

Alone with God.

BY ADOLPH KOEDER.

Far, far above the valley,
Where struggling spirits plod,
There's a realm of infinite silence,
Where the soul is alone with God.

A realm of infinite silence,
Of peace that knoweth no word—
A silence no voice hath broken,
A life no ear hath heard.

And when the battle is over,
Temptation's victory won,
And the spirit of sleep is mingled
With the rays of the setting sun—

Ah, then, in the spirit's evening,
There's a time, not day nor night,
As the word of the prophet's promise,
"At eventide there is light."

There's a realm of infinite silence
No mortal foot has trod,
Where the soul of man is hooded
In the wonderful garden of God.

Where the deepest roots of being
With delicate care are wrought
Far into the heart of Jesus,
And the soul is alone with God.

—The Dawn (Eng.)

The Work Demon.

The angel of work we all know. He is the multiplier of comforts, the assuager of griefs, the conservator of character. But the demon of work, who with inverted alchemy would turn all our gold to dross, and we not too ignorant of him and his devices? How many a sweet woman has been transformed into a care-worn virago, secretly underrated by those who she most faithfully, lovingly, but mistakenly serves. Or, perhaps, she insensibly becomes a binder of burdens too heavy to be borne, the bearers of which cry against her to God.

The writer was once entertained in an opulent Christian (?) home, whose mistress was extolled as a perfect housekeeper and caterer to the epicurean palate, whence passing out in the late dusk to make an evening call, she was amazed to find a sobbing woman fumbling for egress at the gate. "You'll wonder at me ma'am," she said, "but I have six little ones at home, and they haven't had their supper yet; and God knows I'm so tired I can't tell how I'm to get it! O, she's a hard woman! She's a hard woman!" glancing at the house—"but I wouldn't have her know I said it ma'am." It had been wash-day, and I had heard my hostess remark in the morning what a model laundress was hers, who never seemed to care how many clothes were to be washed.

This work demon, too, digs many an impassable chasm between parent and child. "Too busy" to sympathize with the joys of youth, or to soothe with the ointment of tenderness its hurts and aches; "too busy" to write the long chatty letters that so find the heart of the absent from home.

Some bitter day the parents find the chasm there, made plain by a sudden crisis, or even by a word making a crisis to them; and they stand on their own side of the rift, inwardly wailing with defrauded hearts for the confidence that might have been theirs but for the cruel demon of work. Too late they see how perverted is the sense of duty that puts neatness or gain before the nurture of young hearts, house-building or house-keeping before their heavenward training. The chasm may be bridged, but its sides can never again meet; and at the best the man or woman gone from parental care must miss, for all time, the full significance of the blessed words, "As one who is comforted of his mother, so will I comfort you," "Like as a father pitieth his children so the Lord pitieth them that fear him."

Don't call my words overwrought. Do you not know young men and young women, born of Christian parents, who, when in need of sympathy, go almost anywhere else than to the hearts that ought to be their surest human retreat? Less toil and moil, and more sweet sympathetic companionship with your children, O fathers and mothers! Sow this seed in the fear of God, and the harvest will broaden and bless your latest years, fail to sow it, and you may one day know something of what is meant by dwelling in a "salt land, and not inhabited."

The work demon is a most accomplished illusionist. He so multiplies and magnifies the varied scourgings and cookings that mark the closing week as to cause his victim's frequent absence from God's house, or to make her an indifferent listener while there, by reason of aching muscles and exhausted nerves. He maketh her to see the small dust of china-closet and cabinet-table and chimney-piece, as the lice of the plague in the land of Egypt, and snippings strewn upon the carpet as the frogs that came up in all the borders thereof; while the temperance, class and prayer meetings, the missionary meetings, and even secret prayer and the daily reading of God's Word appear as things of little import.

But time would well nigh fail me

to write all the items of the indictment that might be brought against this subtle perverter of blessing. One of his favorite posts is beside the sewing-machine, and another by the cook-stove. At both of these points he uses much evil and successful ingenuity.

Dear sisters and brethren in Christ, banish the work demon from your lives! Let him have no dominion over you! "Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness," then will things temporal and eternal assume their true relative importance, and the vineyard of our Lord will be greatly profited. O the transforming communion that might be held with the divine Spirit, the well pondered truths that might be made to enrich the mind, the lonely that might be cheered, the sick and sorrowful that might be comforted, the groping that might be guided into light, in lieu of the really needless tasks of many a modern housekeeper!—*Pittsburg Advocate.*

How to Read the Bible.

1. Do not trammel yourself with the legalism of reading a certain amount. What you want is the growth of your soul, not the totting of quantity. If you find a single verse very juicy, stop and enjoy it for a half hour. Shut your eyes and think it over. Illustrate it in your own life and experience. That one verse may run into every corner of your being, and do you more good than twenty chapters. At another time the historical connection or other interest may lead you to read page after page. Any rule about quantity is a bad rule.

2. Compare Scripture with Scripture. This is best done with a concordance or a good marginal reference Bible. In the latter case look at all the references, and you will be surprised how they illuminate your reading, and open up new avenues of thought. The searching of the Scriptures which our Lord enjoins seems especially to be fulfilled in this work. Sometimes a double view of one truth in this way will act like the double view and double glass of the stereoscope, and make the truth stand out in all the fulness and perspective of reality, startling the soul by its presence.

3. Use a Bible in some other language than your own, if you are able. This gives a freshness to old texts, of which the truth is ever fresh, but the words may have become trite to the ear. And you see in the foreign version a slightly different phase of the truth, as looked upon by another people from a different standpoint of disposition and temperament. You will be filled with surprises in this research, which will serve not only to incite your zeal, but also to secure the truth in your memory.

4. Use a good Bible atlas and Bible dictionary. Familiarity with the geography and usages of the East gives a life to the Bible narrative that makes its truths the clearer. The more oriental we become the better fitted we are to receive the Word, which was first spoken to orientals, and which is filled with oriental facts and allusions. How it adds to the parable of the good Samaritan to know something about the dismal, lonely road from Jerusalem down through the limestone rocks to Jericho! And how could one understand the story of our Saviour washing his disciples' feet, unless we knew the important facts of oriental costume and customs here involved?

5. Read aloud, if you have the opportunity. Reading aloud and praying aloud add much to the vigor of those exercises. The mind seems to be aroused by the sound of the voice. Our thoughts take a more complete shape, and hence are more permanent and powerful. Let those who never tried this try it now, if they wish a new and very happy experience.

6. Always read with prayer. Reading God's Word is an act of devotion, a religious exercise. God's Word is always sacred, and we ought to be always solemn when we approach it. To take up the Bible as we would the city directory or the almanac, is to secularize it, and emasculate it—it is to use a magnetic machine without connecting the wires. The prayerful frame of mind is necessary for the electric power of the Bible to operate. When the Spirit, who indited the book, is received in his influences into the heart, then the connection is complete, and messages of peace flow from heaven to earth.

7. Read each time with full faith that you will find a blessing. This is honoring God's own method. He gave the Bible, and for the express purpose of blessing the soul by it. Use it for this end, and you cannot be deceived. There can be no failure on God's part. His blessings are inexhaustible, and so are his Scriptures. Let there be no critical pride, but a child-like simplicity before the Word—a putting forth of our hand to receive a gift from God.

—Rev. Howard Crosby.

His Best Self.

"Joe, what do you go to see that Miss Bacon so much for? She isn't pretty, she isn't rich, and she is an orphan; she has no family."

"What do I go to see her so much for?" queried Joe, in a dreamy tone. "No, she isn't pretty, and she isn't ugly; she certainly isn't rich, for she teaches for a living, and though her parents are dead, they were nice people. I go to see her because she makes me keep company with my best self when I am with her. I say to myself when I am on my way to call on her: 'Now, if you have any noble thoughts, you can utter them to her, sure that they will be appreciated. If you've read any thing unusually fine or beautiful, you can tell it to her, and find an eager listener. She always makes me true to the highest and best that is in me.'"

"What do you think she said to me the last time I was there? I had been telling her some funny story about old Giles, and I repeated some of his jargon; you know how he talks. Just before I came away she said in a very modest, downcast kind of a way: 'Mr. Lyon, may I ask a favor of you?'"

"Certainly," I said, "I would be most happy to oblige you."

"Would you kindly refrain from repeating any profane words in my hearing? It hurts me to hear them."

"I felt as though six inches had been taken from my stature, and I replied: 'I will not offend that way again. I know the commandment, 'Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain,' and I suppose one ought never to repeat profane language."

"I tell you such a woman as that has courage as well as conviction." Miss Bacon had brothers from whom she was separated, and for whom she felt a sisterly solicitude. "If I am careful to hold my young gentleman friends to high standards," she said to herself, "some lady perhaps will do the same for my brothers," and this motive actuated her in all her intercourse with young men. She had no thought of self in the matter, and when Mr. Lyon said to her that he could be a better man with her as his wife than with any other woman in the world, the declaration came as a surprise to her.

Friendship ripened into love, love that had "its seat in reason and was judicious." United in everything that was sincerely good, the home they founded was the home of peace, the cradle of all noble virtue, the reward of high endeavor, and its most potent stimulus.

A Word Fitly Spoken.

"Come and go to prayer-meeting with me to-night."

The speaker was a Methodist preacher by the name of Daniel DeMotte, of the Northwest Indiana Conference. The young man he addressed was John Evans, a young physician of Attica, Indiana.

The invitation was accepted and John Evans went to prayer-meeting. God's Holy Spirit convicted him of sin. He went forward for prayers, was converted, and his great career as a Christian philanthropist was before him. If the future could have been unrolled before the eyes of Daniel DeMotte that night, sleep would have been impossible.

The great Northwestern University, at Evanston, Ill., with its thousand students, with its great endowments, with its brilliant future, is not ashamed to call John Evans—father. The University of Denver has started into existence and made its wonderfully prosperous beginning under his fostering care. Abraham Lincoln appointed him Governor of the Territory of Colorado, and to-day he is the foremost citizen of that great commonwealth.

If John Evans were a young man with political aspirations, such complimentary words might be out of place, but he is now at an age when it will do no harm to hear a few of the good words that will follow his ascending spirit to the glory that awaits him in the heavenly world. Two millions of invitations to prayer-meeting ought to be uttered this very week. Disciple of Jesus, when are you going to begin to say, "Come?" When will the divine impulse of soul-saving come upon you? Begin to-day. The time is short.—*The Pastor's Telephone.*

Unhandy Hands.

They were beautiful hands, soft, white, shapely, but they had not been trained. They couldn't keep accounts, or use the needle, or dish-cloth, or the mop, or the cooking utensils. They had at one time glided skillfully over the piano keys and wielded the pencil to some purpose. They were graceful hands and made pretty gestures, or folded themselves harmoniously over the soft draperies beneath them.

By and by the ample provision that had been left to keep these hands in idleness was wasted because the hands couldn't keep accounts;

wicked men took advantage of these helpless hands and stole their treasures from them, and then days of darkness and trouble came.

The owner of the hands had to board because she didn't know how to cook, and, of course, she had to eat what was set before her, and so her digestive apparatus got all out of order. She had to hire her dresses made, and was subject to the dishonesty practiced by some dressmakers, who charge a good price for poor work, and appropriate a portion to themselves of the ample pattern they require for a dress. She couldn't manage her business affairs, and so had to trust them to a lawyer, who, in her case proved untrustworthy, and made exorbitant charges for work which was poorly done. At every point where she came in contact with the world she lost and lost, until at last she was glad to find a refuge in the church home which in the days of her prosperity she had helped to found.

This is a sketch from life. Just such histories are transpiring every day, and yet girls are permitted to grow to womanhood without knowing how to do what it is indispensable for their own personal comfort and existence even. If a girl can't learn to cook in her mother's kitchen, there are cooking schools where she can learn. If she cannot sew with her mother's seamstress, there are sewing schools where the children of the wealthy are taught the use of the needle in embroidery and plain sewing. She can use the broom in her own room. She ought to have trained hands.—*Sol.*

How He Lost The Opportunity.

A useful hint to many young men may be derived from this little story which the Springfield (Mass.) *Union* prints: "Not long ago a young man of this city had a most favorable opportunity to enter a business house in this State, at a large increase over his present salary, with a prospect of soon getting a place in the firm. His recommendations were first-class, and the officers of the institution were decidedly pleased with his appearance. They, however, made him no proposals, nor did they state their favorable impressions. A gentleman of this city was requested to ascertain where the young man spent his evenings, and what class of young men were his associates. It was found that he spent several nights of the week in a billiard-room on Main Street, and Sunday afternoon drove a hired span into the country with three other young men. He is wondering why he didn't hear from the house concerning the coveted position."

FOOD FOR THOUGHT.—A man who is not ashamed of himself need not be afraid of his early condition. The trouble with a man covering up his tracks is that he makes new ones in doing it.

Hear both sides and all shall be clear: hear one and you may still be in the dark.

Do not persecute the unfortunate as it is like throwing stones on one fallen into a well.

Hope is itself a species of happiness, and perhaps the chief happiness the world affords.

Resignation is an invaluable treasure, which can not, by the most violent evils, be taken from us.

Familiarity does not breed contempt, except of contemptible things or in contemptible people.

Happiness is a perfume which one can not shed over another without a few drops falling on one's self.

A man never sees all that his mother has been to him till it's too late to let her know that he sees it.

Reformers had first need to practice on their own hearts that which they purpose to try on others.

When the term education is used it should suggest to the thinking mind this question: To what? For weeds may be cultivated as well as useful plants, and also good and evil both may be taught.

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All beds seem hard to the rheumatic. Then hearken ye peevish sufferers! Apply *Dr. Thomas' Electric Oil* to your aching joints and muscles. Rely on it that you will experience speedy relief. Such, at least, is the testimony of those who have used it. The remedy is likewise successfully resorted to for throat and lung diseases, sprains, bruises, etc.

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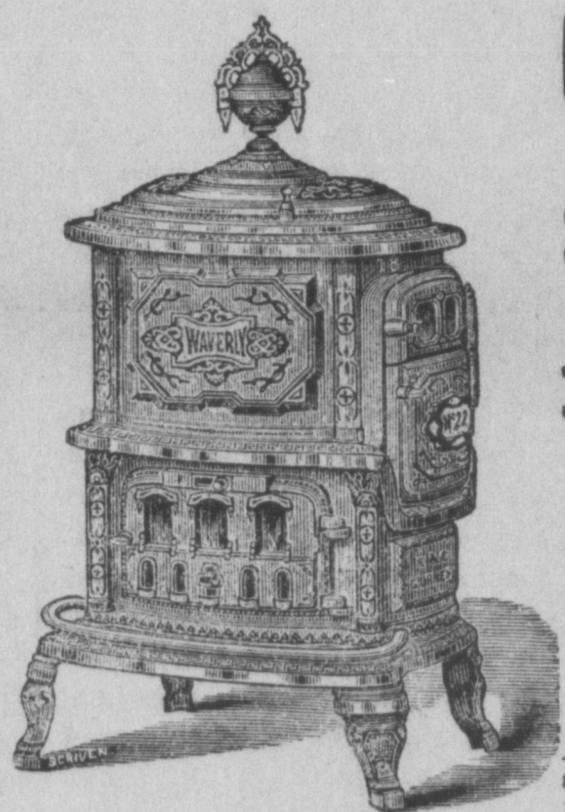
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