MY WORK.

"All members have not the same office. --- Rom. xii. 4.

I could not do the work the reapers did, Or bind the golden sheaves that thereby But I could follow by the Master's side, And watch the mared face I loved so Right in my path lay many a ripened ear,

Which I would stoop and gather joy-I did not know the Master placed them "Handfuls on purpose" that he left for

I could not cast the heavy fisher net, I had not strength or wisdom for the So, on the sun-lit sands, with spray drops I sat, and earnest prayers rose thick and I pleaded for the Master's blessing where My brethren toiled upon the wide world-

Or ever that I knew, his smile so fair Came, bringing sweet encouragement to

I could not join the glorious soldier band, I never heard their thrilling battle cry The work allotted by the Master's hand Kept me at home while others went to

And yet, when victory crowned the struggle And spoils were homeward brought, both rich and rare, He let me help to chant the triumph song, And bade me in the gold and jewels

Oh, Master dear! the tiniest work for Finds recompense beyond our highest And feeble hands that work out trem-

The richest colors in thy fabric wrought! We are content to take what Thou shalt To do, or suffer, as Thy choice shall be, Forsaking all thy wisdom bids us leave, Glad in the thought that we are pleasing

-Eva Travers Poole.

SOME PRAYER-MEETING PEOPLE.

A good prayer-meeting is a great means of grace. But while the prayermeetings last, the majority of them will be open to more or less criticism. Far be it from me to unduly find fault, but in a somewhat long prayer-meeting experience I have met a great variety of persons at these services. Some of them I have regarded as negative examples; that is to say, examples of what those who attend prayer-meetting should not be. For instance, here is the sponge. He is well known. He attends the meeting regularly, is a Christian man, intelligent and capable of interesting and helping his fellowmen if he would take part. He does nothing, however, but absorb. Yes, he does more than that, for he makes himself a positive hindrance. Others younger and less able are sometimes, by his silence, prevented from participating. They argue that if this older and more advanced Christian is silent it still more becomes them to remain

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We are all familiar with the pumpkinvine. He does take part and far too frequently. Every time he does so is once too often. He runs out in all directions and covers considerable ground. He does not run upward, and he never strikes deep. One friend says that when the P. V. has finished his supplication he is compelled to wonder what the man has been praying Another wonders what he has not mentioned. He once asked a meeting to bear with him to the throne of mercy three special subjects which were laid upon his heart. He then led in prayer, remembered America, prayed for Europe, interceded for Asia, pleaded for Africa, Australia, Madagascar, New Zealand and the islands of the seas. He remembered Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, Mormons and other sinners, but he forgot his first special object, omitted the second, and evidently never though of the third. So much ground he, therefore, did not cover. But he left out little else.

The prayer-meeting clock is no stranger. Tick, tick, tick, tick, tick everybody knows what the clock says. Sowe all know what to expect when this particular character rises to pray. He is wound up for the occasion, and will not stop until he is run down. He does not cover the ground to such an extent as the Pumpkinvine, but is almost as tiresome. As a bed-ridden invalid knows every spot and mark on the walls of the sick-room, so we know every sentence and phrase of the clock's wearying exercise. From the stereotyped sentence with which he invariably commences, on to the closing sentence about being done with us here below, and receiving us into thine upper and better kingdom, and much more, all is familiar. We are always sorry when he turns on the prayer-tap.

The thunder-storm is a very noisy participator. He believes that the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force. He remembers an ancient injunction to cry aloud and spare not, but lift up the voice like a trumpet, so he shouts and roars as though noise were of necessity, force. Tell him that the lightning kills, and not the noise of of thought be pursued still further. the thunder, he replies "that he would | Saved, or unsaved, what of it? What to God and to the thought of his prelike to see the lightning that killed if is the difference in regard to results? sence all day long, and to let self if he thought the prospect for the conthere warn't no thunder along with it." No man or angel can fully answer occupy as little as possible of our version of the world looked bright. He reminds you further that when these questions. Why, suppose that thoughts; to care much for his ap- His reply was, "Yes, as bright as the

tecost there was a sound as of a rushing, mighty wind. Earnestness is, of course, good, but earnestness does not consist in mere excitement. There is just as much earnestness in a steady, persistent rain as in a wild cyclone, and though the cyclone may make more impression for the time, the steady rain is the more fruitful of good.

The critic is a regular attendant. I must speak cautiously of him, as he is a relative. The present article is critical, and we may be reminded of the old admonition, "Physician, heal thyself." The critic, pure and simple, never enjoys a meeting, and, if he can help it, never lets anybody else enjoy one. The earnest man is too vehement, the solemn man is too ponderous. The solid exhortation is too grave, more fitted for a funeral service; the light and cheery talk- is too flippant. If the congregation sings a little more than usual because they have been made glad in the Lord, there is too much singing for a prayermeeting. Such are some of his criticisms, and we could quote many more. He does not take part himself, so we have never yet been favored with a perfect prayer or testimony.

It were much to be wished that those who attend prayer-meeting, more particularly those who take part or ought to do so, would read these hints and heed them. They are written solely with a desire to make the prayer service more interesting and useful. Nor have I met only such persons as I have described at the prayer-meeting. There are many who have great gifts and use them to profit. For such prayer-meeting helpers we should all be profoundly thankful. - Marshall, in Observer.

SAVED TO BLESS

True religion has no less important relative than personal benefits. While it is declared, "so will I save you, there is an accompanying declaration ' and ye shall be a blessing." This i a happy result and conclusive proof of salvation. As any are saved, they are a blessing; and they are not a blessing in the highest sense, until they are saved. There is no greater blessing to the human society than the salvation of men through the gospel. In David's own salvation, he would have an agency in saving others, as when he prayed 'Restore unto me the joy of thy sal vation," and when as the expected result of receiving this blessing in his own soul, he would confidently say "Then will I teach transgressors thy ways, and sinners shall be converted unto thee." Andrew, when he became a follower of Jesus, at once influenced his own brother Simon to join him as a disciple of Christ, who was to bless the world immeasurably as the faithful and successful apostle Peter. Philip as soon as he began to follow Jesus, found his friend Nathaniel, and so met his predjudice and opposition that he was soon permitted to recognize him as one of his friends of the Messiah who had been found. The woman of Samaria, also, when she had savingly met "the Christ" at the well, so spake of him to her friends and neighbors that they were moved to go and hear him, and thus it could be said concerning them, "Many believed on him for the saying of the woman."

In all these instances, those who were saved became a blessing by their agency in saving others. This is God's method of blessing the world. He uses the saved in saving the unsaved. Those to whom he imparts grace became the mediums of imparting grace to the destitute, who by this means become the partakers of grace. Those who are enlightened, enlighten others. The helped become helpers. The found are henceforth finders of the lost. To be blessed is to become a blessing. This is the gospel order. Such is the import of the terms employed by the Saviour in designating the saved as " the salt of the earth " and the " light of the world." The saltness of salt is not confined to itself. Light does not exist for itself alone. Salt imparts its savor. Light illumines darkness. So the saved, save? Their prayers heard. their example followed, their labors effective, -in all this, what a blessing

single individual may well prompt the exclamation, How different the history of the world is to-day from what it would have been if that person had not been saved? As the result of but a little thinking of Simon called Peter, or Saul of Tarsus who became Paul the apostle, an amazing view is opened, a single glance at which leaves no room for wondering why it is said that "there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth." Profitably may this line

how could the part which he took in the great Reformation have been supplied? And if he had not been the reformer that he was, what might he not have been? He certainly was not a man to be idle and without influence. If he had not done the good he did, he might have done untold evil. Had George Whitefield remained unsaved, multitudes might have continued unsaved, who will forever rejoice that his preaching was the means of their salvation. When William Carey was saved, modern missions had a pioneer. The same may be said of Adonriam Judson so far as American Bapists are concerned. Not to speak of countless others, the remark may be made that the salvation of Harlan Page was followed by the salvation of hundreds through his personal efforts to save souls. None can imagine, even, the benefical results of the salvation of Nathaniel R. Cobb, not only in connection with the large amount of money contributed by him for benevolent purposes, but also by the extensive influence of his example as a liberal giver who has greatly inspired multitudes to better things than they had otherwise attempted in the way of consecrating their income and their possessions to the Lord who saved

MAKING HER THINGS LAST.

them. - The Watchman.

Every housekeeper knows how care ful treatment keeps table linen and household furniture. Girls do not always know or remember that great care of their own little possessions will often enable them to dress nicely on very little money. A lady says "When I was a girl there was one of my young friends who was distinguished for 'making her things last.' Her dress, hats, gloves and ribbons were a marvel of durability. I used to wonder how she managed to make them last so without their looking shabby, but I ceased to do so after I had visited her at her own home. The reason why her clothes wore so long was that she took such good care of them. Her dresses were brushed and folded away carefully, and the slightest spot on them was removed as soon as it was discovered. Her hat was wrapped in an old pocket handkerchief, and put away in a box as soon as done with, the strings and laces being straightened and rolled out most symmetrically each time. Her gloves were never folded together, but were pulled out straight and laid flat in a box, one upon the other, each time they were used, the tiniest hole being mended almost before it had time to show itself. But the thing that impressed me most was the care she bestowed on her ribbons. When making up bows she used to line the upper part of the ribbon with white paper, and this not only prevented the ribbon from becoming limp and creased but kept it clean, so that when the bow was soiled on one side she could turn the ribbon, and the part that had been covered came out looking new and fresh. That girl married and brought up a large family. Her husband had to fight his way and did so bravely, and was unusually successful, for he became wealthy. But his prosperity was due quite as much to his wife's care and economy in saving money as it was to his in making it. Good Cheer.

BE TRUE,

Never lower your principles to the world's standard. Never let sin, how ever popular it may be, have any sanction or countenance from you even by a smile. The manly confession of Christ when his cause is unpopular, is made by himself the condition of his confessing us before men. If people find out that we are earnestly religious, as they soon will if the light is shining, let us make them heartily welcome to the intelligence. And then, again in order that the lights may shine without obstruction, we must be simple and study simplicity. This is by no means so easy as at first sight appears; for in this highly artificial and pretentious age all society is overlaid with numerous affections. Detest affections as they may be in all the sphere of their | the contrary of truth and as hypocrisy on a small scale, and allow yourself to To contemplate the salvation of a be seen freely by those around you in true colors. There is an affectation of indifference to all things and of a lack of sensibility which is becoming very prevalent in this age, which is the sworn foe to simplicity of character. The persons who labor under this moral disorder pretend to have lost their freshness of interest in everything; for them, as they would have it believed, there is no surprise and no enthusiasm. As Christians we must eschew untruth in every form; we must labor to seem just what we are, neither better nor worse. To be true

impression we are making upon others; to feed the inward light with oil, and then freely to let it shine-this is the great secret of edification. May he indoctrinate us into it, and dispose and enable us to illustrate it in our practice. -Dr. Goulburn.

KIND WORDS.

Most men are won by kind words. There may be the brute in the outward appearance, and every thing external give evidence of manhood and virtue gone. But often it has been found that beneath all this rough and brutal exterior linger some remnants of what was naturally a noble soul. A kind look, a sympathetic word, a generous act, have often been received with an appreciation which has given evidence that the sensibilities, though blunted, are not dead.

Kind words cost little, but are often like "apples of gold in pictures of silver." How many noble natures are in ruins-natures which if restored would shine as stars of the first magnitude. A kind word, a friendly act, a helping hand, would rescue them. Mrs. Willing in her beautiful volume, "From Fifteen to Twenty-five," gives the following incident which illustrates our thought: "Humanity knows itself to be a king, though dethroned and crownless, and it will be treated with respect. A lady who understood this accidentally pushed a little Arab off the sidewalk. She stopped and apologized, saying she hoped she had not hurt him. He stepped back, and gave his rimless hat a jerk. "My eyes, Jim !" he exclaimed, turning to a boy who had heard the whole, "If she don't speak to me just like I wore standin' collars! A feller could 'ford to get pushed off forty times a day to get spoke to like that."

Many a boy, apparently as rough and hopeless, could be won to virture and to a life of holy living by kind words and kind acts. The slums of all our cities are full of them, and they soon will be beyond hope. Let them be gathered as jewels for the Saviour's crown, and as stars for the crown of him who rescues them. - N. Y. Witness.

A SELF-CONTROLLED WOMAN.

"Speech is silver; but silence is golden." How true this is when our nerves are unstrung, and we are irritable and inclined to say sharp things to the children, to the servants, or to "John." If we can only keep silent then, and go out into the fresh air and sunshine, and get our degenerated blood toned up with a good supply of oxygen, and our refactory nerves " in hands" again-how thankful we shall be that we did not "boil over" and say the hated things we had in mind. Undoubtedly, three-fourths of the quarrels and estrangements of this world happen through a temporary loss of self-control-and what a pity! Of course it is sometimes necessary to correct a child, admonish a servant, or even tell "John" what one thinks about such things which have gone wrong; but it is never safe to do it when one feels irritated or unnerved. It should always be postponed till one feels sure she is proof against the temptation to lose her self-control. Anger uncontrolled is like a cyclone, increasing and destructive; while the same quality under calm and perfect control gives force to character and composedly works out beneficent results like steam harnessed to a locomotive. When one is irritated by some unkind or unjust remark, it is natural to want to say something as bad or a little worse; if you yield to the impulse you will suffer from remorse of conscience and ten to one, your friend will feel ashamed of himself and tell you he is sorry. In any kind of difference or difficulty, the self-controlled one al ways comes out at the 'top o' the heap," and nets the better of the conflict. And above all things a self-controlled woman is a joy and an admira-

RANDOM READINGS.

Troubles are hard to take, though they strengthen the soul. Tonics are always bitter.—Talmage.

what winding is to the clock. Oh, how many Christians run down! God means and wishes that Christ

may continuously dwell in our hearts does he to your own consciousness dwell in yours? God is within all things, but is

shut up in nothing, outside all things, but excluded from nothing; beneath all things, but not depressed under lifted up out of the reach of anything. A trusting heart, a yearning eye,

Can win their way above; If mountains can be moved by faith, Is there less power in love?

Dr. Judson was once asked, when the cause of missions was in its infancy,

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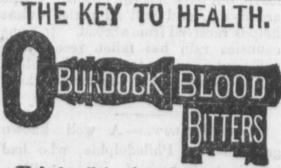
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