject is as broad as eternity. The inspired writer has said, that God is love, and if He is love itself who is from everlasting to everlasting and omnipresent, then all love originated with him. And as a consequence all things that are good, noble and pure are the fruits of love; for love is the fountain head from which all goodness, holiness and righteousness flow. Love will transform the most wretched, hateful being into a noble, loving soul. Let us seek to know God; for to know him is to love him: for God is love and we cannot but love Love. And by loving him we shall love our fellow man, and be able to sympathize with and help them. There is no joy and happiness apart from love. Then let us come to the fountain of cleansing and have every bad, hateful feeling washed away and let the Holy Ghost shed the love of God abroad in our hearts.

SEIZE THE OPPORTUNITY.

There are discouraged one who are battling with their evil natures, many who never attend a gospel meeting. You may not have the opportunity of speaking to them, but you can hand them a gospel tract which would shed light on their darkened path and give them a ray of hope. Will you seize these precious opportunities for reaching souls by supplying yourself with these silent, mighty sermons, or will you carelessly drift along and have nothing to show for your life's work? Arouse and be "instant in season, out of season," "always abounding in the work of the Lord," and you will meet souls in heaven who have been won to Jesus through the influence of gospel tracts that you gave them in Jesus' name.

THE BIBLE.

Rousseau, the infidel, was compelled to pay this tribute to the Bible:

"I must confess to you that the majesty of the Scriptures astonishes me and the holiness of the evangelists speaks to my heart and it has such strong and striking characters of truth, and is, moreover, so perfectly inimitable, that if it had been the invention of men, the inventors would have been the greatest of heroes.

PURE RELIGION.

God has said, "Pure and undefiled religion before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction." If you desire the "pure and undefiled" kind, visit the 300 famine orphans in the Pentecost Band mission in India, many of whom are child widows, with a little financial assistance. Send all communications and money to Miss Fannie Birdsall at this office.—Pentecost Herald.

"If men would learn by observation they would be as careful not to lay up treasure on earth as not to commit murder, for what a curse it always proves to those who violate this command of God. Inherited, ill-gotten or hoarded wealth sends thousands of souls to hell every year; it is the source of countless enmities and hatreds, and shuts as many souls out of heaven, almost as alcohol. Verify to yourself these statements by a little observation, and be sensible enough to profit by what you see."

"I have long since ceased to pray, 'Lord, Jesus, have compassion upon a lost world.' I remember the day and the hour when I hear the Lord rebuking me for making such a prayer. He seemed to say to me: "I have had compassion on a lost world, and now it is time for you to have compassion."—A. J. Gordon.

If God gives me work to do, I will thank him that he has bestowed upon me a strong arm; if he gives me danger to brave, I will bless him that he has not made me without courage; but I will go down on my knees and beseech him to fit me for my task, if he tells me it is only to stand and wait.—Jean Ingelow.

GLEANINGS.

Success cannot survive sacrifice in the work of the Lord.

A good heart makes a wise head and righteousness is the nucleus of reason.

There is a mercurial element in love. It expands and rises, or shrinks and falls according to the heat or cold in the surrounding atmosphere.

Without great enlightenment and lofty ideals of virtue, the principle of the rule of the majority may become a gigantic outrage upon the innocent.

Of the prodigal and penurious man, the former is the baser of the two because he robs his family, but the latter is the more insane because he robs himself.

The resultant blessing from the keeping of moral law is no less certain, than the resultant curse from the breaking of physical law. Most men know the mathematical certainty of the latter.

Faith is like a telescope in that it reveals distant glorious worlds and ignores the world on which it rests. Unbelief is like a microscope in that it magnifies the merest trifle of earth, but is incapable of seeing great things.

Think of what an awful time the resurrection morning will be when billions will be born in a day and the men whose bodies formed the mummies of Egypt will be contemporary with the archeologists who sacrilegiously invade their tombs today.

He whose liberality leads him to such extreme charity that his friends desire him to continue to live lest they have to pay his funeral expenses is certainly wiser than he whose penuriousness makes him so live that his friends wish him dead for his money.

If men would make a string of prayer beads of their own sins, and tell them over earnestly in solitude to God, he would soon give them a new rosary, which they would be glad to tell over in public, as every bead would be a blessing, and every link, a divine joy.

Those persons who receive the plaudits and smiles of the world and yet profess to be treading in the footprints of the lowly Nazarene, may be doing so, but they are surely going in the opposite direction from what He went. They travel from the cross back toward His starting point in Egypt.

He who does not have heaven here will never have heaven hereafter. Heaven is a condition as well as a locality and the heavenly state forms a title deed to the heavenly place. God has said: "The kingdom of heaven is righteousness, peace and joy;" and again "The kingdom of heaven is within you."

There is a world of prophetic meaning in the fact that Jesus was a carpenter, a house or mansion maker. The world is his work-shop, the church is his toolchest, and general uneducated human heart is his raw timber, truths are his nails and bolts, purified and instructed souls are his finished portions, and the coming millennium will show the beauty and magnitude of his finished work.

He is hopeless as heartless whose hard fisted covetousness places a temptation in the way of his heirs to wish him dead for his money. When a well to do farmer who is as penurious as he is wealthy wrote that he had willed me some money for the Master's work which I would receive at his death I felt for the heathen's sake like replying, "Well I hope you die tomorrow." Any man who is capable of helping the heathen and must be put under the pressure of a coffin lid to squeeze a benediction out of him, deserves to be "squeezed" at once.

The commercial kings who combine to control her centers of manufacture and her lines of distribution, and who by placing prices on nature's commodity purely for profit, without reference to cost, are becoming a mighty menace to the nation's peace. They are making the people as dangerously poor as they are themselves becoming dangerously rich. This abnormal starving of the many for the more abnormal stuffing of the few must be regulated soon, either by ballots or bullets, wisdom or war.