RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCER.

The Voice of The Guide.

Walking through an unknown region, Tangled thicket, briar and thorn Weaving barriers, dark and legion; Shadows on the face of morn. Noontide hid in brooding tempests, Nightfall coming cold and gray ; Lord, we thank thee for the promise, Star-like in thy word to-day !

Give us listening ears to hear it; Give us faith to follow on, Though the clouds, unrifted, cover All the glory of the sun. "Thou shalt hear a voice behind thee ?" Do we, waiting as we pray, Sweet from heaven discern its cadence ? Tread with courage, "This the way ?"

Lord, so many thoughts beset us ; Lord so many whispers press On the silence of the spirit, Pilgrims in the wilderness. Only as thy voice command us, Only as our hearts obey, Are we safe, and sure of reaching Home at ending of the way.

Lord, when we are worn and weary, Lord when faith is weak and faint, Give us then, we pray, to hear thee; Hush the mcaning of complaint. Thou shalt hear a voice behind thee! Star-like beams the world to-day ! And we listen and we journey, God himself our strength and'stay. -Margaret E. Sangster.

Do You Mean It?

A young man sat in the prayermeeting, joining heartily in a song that nurseryman wanted me to take of praise. He had just concluded ed the goodness and mercy of the He thought I was a fool. But I Lord to him, he had closed his ad- know a thing or two about or-I had rather be a door-keeper in the money.

hortation there were ever present, care that they are reasonable and manhood one of those precious as the minister of God, the heart- right, must draw near to God humb- spirits that demand obseisance and searching question, "Do you mean ly and reverently, must defer cheer- service, and with the theory that all it ?"--V. A. L. in Christian Press. fully to the divine wisdom, and the world is his oyster, which with

Young or Old, BY SENEX SMITH.

As I was going out of church, met my neighbour Slowcom. He prides himself upon being always in a minority of one. I said to him the children confessing Christ?

have amounted to something. But hot, 'or that the bread is sour. Comwhat can such children do in church, anyhow?

I didn't make any answer. How could I argue the matter with such a thick-headed and cold-hearted fellow! So I passed on. But the firmly, and it will save you many a him plenty of money without any very next day I met Slowcom on the road with a load of nursery stock. He is planting an orchard, and expects that it will make him rich. We stopped totalk-country fashion -and I said :

Why, how is this? You surely are not going to plant those little things expecting to make an orchard, are you ?

Of course I am, he said. Don't you know that's the way to get a good orchard. The earlier trees

are transplanted the better. Why a lot of three-year-old trees. They a short address. He had spoken were stocky and had good roots. time of his joy and peace in the Christian But I wouldn't touch them, though life. Deeply moved as he recount- he offered them to me at half-price. dress with the wirds: "A day in chards, and I would rather have the thy courts is better than a thousand. trees a year old at double the house of my God than to dwell in How strange, I said, that the

the tents of wickedness" (Psalm Lord's orchard-the church-where lxxxiv. 10). The song they sang he grows plants of righteousness and after the address was, "All my gathers fruit unto eternal life, should doubts I give to Jesus ;" and as the be so different from yours. You last verse of the hyun. "All I am I want young trees, but you think give to Jesus," was sung, there came the Lord wants old ones. If you into his heart the question, 'Do you had the same idea about your own mean it ?" At first there came into orchard that you have about the his mind the prompt reply, "Of Lord's, you would go down into the course I do." But the question valley and get wagon-loads of all kept pressing upon his heart, and the moss-covered trees that you before the verse and chorus were could find. You would dig them finished, his voice was silent, and up, cutting off three-quarters of there came a painful questioning. their roots; you would bring them Did he, indeed, fully mean what he home all eaten by worms, and covhad been singing? Would he give ered with scale-bugs, and then say all to Jesus? Was he truthful in the to your neighbours who have plant testimony he had tiven? Would he ed scions : See how much wiser I rather be a door-keeper in the house am. See what big trees I've got al of his God, than to dwell in the tents ready. What do those little things of wickedness ? Would he be willing amount to anyway ? I tell you, to be a sexton ? The hymn was finish- Slowcom, getting people into the ed, and a committee of the church church when they are old is a grand began to report. There had been thing for them, but it ain't worth in the heart; to be swayed by it; to removals from the place, and the very much to the church. You have the whole being swept and inchurch had been greatly weakened. | can't get all the roots as you do in | spired by it; and to have its radia-The report was followed by a pain- the case of the little child. You ful silence. Economy and retrench- can't prune and train them as well, ment had been made in every direct- and make them as shapely. And, tion. Enough had been promised then, they have worldly habits that light-to have such an experience to meet all these reduced expenses, stick to them like scale-bugs, that it of it is to attain the highest happiexcept the salary of a sexton. Their is hard for them to get rid of. I former sexton had just moved away, think that the Lord is just as wise love is a nurse, full of untiring and it would cost at the very least in regard to his orchard as you are seventy-five dollars for the year, in regard to yours, and that he likes ing an antidote for every ill; it is

must appreciate the great privilege knife he will proceed to open. If of holding converse with the Al- that does not spoil him, buy him a mighty at all, apart from possible horse. We congratulate any man benefits to be gained .- The Congre- who can afford to own a horse : but gationalist.

A TIME FOR ALL THINGS .- Time- stop at at the tavern for drinks. He ness is as important as fitness. The right thing may become wrong un- room enough in the saddle for idle-Wasn't that nice to see so many of less it is in the right time. Look ness and dissapation to ride, one of well to the time of doing anything ; them in the front and the other be-Well, I don't know, he drawled there is a time for doing all things. hind. But if the child be insensible out; I never did go much on baby If your wife is wearied and worn to all such efforts to spoil him, try religion. If there had been a dozen out, be sure it is not the right time the plan of never saying anything grown-up men and women, it would to tell her that the dinner is not to encourage him. If he do wrong fort her-cheer her up.

If you are annoyed or vexed at people, just remember it is not the right time to speak. Close your mouth-Shut your teeth together by any means recommended, give useless and unavailing regret, and questions as to what he does with many a bitter enemy.

If you feel a little cross-and who among us does not at some time or other ?--- do not select that season

smiles can hardly heal over.

your husband when he comes home, "Here is a seat, ladies." weary, from his day's business. It is not the right time. Do not ask attention. So the gentleman spoke him for expensive outlays when he a little louder: "Ladies, you will has been talking about hard times find a seat back here." It is, most assuredly, the wrong

syllables.

O, if people only knew enough to the face, and made one more atdiscriminate between the right time | tempt, speaking at the top of his and the wrong, there would be less voice :

if a boy own one, he will probably ride on to destruction. He will will bet in the races. There will be thrash him soundly ; if he do well, keep on reading the newspaper, pretending not to see him. But if you have a child invulnerable to all influences, and he cannot be spoiled

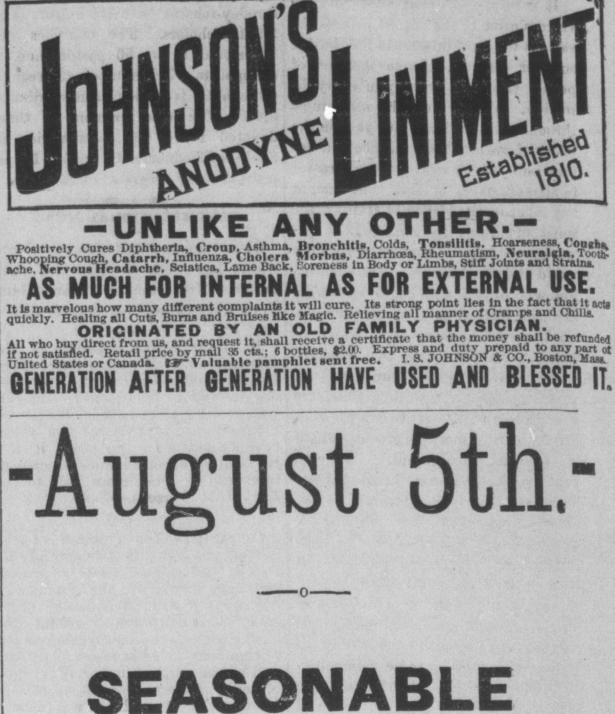
Wasted Politeness.

A funny little scene was witnessfor reproving your noisy household | ed on a train near the city of Chiflock. One word spoken in passion | cago the other day. Two young will make a scar that a summer of ladies got on a rather crowded car. Just as they passed a polite young If you are a wife never tease man arose and called to them:

But they walked on and paid no

Even then they did not turn, but kept on making their way slowly If he has entered upon an under- to the other end of the car. Then

taking against your advice, do not the man who was making such ef seize on the moment of its failure to forts to be polite, and had attracted say I told you so ! In fact, it is never | the attention of every one in the the right time for those four mono- car except the two to whom his remarks were addressed, grew red in



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and that sum additional seemed out young trees the best, of their power. He listened to this report, and again there came to his for a minute or two aud then said, heart the questions, "Did you mean I guess you've got me this time, and and prosy, and full of vexatious it ?" "Would you be willing to be drove on. the sexton" The di-cussion was still in progress, when he arose and addressed the meeting. He briefly recounted the experience of the past hour, and said : "By the grace of think that if they pray for what God's love. The thorns may prick God, I do mean all I said. I will they want, the Lord is bound to be your sexton for this year. I am grant their petitions. They do not deliverance from fretting, jostling er want for guiding. not able to give much money, for always allow Him the liberty of my salary is small; but let this judgment which they would not Paul, is constrained by this heavenly Lord to care for his house. I offer friend, and his failure or delay to you, without any pay, my service as respond as they wish, annoys them. sexton. It is true; I mean it : 'I But a great many petitions do not too, he will rejoice. When will the create enemies, it being one of the service. He found the task not allowed a razor or a dynamite cart-

THE A

Unreasonable Petitions.

A great many people seem to service be a thank-offering to my think of denying to any human impulse, will shine white and clear had rather be a door-keeper in the merit the expected answer. Often house of my God, than to dwell in no answer at all is deserved. Many the tents of wickedness." His of our prayers are as unreasonable sweet and wonderfully supporting ought toward them. offer was accepted, and he began the as the demand of a little child to be always convenient or pleasant. It ridge for a plaything. Still others required many sacrifices on his part pay no heed to the divine underto meet and faithfully perform the standing of the fitness of things, and constantly recurring duties, and the plead for the immediate accomplish- learning, rare will-power, enthusi-

domestic unhappiness, less sorrow and less estrangement of heart. The | if you prefer, but you can get a seat greatest calamities that overshadow | if you come back.

our lives have sometimes their germ in matters as apparently slight as than his other attempts, and at that this. If you would only pause, moment he saw them accept a seat reader, before the stinging taunt, or | at that end of the car, and begin at the biting sneer, or the unkind scoff once to converse with each other in passes your lips-pause just long the deat and dumb alphabet ! This enough to ask yourself, Is it not the explained their apparent indfference, right time for me to speak? you and amid the ill-conceived amusewould shut the door against many ment of the passengers the polite a heartache.

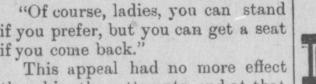
The world hinges on little things, and there are many more trivial than the right time and the wrong.

The Love of God.

The love of God is a delightful theme. Christians ought to dwell more upon it. But to have it burn tion touch every point in the life, till it becomes strong with its strength and resplendent with its ness and the truest power. God's ministry; it is as a physician, bringas a shepherd, watching us with Slowcom looked very thoughtful sleepless eye, and protecting us with

strong arm. We call the world dull things, but it becomes as bright as a pathway in paradise, and as fair as an oasis bearing palm trees and white lilies when we walk through it under the light and inspiration of be a Christian.

as if illumined from the very presence of God himself. Evermore, world come to see and know how gloriously bright and rapturously ligion to behave ourselves as we and richly stimulating this love can be to a devout, pure, trusting heart? There is no true courage, or magnanimity, or high virtue, or spiritual strength without it. Paul had



young man went into another car to cool off.

Turn Your Face To The Light.

It had been one of those days on which, everything goes contrary, and I had come home tired and discouraged. As I sank into a chair, I groaned, "Everything looks dark, dark !"

"Why don't you turn your face to the light, auntie, dear ?" said my little niece, who was standing, unperceived, beside me.

"Turn your face to the light?" The words set me thinking. That was just what I had not been doing I had persistently kept my face in the opposite direction, refusing to see the faintest glimmer of brightness. Artless little comforter ! She did not know what healing she had brought. Years have gone by since then, but the simple words have never been forgotten .--- Anon.

-----Life is the test of faith: -F. W Robertson.

The best thing in the world is to

It is not enough to keep the poor in mind ; we must give them something to keep you in mind.

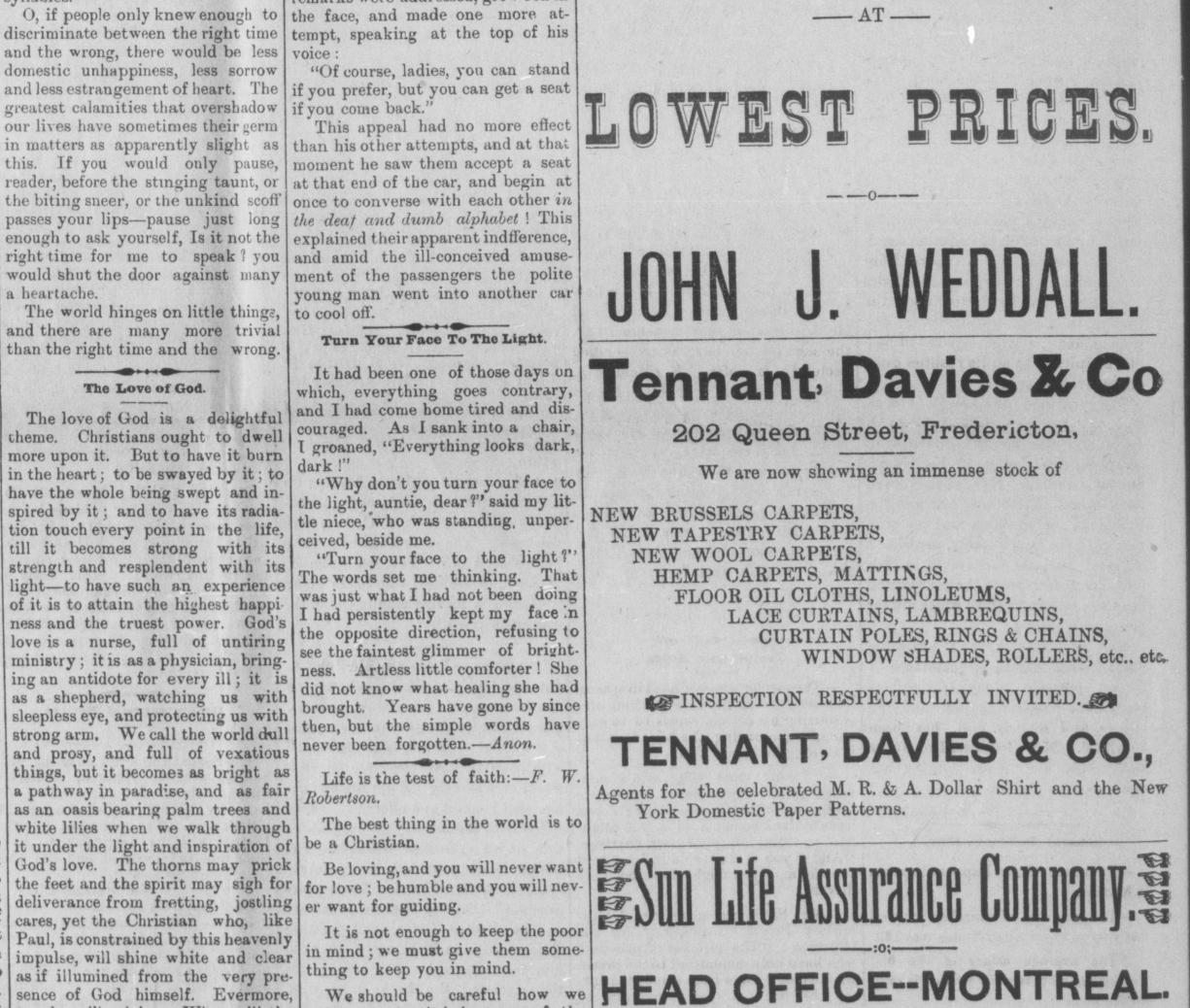
We should be careful how we hardest things in the Christian re-

State

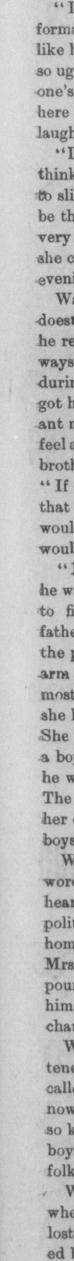
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The most exalting moments of life are those when, after a conflict of strong passions with the sense of duty, we come off conquerors, and 1876



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