00000000 00000000000000000 Sunday Reading.

Homely Counsel.

Never you mind the crowd, lad, Hold fast to the good and true; There's an effort to make, and a prize to take And a place somewhere for you. And just the harder you strive, lad, The farther ahead you'll get; But if trouble arise, and you miss the prize, Why it isn't worth while to fret.

Remember it's been like that, lad, Since ever the world began-The rhythmic beat of the marching feet, And the urge of man to man; So gird you in all your strength, lad, With a will that's firmly set; And then if you fail-why, you needn't bawa For it isn't worth while to fret.

Never you mind the crowd, lad; Up, and elbow your way; For the surging ranks soon fill the blanks, And there isn't a minute to stay. And you'll find if you miss the best, lad, It's the truest maxim yet' That in duty done there is something won, And it isn't worth while to fret.

For a Husband in Africa.

Some years ago, while special services were being held in Manchester, a lady visitor felt one atternoon a strong impression that she ought to leave her own district and visit the houses in a street which lay at a considerable distance from the chapel.

Accomp nied by her fellow worker, she reached the place, and knocked at one door after another, only to be met with cold looks and uncivil words.

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They were turning sadly away from the last house, feeling that their coming had been a mistake, when the woman who had just shut the door in their faces opened it again to say.

'Aw dunnot want nowt on ye, but theer's a poor critter over theer might be glad to see ye,' and she pointed to a door on the opposite side of the narrow, dirty passage. Gladly the ladies retracted their steps. Tapping at the door it was opened by a painfully thin and scared-looking woman, who seemed reluctant either to speak to

A few words of kindness and sympathy, however, soon gained them admission. Entering, they found the room quite destitute of furniture, nor were there any signs of food or fire to be seen. Three starved-looking children crouched on the dingy floor, and stared in surprise and tear at the intruders.

The pitiful tale was soon told. The husband, who once supported his wife and children in comfort, had been long out of work. Hearing that employment could easily be obtained in South Africa, he had scraped together all the money he could, set off promising to send help at once, and the means for his family to follow him as soon as possible. From that time the woman had never heard a word from him. Her own struggles to obtain a maintenance had been fruitless, and, driven to the verge of despair, she had resolved to throw herself and her little ones into the canal, thus, as she imagined, ending all their misery forever.

To relieve the bodily wants of the poor creatures was, of course, the first care of the messengers of mercy God in His great goodness had so opportunely sent to their aid. But before the visitor's left, they ob tained the poor woman's promise to com to that evening's service.

True to her word she arrived. But he mind, blunted by want and misery, seemed capable of taking in but little until the requests for prayer were read out Amongst them was the following: -

Prayer is requested for a husband in South Africa.'

The words immediately arrested her attention, and even raised a faint hope in her mind, which strengthened as she listened to the earnest, simple petitions which followed. She too hal 'a husband in South Africa.' Could it be possible that he might be reached in this way?

She determined to come again, and next night to beg the congregation to pray for her husband as well. Her sad case had become known, and fervent and believing were the prayers offered at the next evening's service that the heart of him who had so cruelly deserted her might be touched, and that he might be brought to repent-

'Now, Lord, even now, Lord,' so they prayed, 'while we were asking Thee, let the answer be given; let him turn from his evil ways and be brought to a knowledge of Thy pardoning love.'

Who can tell the power of faithful prayer, or how far reaching are its effects ?

It was too true that the poor creature had been deserted. Arriving in a new country, the husband had at once realized how much better he could make his way free from the incumbrance of wife and lit-

or 'luck' he as quickly lost by extravagance and dissipation.

who truly receive the words of the Lord Jesus-'If two of you shall agree on earth as touching anything that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of My Father which at Manchester.

On the very day that special prayers were being made on his behalf, the man was possessed with a strange restlessness. Leaving the boon companions with whom he had promised to spend the evening hours, he mounted a horse and rode alone far into the country.

After travelling some miles he was sur prised to hear the sound of singing. He soon found that even in that lonely place a few faithful followers of Jesus had met together in an outbuilding to praise their loving Saviour, and implore His blessing.

Tying up his horse, the wanderer crept softly into the hut. He was kindly welcomed, and besought, then and there, to seek salvation. He did so, nor did he seek in vain. Joy to relate, he returned to his lodgings a new creature in Christ Jesus.

He then determined to make his way to one of the large towns in search of work. Through the kindness of some Christians he soon obtained a good situation.

Ere long the poor wife had the bliss of receiving a letter telling of her husband's change of heart, and enclosing some money for her use.

He had good news for her besides. His master had promised, it he would work well and steadily for a year, to advance what money was needed, beyond what the man could save, to enable his wife and children to come out to him.

With a little extra aid in the way of work given by some of the Christian ladies, the woman was able to support herself and children. She too had entered into the joy them, or let them get a glimpse of her of the Lord, through trusting in His cleansing blood. She now trusted day by day in her heavenly Father's care. A few months passed, and then came a letter which filled her heart with joy and grati-

> The gentleman in South Africa was so pleased with his servant's skill and integrity that he wished his family to join him at once, and the necessary funds were

> Soon a joyous little party set off from Liverpool. Ere long, tidings of their safe arrival and of the happy union of husban 1 and wife, father and children, brought great gladness to the hearts of those whose prayers and help had been so blessed to these poor wanderers.

COST OF GENUINE CONVERSION.

The First Step is a Sincere Repentance of Ail Sins.

Many persons just now are revolving that most vitally important of all questions -ought I to become a Christian? And i so - how shall I become one? To such person I would venture to say with loving frankness that to become a genuine, thorough, useful Christian is not as some thoughtless people say, 'just the easiest thing in the world.' On Jesus Christ's side your salvation cost the bitter agonies o the cross when He died for the sinner's re demption. He desires you to become His followers, and entreats you to do so, and the Holy Spirit is pressing you now to decide to Christ. But you must count the cost on your part. Cheap things are commonly poor things, and nothing is more worthless than a cheap religion.

Jesus Christ never lowers the terms of the demands of discipleship. He provides neither palanquin or parlor car to transport you to heaven. 'Whosoever will not take take up his cross and follow Me cannot be My disciple,' At another time He said, 'Strive to enter into the strait gate.' He knows human nature perfectly: knows how hard a human heart is, and what an ugly thing sin is, and how busy Satan is with his tempta-

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tle ones. Basely yielding to the tempta- | tions, and how many bad habits you may tion he resolved to begin life anew as an | may have to root up if you become His unmarried man. His course was one of sincere and happy follower. Count the varied success. What he gained by skill cost carefully. The so called "conversions" that are the outcome of shallows, sensational preaching, commonly end in Now comes what may, to some, seem shallow and short lived religion. There the strange part of the story; but to those | are names on church-registers that are uot worth the paper that contains them. Do not add one more,

The first step in a genuine conversion is a thorough repentance of your sins. The is in heaven"-only a natural sequence to | rubbish must come out before the foundthe appeals for help in the Mission Service | ation-stones of a Christian character can can be laid. Christ himself began His ministry with the word "Repent!" and He never ceased to deman I that all those who followed Him should quit their besetting sins. The amiable young Ruler would not quit his, and that ended the matter; he went off frowning and disappointed. Mark what that clear-syed old Christian, Samuel Ruther'ord. once said: "Many people only play with Christi mity, and take Christ for almost nothing. If ye never had a sick night and a pained sou for sin ye have not yet lighted upon Christ. Look to the right marks; it ye love your Saviour more than the world and would quit sin and the world for Him, then that proveth that the work is sound.' You cannot cleave to your sins, and lay hold of Jesus with the same hand.

> When David's eyes were opened to behold the depravity of his heart and the loathsomeness of his conduct he cried out, 'Create in me a clean heart; wash me thoroughly from my iniquity.' He was willing to be thrown, like a filthy garment into a cleansing vat, and be rubbed and pounded until the foul spots were washed out of the fabric of his heart. That was thorough repentance and is just what you need. The Holy Spirit will aid you in this vital business. Thorough repentance is proved by change of character and change of conduct; the one is what you are, and the other is what you do. The very first sin that you give up in order to please Jesus Christ is a vital step towards conversion. Pray tor, and work for, a thorough conversion; it is deep ploughing that cuts up the weeds of sin by the roots, and yields a good crop of clean, useful and godly living. 'Must I not have faith' Yes; but the very essence of saving faith is to obey Jesus Christ. He condensed it into these two words, 'Follow Me!' You have been going the wrong way. Conversion means a turning round; instead of living for self and sin, turn the other way and follow Jesus. Prayer in order to be practical must be asking the help of the Holy Spirit, to do this very thing. Without that divine power to aid you, nothing permanent will be accomplished. Quench not the Spirit!

> Once more let me urge you to count the cost. To be a strong athletic, useful happy Christian will cost you the cutting up of old favorite sins by the roots, and the cutting loose from sinful associations and bad habits; it will cost you some fights with the Tempter, and the submission of your will to the will of Christ. This is the only road to peace of conscience and solid happiness. A man is always happy when he is right-happy in doing right and in the satistaction of Christ's approving smile. 'I get more solid satisfaction in teaching my missionschool class,' said a converted man to me, 'than I ever got out of my theatre goings and all the social gayeties of my whole life. He had got a new idea of life; it was not living to please sinful self, it was living to please Christ and help others.

> If it cost much to be an useful and effective Christian, it will cost you infinite y more to go back into thoughtless impenitence and live and die an unforgiven sinner. Genuine conversion to Christ costs self-denial; a falling back into sin will cost you self-destruction! There is a way that seemeth easy and pleasant to a man; but it leads down to death. Look at this mighty question calmly and make the honest reckoning. Put into the one scale some self-denials and conflicts and oppositions, and at the end of them heaven! Put into the other scale selfindulgence and a life of sin-and at the end of it hell! Weigh the two; and

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weigh them for eternity, Then decide What shall a man give in exchange for his soul ?- Evangelist.

A STREET INCIDENT.

Though Born Blind His Contentment Was Good to See. An English clergyman of eminence was

asked by a group of London friends whose sermon was the best he had ever 'If you mean,' he answered, 'the ser-

mon which has influenced me most directly and never been forgotten, I can tell you at once. It was preached in the streets of Boston many years ago by a blind man.

He had been preaching, he said, in Phillips Brook's church, and had started to walk to the house where he was staying Being a stranger to Boston, he became confused, and turning to a man who was behind him, asked to be directed to the

'Why, it is the preacher !' exclaimed his companion. 'I know you by your voice, for I was in the church and heard you preach. I am blind, but I can show you the way. I can take you to the door.'

The clergyman protested that he would not think of troubling the blind man, and 'Surely.' said his new acquaintance, 'you will not refuse me the pleasure of conducting you. I am not a beggar. Every one is so kind to me, and it is seldom indeed

S) the two men went on arm in arm, and in ten minutes they were at the right door and had parted. During that short walk the best sermon which the clergyman had ever heard was preached.

that I can render any one a service.'

'It was simply,' he said to his English friends, 'the story of a man blind from his birth, whose face was shining with contentment and peace, and whose heart was thrilled with a sense of his mercies and

'His parents had sent him to a school for the blind where he had been taught to read by raised letters, and they had left him a small income which sufficed for his wants. He lived alone, but could go about the streets without a guide. He told me that he considered that he ought to be thankful for being born blind, because he had so much leisure for quiet longer I shall, please God be restored to thought. There would be time enough in another world for him to see everything.

'I have never forgotten that sermon,' added that clergyman. 'His example of contentment and serenity of mind has trial." For what your medicine has done never ceased to be helpful to me. I have told the story often to my English congregations, and it has always deeply affected

So true is it that moral influence is never

"He Loved the Children."

himself was called a cynic; but the author to be an early spring or a late one?" of 'Love Affairs of Some Famous Men" hows what sort of a heart beat in the satirist's breast by quoting from the letter of one to whom the tollowing incident hap-

'In the week following his death there appeared some genial memorial lines in the pages of Punch. Walking down the then unsavory thoroughfare known as Bedford bury, my eye caught the page of the popu- For sile everywhere.

lar periodical, and I stayed to read the graceful tribute to the dead moralist. Turning away at length, a poorly clad man in working garb said to me:

'I knew that man, sir.'

'Yon knew Tbackeray?' I asked.

'Yes, sir. I kept that little baker's shop yonder' (pointing to the opposite side of the street) 'and many's the time Thackeray would come and buy a pound or two of cake of me. I cut it into slices for him, and then, distributing it among a crowd of hungry children, he would walk away and hide in that court over there, that he might have the pleasure of seeing their enjoyment. He didn't know I knew him, but I did. People used to call him a cynic, sir but it wasn't true. He loved the children sir, and no man is a cynic who does that!

Nursery Song

I know I know Underneath the snow they creep, Nod their little heads and sleep; In the Sping-time out they peep: That is where they go.

Where do slithe daisies go

Where do all the birdies go I know, I know ! Far away from Winter sno ". To the fair, wa'm South they go; There they stay till daisies blow: That is where they go.

Where do all the babies go? I know, I know ! In the g'ancing ffrelight warm, Safely sheltered from all barm. Soft they lie on mother's arm; That is where they go.

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Looking Ahead.

The Judge-I believe I shall leave it to you this time. About how many days do you think I ou ht to give you? Perry Patetic-Honest, your honor, I Thacker sy's words were satirical, and he don't just know. Do you think it is goin'

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