

GOLDEN WORDS FOR DAILY USE.

Selected from C. H. Spurgeon's "Morning by Morning."

SEPTEMBER 8. *Sunday.* The glory which Thou gavest Me have I given them, John xvii. 22.

Jesus deems his happiness complete by his people sharing it. Behold here the reward of every Christian conqueror: Christ's crowns, thrones, robes, heritage are ours.

9. *Monday.* All that believe are justified, Acts xiii. 39.

There is neither spot nor wrinkle remaining upon any one believer in the matter of justification in the sight of the Judge of all the earth. Let present privilege awaken us to present duty.

10. *Tuesday.* So to walk even as He walked, 1 John ii. 6.

Christian, lovest thou thy Saviour? Is his name precious to thee? Is his cause dear to thee? If so, imitate Jesus; be an "epistle of Christ," known and read of all men.

11. *Wednesday.* All are yours, 1 Cor. iii. 22.

How sweet thus to behold Jesus, and call upon Him with the confidence that we are but asking for that which He has already faithfully promised!

12. *Thursday.* I have seen servants upon horses, and princes walking as servants upon the earth, Eccl. x. 7.

This is a riddle in providence whose solution will one day gladden the hearts of the upright. Patience then, believer; eternity will right the wrongs of time.

13. *Friday.* Marvellous loving kindness, Ps. xvii. 7.

Oh the rare communion [which such heartiness effecteth. May we continually taste and know the blessedness of it.

14. *Saturday.* He led them forth by a right way, Ps. cvii. 7.

Oh think not, believer, that your sorrows are out of God's plan: they are necessary parts of it.

Correspondence.

For the Christian Messenger.

Letters from Mrs. Van Meter concerning Female Missionary operations in Burmah.

A new movement has just been commenced by our Foreign Missionary Board with the approbation and under the direction of the Baptist Convention. We have been requested by the Convention to publish in the *Christian Messenger*, (and Bro. Bill in the *Christian Visitor*) such extracts from the following letters from Mrs. Van Meter, as would exhibit the origin and nature of the work to which we are invited. We feel that it is highly important that there should be no misunderstanding amongst our brethren and friends respecting this matter. We therefore think it best to place the whole of the communications before our readers. We commend them to their serious attention.

PHILADELPHIA, May 19th.

To the Dear Christian Friends in Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

You will excuse my writing with a pencil—it is Sabbath morning, and I have arisen early before the family with whom I spent the night are stirring, so I cannot ask for pen and ink, and my heart is deeply moved to write you; I must be brief, all my time at present is fully occupied, to-day with Sabbath Schools, and to-morrow I leave for Chicago.

Saturday afternoon, at a meeting of Christian friends to whom I tried to present the immense work every where waiting to be done in our various Missionary fields, and the need of more labourers, especially the important service that ladies, unincumbered with the cares of a family, can do there, in many cases better than any one else, the friends in the 1st Baptist Church, Philadelphia, particularly Mrs. Moore, spoke to me of one of your Nova Scotia young ladies, Miss DeWolfe, who, during her visit with them, had expressed a strong desire to consecrate herself entirely to the service of Christ among the heathen. I thought immediately of a very important field needing just such a labourer as I am led to think she is, an earnest warm-hearted Christian, who would love to sit down in the houses of the people, while men, women and children will listen to her story of love and pity to a fallen race.

The appointment is one which seems particularly and providentially open to you, offered just at this time to the Baptists of Nova Scotia placing together the present imperative need of that particular field, with the fact that in the case of Miss DeWolfe God seems to have raised up a labourer for his own work there. I feel almost assured that you need but to be acquainted

with the facts, to rise up and furnish the support needed in order to give that young handmaid of Christ the privilege of laboring for souls in that destitute portion of our world. And both she and you may feel that it is your own particular work, inasmuch as you sustain her by your contributions and your prayers, while she feels that she is your servant, or an instrument in your hands, for carrying on the great work. My friends, I cannot believe you will fail to see the hand of God in this, or to nobly and generously meet the emergency of raising support for a Missionary from Nova Scotia; if as I am led to expect from the high opinion I hear friends in Philadelphia express, you are satisfied that this young lady is a suitable person, and is called of God to the work. You are probably aware that Mr. Crawley, your Missionary in Burmah, has for some time been expected to be obliged to return to America on account of Mrs. Crawley's failure of health. Perhaps also you are aware that a few months ago Mr. C. having sold off his furniture and gone to Rangoon with the view of embarking for America, there met Mr. Douglass of the Bassein Burman field. Mr. D. learning that the Crawleys would be willing to remain in the country if they were able to make such a change as that of being able to live at Bassein, which station has always agreed better with Mrs. C. as it is nearer to the sea, consented to exchange stations with Mr. C.

The fields of labor are both in the Burmese department, and Mr. Crawley is acquainted with the Bassein district, and will make us a noble missionary there.—We give him a most hearty welcome, and Mrs. C. also. But, as Mrs. C's health will not admit of her laboring much at all, who is to do the work among the women and children of that vast field? (The Bassein district is more than four times as large as the whole state of Delaware, and so every part needs to be traversed by the Burmese missionary.) The city of Bassein has a Burmese population of over 45,000, and I could go from house to house, day after day, continually, and sitting down in the houses, or zayats, always find listeners, often crowds, as I tell them the story of Jesus. Neither in the city or the country is there the least danger of a lady's being rudely or unkindly treated. Oh how we have longed to have some missionary lady to labor in that field! My heart has yearned for those poor Burmese women—Mr. Douglass, while he was without a wife, felt that a female missionary, there was the great need of the mission—we all know so. The missionary cannot labor to half the success he would, if his efforts could be seconded and followed up by such labor as only a lady can bestow. A young lady sailed last October to join Mr. Douglass, and was married, and accompanied him to Benthada. I had met her and felt to rejoice that she would go to labor in Bassein. My husband (Mr. Van Meter), and I labor among the Karens and have always more than we can do for them, so that I cannot give time to the Burmese, although had I no other missionary work, I could so love to spend my life for them. Mrs. Crawley cannot do it, though her heart may yearn most tenderly over them.

By this change of stations, if Mrs. C. can live quietly, and can also see the work about her prospering, it is hoped she may be able to live a good many years more in the country, and thus save to the cause her husband's very valuable services. There need be no difficulty about a home for the young lady. Aside from some expense in enlarging the house so as to furnish her rooms, she should have a home if she likes in my family, and to a young lady going out thus, I should feel it one of my first duties, as well as a pleasure, to make such a home as I would for a sister or a daughter. Mr. C. lives just across the road from us, and if they prefer she could live in their family. Besides, I expect a young lady will go with me to assist in the Karen field, and the two would doubtless find it pleasant to be together.

I cannot add more. I trust you will satisfy yourselves of the suitableness of the young lady, and if it seems her duty to go that you will confer together and raise her support. I expect then if the right person is found, and the support pledged, that the A. B. M. Union will give the appointment; but if they do not see their way clear to do it, there is a Society of Ladies for the express object of sending out single ladies, which will be glad to send her for you. With the sincere prayer that God will help us all to know and to do his will,

I am, sincerely yours,

MRS. VAN METER.

48 Chestnut St., Rochester, Monroe Co., N. Y. TO THE BAPTIST CHURCHES OF NOVA SCOTIA AND NEW BRUNSWICK.

My Dear Christian Friends,—

I was very glad to receive Miss DeWolfe's

letters the other day, especially to see that there begins to be a prospect of her long cherished hope being realized. This I am satisfied is the true bible, and the true Baptist way, for the churches themselves to decide with regard to the candidates for missionary service, and if satisfied of their qualification for the work, and that the call or prompting is of God's Spirit, let them trusting in God, and with the same true missionary spirit, and sacrifice too, if need be, set apart of what God has given them, the means for their support. O, if churches would do this all over our land, how soon would the dying perishing heathen be blessed with ten teachers where they now have one, and even a far greater proportion than that! We Christians of America—and in any part of the christian world—have hardly begun to think of the work before us. Compare figures for a moment, these United States of America with all their wealth, and power and pride, and increasing glory—take the North, South, East and West Territories, 4,000,000 Freedmen and all, not yet number 36,000,000, while India and that part of the Burmese Empire which is under British rule, where the English flag protects the christian missionary counts 156,000,000! And this does not touch the teeming millions of China, and the other vast portions of Asia. O we have hardly begun our work! And it is our work which our God has given us to do. He has not committed it to angels, who, blessed messengers, we have every reason to believe would delight to do it, but to us, this church of redeemed believers. "Whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven." "Go ye, into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; he that believeth not shall be damned." With such words in our bible none of us may say "Am I, my brother's keeper?" Who then will "go" to teach the perishing of the Saviour, that "only name given among men whereby they can be saved." "Go" to "loose" those long bound by the shackles of Satan? And who will send them? For "how can they go except they be sent?" Those who "go" cannot also take their time to labor with their hands, or conduct business for their own support; and if they did, how few would have a share in this glorious work of bringing back a revolted world to our Lord and Master! It is not hard for you my brethren and sisters to work on your farms, or in your shops, or at your professions, to perhaps earn still more than you otherwise would—or if that may not be, to deny yourselves something, many things even, which might be pleasant to enjoy that you may give that to send the "Bread of life" to those "in the region and shadow of death." We have not a "hard master" and if His service requires it, let us do it. He has gone "to prepare mansions" for us. Those "mansions" will lack naught that can add to our happiness. There is our glorious "rest which remaineth for the people of God." Till then, let us "work." After the day's labor the rest will be sweeter. O who would sit down in this "mansion" prepared by those hands which bear the "prints of the nails" driven by our sins, and look about him and see no soul won by his efforts, or saved through his self denial?

These are not idle words. They might be to mere people of the world who know not by experience in their own hearts a Saviour's love; but to us who have learned to love Him because he first loved us, they are real—they are truth. In "a little while"—a "little while" we shall sit down in those "mansions." May it be mine, and may it be thine, to greet there many saved through our instrumentality. It is well that we should covet to go forth—that as good soldiers we should love the front ranks of the battle; but all may not be there, and the service rendered at home is none the less important and acceptable. But service it must be, and rendered it must be. And we have a leader and master, who knows all, and who will award righteously, not as we "compare ourselves among ourselves," but, each one "to his own master." It, instead of the question, which seems too much the standard by which the members of our churches give for the great work of missions, "what proportion of the amount contributed by our denomination last year did I, or did we as a church, give?" or, "what must we contribute this coming year of the \$250,000 voted by our society?" Each church member, man, woman, and child, should ask themselves, *What can I do towards giving the precious gospel with its ten thousand blessings, which I so freely enjoy in this christian land, to those who have never had it?* I am a farmer, can I give a horse? a cow? a sheep? ten bushels of wheat? or corn? of potatoes? one bushel? if God does not see I ought to give more. Christ approved the widow's mites," because, "she cast in all that she had." Those more greatly favored of a bountiful Providence may not cast "mites" and meet approval. . . . and shall those who make no profession of personal religion, who are not connected with our churches therefore think this work and this benevolence is nothing for them? It is a work as well for the philanthropist, as for the christian. Any one who has a heart with human feelings will find enough to pity and to alleviate in the helplessly ignorant and degraded of heathen countries to enlist their best and most liberal efforts. If you cannot go yourself work at home in whatever sphere God has placed you to earn, and give the means to support others who will go, and to meet the expenses of schools and of printing, and other needs, in the great work of missions. O how many times when I have seen the lepers of India dragging about their emaciated bodies, or holding out their fingerless stumps of hands for the pittance of daily charity, or watched the moral lepers of our (perhaps best of heathen countries) Burmans and Karens, so ignorant, and so filthy in their personal appearance, that but for pity for their poor souls you could not sit down and talk with them, or scarce tolerate them to come into your house, how many times when I have seen them have I thought and felt "It is more blessed to give than to receive." . . . Estimate how much we owe to Christianity, and then we may calculate somewhat our duty to our fellow-men. What if we were the people of those heathen lands, and they the favored ones? This is the standard by which we shall be judged, and by which we shall judge ourselves hereafter. Let the mechanic, and the professional man, ask themselves similar questions with the farmer. Let every woman as well as man, rich or poor, young and old, and there would be such a gathering into the treasury of the Lord, that not only would our present missions be liberally sustained, but we should look about among us to see who else would go out to the "regions beyond;" and the world would begin to be converted to God. There are persons all over our country who have long felt it their duty to labor personally for the heathen, and there is certainly work enough for them to do. Let the means be raised for their support and what hinders them from going where God has called them to go?

Why, my christian friends of Nova Scotia, I heard while attending the Anniversary meetings in Chicago, of a married gentleman from one of your churches (I think a minister of the gospel) whose wife had long desired to go as a missionary, and he himself, I was told at that time, decided to give himself to the work. I do not know fully the reason why his case was not taken up, and I had not opportunity to judge about the man, or even to learn his name, but my sympathy was very much called out, and not sympathy alone, for if God has called one to go what should hinder them? I hope you will see to it that it is not for want funds they should be kept at home. If God is putting it into the hearts of several of your members to labor in India and Burmah, it seems to me He is preparing a blessing for you, hesitate not to do the work he gives to you to do, and he will bless you in it. Put forth your hand to accomplish his bidding and He will give you strength. I do not know much about the particular history or condition of the N. S. & N. B. Baptist Churches, but I know you have one noble missionary and family, Mr. Crawley, who is now at our station of Bassein; and I wish you had at least a half-a-dozen more such representatives in the heathen world, and if that other brother and his wife can be found and are still willing to go, let nothing on your part hinder them. Will not God bless those churches who labor thus for Him? Will He not increase your numbers and your means if done for him? I believe He will, and if the burden should be too large, appeal to your neighbors to help you—to men of the world and to members of the Church of England. To you and to them sending missionaries to India and Burmah is working for your own subjects. If there are earnest and self-denying men in the Church of England, or even men of the world to go and do the work of teachers of those degraded ones, let them go—but if among them there are not men and women to go, invite them to help support those who would go. I was reading the other day of a town in Germany from which over 40 persons had gone out as missionaries—the townspeople did not support them all; either the church of England, or of Scotland (I will not be sure which) assisted them; and none were any the poorer, in the one case those whom God called were