

Look Forward.

'Tis the part of a coward to be dead;
O'er the past that is wither'd and dead;
What though the heart's roses are ashen
and dust!
What though the heart's music be fled!
Still shine the grand heavens o'erhead;
When the voice of an angel thrills clear on
the soul,
"Gird about thee thine arm, press on to
the goal!"

Of the faults or the crimes of thy youth
Are a burden too heavy to bear;
What hope can rebellion on the desolate
waste
Of a jealous and craven despair?
Down, down with the fetters of fear!
In the strength of thy valor and manhood
arise,
With the faith that
will that defies.

"Too late." Through God's infinite world,
From his throne to life's nethermost
fires—
"Too late!" is a phantom that flies at the
dawn

Of the soul that repents and aspires.
If pure thou hast made thy desires,
There's no height the strong wings of im-
mortals may gain
Which in striving to reach thou shalt strive
for in vain.

Then up to the contest with fate,
Unbound by the past which is dead!
What though the heart's roses are ashen
and dust!

What though the heart's music be fled!
Still shine the fair heavens o'erhead;
And sublime as the angel who rules in the
sun,
Beams the promise of peace when the
conflict is won!

—By the late PAUL H. HEYNE.

Prompt payment is a double benefit to the paper—(1) it helps pay the bills, and (2) it assures us of your practical interest in the work.

"Thinketh No Evil."

BY MRS. S. ROSALIE SILL.

"Have you been in to see our new neighbour yet?" asked Mrs. Hoover of Mrs. Landon, as she called one evening.

"No, I have not had the time yet. You know our children have had the whooping cough, and I could not leave them."

"If I were you, I would not call just yet," was said with the mysterious air of "I have something I could reveal but I think I will not just now."

So a suspicious feeling took possession of the heart of Mrs. Landon, who was really a good woman, and intended calling upon this woman who had recently come to live among perfect strangers.

"I do wonder if there is anything bad about this Mrs. Heddon?" Mrs. Landon said to her husband one day.

"Have you seen her at all?"

"Yes, once. She came into the store one day, and did some trading."

"Did she look like a bad woman, or a bold one?"

"No indeed! She was a timid little woman, dressed in deep mourning, which I noticed was growing a little shabby; and she had a sharp, harsh cough. I thought she must be in the first stages of consumption. But what do you mean about her being bold or bad?"

"Why I know nothing about her, only Mrs. Hoover said if she were in my place she would not call just now; and her looks seemed to mean more than her words."

"Humph," came from Mr. Landon. "It seems to me you are not doing exactly as the Book you profess to take as your guide would have one to do. 'I was a stranger, and ye took me in: sick and ye visited me.' I think this woman is a widow, as I have never seen a man about the place or any one else but her. Come to think of it, I have not seen her for the last two days. I dare say, Mrs. Hoover knows nothing against the woman. You remember she is just a little singular. Your Book teaches you also to think no evil; doesn't it?" Mr. Landon was very apt to quote Scripture where it concerned his wife, much more so than when it concerned himself, for he was not a Christian; although he was noted for benevolence.

"Why, James, the poor woman may be sick, and no one with her," said Mrs. Landon, in a distressed voice. "I will call as soon as we finish dinner. I am so sorry I allowed myself to be influenced by Mrs. Hoover."

"I will go in with you, as I am on my way to the store, and if anything serious should be the matter, I will see that a physician is sent at once. Do not distress yourself, Charlotte, over what I have said. I know you mean right. But when I see a flaw in a Christian's life, I make too much of it."

The Landons found Mrs. Heddon lying upon the couch, weak, suffering from the terrible cough. The poor woman said that every one seemed to shun her, and she had drawn within herself, feeling too sensitive to coquet acquaintance.

Mr. Landon soon had a physician there, and needed comfort from his store.

Mrs. Heddon had come to the little town, as ordered by her physician, for a change; but it proved too late. She had brought a letter from the Baptist church where she had lived, and intended uniting with the one there, but her cough had been so annoying she could not attend. And as Mrs. Hoover had sown the seeds of distrust the woman was left to herself.

Mrs. Hoover, in self-defence, said she heard a woman by the name of Heddon had been suspected of having tried to poison her husband, but had afterwards been cleared.

"But that was in B—," said Mrs. Landon, when told of it, "and this woman came from another place."

"You are all very kind to me," the sick woman said one day. "I was so lonely, though for a time. I think I missed my dear pastor most of all. But I should learn to love this new one almost as well, I know; only the days are so few now."

The tears coursed down Mrs. Landon's face as she heard these words, for well she knew had she not listened to Mrs. Hoover, this poor woman would have had more enjoyment. "God give me that charity which thinketh no evil," she said softly to herself as she turned away.—*Watchman.*

What Can I Do?

My brother, my sister, are you earnestly asking this question? Do you desire to know what you can do for the Lord Jesus, who redeemed us with his own precious blood? Do you ask, "What can I do to extend his cause and kingdom and to save sinners?" Permit, please, a few earnest suggestions concerning things which you should not fail to do. You should be sure, and not neglect or fail:

1. To attend every meeting of the church, Sunday-school, prayer-meeting and any church or Sunday-school society or committee of which you may be a member, unless lawfully hindered by sickness or a severe storm. To be always present is of great value and power to the Lord's cause.

2. To use your positive personal influence continually upon the other members to secure their faithful and regular attendance at all these meetings. Here is a great responsibility. Spend a part of each week in influencing others to do their duty (Heb. x 23:25).

3. To secure, as far as possible, the regular attendance of all your neighbors and friends at our regular Lord's day services—both Sunday-school and church. You will thus be the means of bringing many souls to Christ.

4. To visit, at once, any new families that may have moved into your neighborhood, and ask them to attend our church and Sunday-school. And when they do attend, make them welcome and introduce them to members and friends.

5. To introduce yourself at once to any stranger whom you may see at any of our meetings, and make him or her welcome. Do not wait for others to do this, but you do it yourself, and at every opportunity. Thus you will make visitors feel at home, and they will come back again.

6. To secure, as far as possible, an introduction of your pastor to your friends and neighbors, and to strangers who may be present.

7. To read a portion of God's Word and pray unto Him every day for His mercies and blessings to rest upon us and upon our earnest efforts to live faithfully the Christian life, to extend the kingdom of God, and to convert sinners to the Lord Jesus.

8. To visit and minister unto the necessities of the sick and the poor; to comfort the sorrowing, and to cheer the discouraged and desponding.

9. To put something into the Lord's treasury every Sunday. Whatever you can give (if only a penny), put it in an envelope with your name on, and drop it into the basket. Give according to your possessions, with which the Lord has blessed you. See I. Cor. xvi. 2, and II. Cor. viii. 12.

10. To consult with your pastor frequently concerning the work in your own neighborhood and your difficulties in that work. Ask his assistance. Ask him to help you to lay out and plan your religious work.

11. To stand by and heartily cooperate with your church and pastor in every scriptural effort to build up the church of Jesus Christ. Let there be no complainings or unkind criticisms. Sacrifice personal preferences for the common good. Let the spirit of unselfishness characterize your whole Christian life.

12. To contribute to and encourage all righteous efforts at missionary work at home and abroad. Consecrate yourself and all you have to the Lord's service.

"Pray without ceasing, and in everything give thanks, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."—*Chris. Standard.*

A Happy Home.

The first year of married life is a most important era in the history of man and wife. Generally, as it is spent, so is almost all subsequent existence. The wife and the husband then assimilate their views and their desires, or else, conjuring up their dislikes, they add fuel to their prejudices and animosities forever afterwards.

"I have somewhere read," says Rev. Mr. Wise, in his Bridal Greetings, "of a bridegroom who gloried in his eccentricities. He requested his bride to accompany him into the garden, a day or two after their wedding. He then drew a line over the roof of their cottage. Giving his wife one end of it, he retreated to the other side, and exclaimed:

"Pull the line!"

"She pulled it at his request, so far as she could. He cried:

"Pull it over!"

"I can't do it," she replied.

"But pull with all your might!" still shouted the whimsical husband.

"But vain were all the efforts of the bride to pull over the line so long as her husband held the opposite end. But when he came round, and they pulled at the same end, it came over with great ease.

"There!" as the line fell from the roof, "you see how hard and ineffectual was our labor when we pulled in opposition to one another; but how easy and pleasant it was when we both pulled together! It will be so with us through life."

In this illustration, homely as it may be, there is a sound philosophy. Husband and wife must mutually bear and concede, if they wish to make home a retreat of joy and bliss. One alone cannot make home happy. There needs be union of action, sweetness of spirit, and great forbearance and love in both husband and wife, to secure the great end of happiness in the domestic circle. Home is no unmixed paradise of sweets; the elements of peace and true happiness are there, and so, too, are the elements of discord and misery; and it needs only the bitter spirit of the world without to make it a pandemonium, or the loving genius of harmony to make it the prompter of every affectionate impulse.

Prayer Meeting Hints.

In many cases, it may be permissible for a leader only to clear up the incidental truths in the moments allowed to him, and then, in some interrogative form, leave the main thought under the topic for the other participants. If he goes farther, the most acceptable service he can render is to show the cleavage in the subject. He is best fitted to do this.

One pastor is known who says plainly to his people: "Now if you should think of anything lugubrious to say, don't say it." He makes it a rule to have nothing brought to the meeting that is not cheerful. He furthermore insists that this is a meeting of the church and that members must give as well as get. He throws the entire burden on his helpers, and he has an increasing number, doing as little as possible himself, but being careful always to do his full share.

A very shrewd observer has recently said that he had noticed that those meetings called up participants most, where the leader purposely leaves certain loose ends for persons to seize.

Themes that should always have precedence at an evening service of prayer:

1. Any reason for personal thanksgiving.
2. Any hindrances to the better life.
3. The religious bearings of any recent event.
4. Any interesting work of grace.
5. Any special answers to prayer.
6. Any illustration of the wisdom of God's word.
7. Anything observed or experienced which honors Christ, fulfils a divine promise, or indicates the leading of Providence.
8. The religious point of the Sunday school lesson.

Let us bring our best life into the prayer-meeting, and make it the register of all the best thoughts and feelings and struggles and triumphs of each week.—*Golden Rule.*

Lay Aside Every Weight.

As applied to Christians, it means they should remove all which would obstruct progress in the Christian course. It is not the same thing in all persons. In one it may be pride; in another worldliness; in another a violent and ungovernable temper; in another a heavy, leaden, insensible heart; in another some improper and unholy attachment. Some persons would make much more progress if they would disencumber themselves of the heavy weight of gold which they are endeavouring to carry with them. Even a feather or a ring may become such a weight that they never will make much progress towards the prize.—*Barnes.*

Doing One's Best.

One's best is a very variable quantity. Duties must be done, obligations met, responsibilities discharged, irrespective of our moods and often of our capabilities. When the hour strikes for certain work to be done, we must be on hand and do it with little regard to whether we can do it well or ill. But all that is required of us is to do the best we can at the time; and it is accepted of a man according to that he hath, and not according to that he hath not.

The house-mother often rises in the morning feeling quite inadequate to meet the requirements of the day. As she sees what her children need, and compares their needs with her ability to meet them, she can but exclaim, "Who is sufficient for these things?" There is nothing for her to do but to do the best she can, even though it be a very poor best.

When nine o'clock calls the teacher to her pupils, not always is she in the best mood for answering that call. But she is required only to do the best she can.

The student sits down to a hard lesson, perhaps with an aching head, with dull perceptions, with unretentive memory, and his best efforts fail to make him master of it. His conscience may give him the peace his standing in the recitation room denies.

There are some things for which we may be held responsible in the matter of doing our best. Whatever that is avoidable by us, and that robs us of that ability, we are in duty bound to avoid. We cannot knowingly and willingly put it out of our power to do our best and then complain of the result or deny our responsibility for it.

Sometimes the very "stars in their courses" seem to fight against us as they fought against Sisera. The skies are clouded, the storm howls about us, the atmosphere is oppressive, and our "environment" suppresses, chokes us. Even then all we are required to do is our best, and leave results with a higher power.

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"Some years since Mr. Spurgeon, in one of his public services, adduced a very touching illustration of Christ's love and his readiness to receive the coming sinner. While quoting a hymn he stopped short at the lines wherein Christ was entreated to open his arms, etc., and said, suiting his gestures to the words: 'This is all a mistake. The Saviour's arms are open. They were always open, they were nailed wide open on the cross.'"

Very many, in special services held in various parts of the country, are becoming interested in the subject of their own personal salvation. Let them note the words which we print above in italics.

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