The Greatest of These.'

Look not thou dimly through hot tears, Down the dark vistas of the years, Nor break thy heart with weary sighs, For all that dies!

But turn thy back upon the night, Thou hast three friends, with faces bright Who yet shall lead them into light.

Some needs must go. Speak thy farewell To him who, in his hermit cell Searches the depths for mysteries And prophecies. Nor cling to him, who gives thee pain, With showers of words that beat like rain, Dismiss him; better friends remain.

Walk by his side, whose brow thought lined. Bends to thee ever, sternly kind,

Things wonderful has he to show And make thee know, But Knowledge, though he lead thee far, From height to height, and star to star, Is not thy friend, as others are!

They shall all vanish -these abide. Faith, lofty browed, and eagle-eyed. Looks into the invisible

Where deep things dwell. Open thy heart, and give her place! She sees, through mists, God's shining face, And crowns thee with an angel's grace.

And Hope, fair Hope, has ever been A comforter with voice serene, Who holds thee close, and in the storm Keeps thy heart warm.

Would'st thou be strong, and brave, and free? In weal or woe, keep her with thee,

The very light of day is she! But greatest, loveliest of the three, Is tender, grand-eyed Charity.

The heart that finds her ends its quest In perfect rest. Oh! hold her, keep her in thy care, For earth like heaven is rich and fair, If love be with thee everywhere! -MARIANNE FARNINGHAM.

#### Preaching so as to Convert Nobody.

The design of this article is to proformity to any one of which a man may preach so as not to convert any body. It is generally conceded at the present day that the Holy Spirit conadapted to that end.

Aim at pleasing, rather than at converting your hearers. Let your seroccupying from twenty to twenty-five | flattering. minutes. Lest your sermons should make a saving impression, announce no distinct propositions or heads, that will be remembered, to disturb the ing efficacy of such a course, and consciences of your hearers. Make churches whose ministers have steadily no distinct points, and raise no disturbing issues with the consciences of testify that their preaching does not your hearers, lest they remember these issues, and become alarmed about their | G. Finney. souls. Avoid a logical diversion and sub-diversion of your subject, lest you should too thoroughly instruct your people. Avoid preaching doctrines that are offensive to the carnal mind, lest they should say of you, as they said of Christ: "This is a hard saying who can hear it?" and also that you are injuring your influence.

Denounce sin in the abstract, but make no allusion to the sins of your present audience. Keep the spirituality of God's holy law, by which is the knowledge of sin, out of sight, lest the sinner should see his lost condition, and flee from the wrath to come! Preach the Gospel as a remedy, but conceal or ignore the fatal disease of the sinner. Preach salvation by grace, but ignore the condemned and lost condition of the sinner, lest he should understand what you mean by grace, and feel his need of it. Preach Christ as an infinitely amiable and good-natured being, but ignore those scathing rebukes of sinners and hypocrites which so often made ilis hearers tremble.

Do not make the impression that God commands your hearers now and | fended at the time of a parent's loss. here to obey the truth. Do not make the impression that you expect your the spot and give their hearts to God. Leave the impression that they are exconsider the matter at their convenience.

alarm the consciences of your hearers. Preach the love of Christ, not as enlightened benevolence, that is holy,

to the world, lest you should convict grows used to the loss of the little and convert some of your church mem-

a state of loving self-sacrifice for God | father worked and planned, and the and souls; but rather as a free and easy state of self-indulgence. By thus do- denial that knew no cessation, and ing you will prevent sound conversions to Christ, and convert your hearers to in the night at the thought of the yourself. So select your themes, and | baby's call, and breaks one's heart all so present them, as to attract and day at the sight of the empty crib, and flatter the self-indulgent, extravagant, the pathetic, unused toys and picturenot convert any of them to the cross- on the door-bell, or the little stone in bearing religion of Christ. Be time- the cemetary, without a throb of symsalary; and, besides, if you speak out some heart has felt when it kept its and are faithful, you may convert vigil beside the dying bed of a child. somebody.

Ridicule solemn earnestness in pulling sinners out of the fire, and recommend by precept and example a jovial fun-loving religion, and sinners will have little respect for your serious preaching. Cultivate a fastidious taste in your people by avoiding all disagreeable allusions to the last judgment and final retribution. Treat such uncomfortable doctrines as obsolete and sorption in regrets and your morbid out of place in these days of Christian refinement.

Do not commit yourself to muchneeded reform lest you should compromise your popularity and injure drive a youthful son into haunts of your influence; or you may make some branch of outward reform a hobby, and dwell so much upon it as to divert fatal injury to the health of a delicate attention from the great work of converting souls to Christ. So exhibit religion as to encourage the selfish pursuit of it. Make the impression upon their whole behavior - reproach the sinners that their own safety and happi- living as well as lament the dead. Al ness is the supreme motive for being | ways we need to guard against this religious. Do not lay much stress subtle form of seltishness. To gather upon the efficacy and necessity of up the fragments, and go on with what pound several rules, by a steady con- prayer, lest the Holy Spirit should be is left of life, bravely, trustfully, poured out upon you, and the congre- | thankfully, may be a weary task, and gation and sinners should be converted.

Be careful not to testify from your own personal experience of the power verts souls to Christ by means of truth of the Gospel, lest you should produce the conviction upon your hearers that you have something which they need. See that you say nothing that will apmons be written with a high degree of pear to any of your hearers to mean literary finish. Let them be short | him or her, unless it be something

> The experience of ministers who have steadily adhered to any of the above rules will attest the soul-destroyconformed to any of these rules can convert souls to Christ .- The Rev. C.

## The Selfish Side of Grief.

The removal from a family of one of its dearly loved members, whether that member be a little child or a man in his prime, alters for a time the whole course of feeling, and takes color and flavor out of every incident in the daily life. Zest is gone. If it be a parent whose counsel and power to comfort and soothe are missed in the experiences which fall day by day into every lot, the younger people walk, as it were, with head bared to the storm; a bulwark that stood between them and the buffets of adversity is removed. They stand face to face in the front rank with eternity the generation that preceded them and kept the chill wind away, has passed into the great silence. The sense of orphanhood is sorely felt by many a middle-aged man and woman when a gray-haired and tottering parent is taken home; felt as keenly and sharply as ever by a child, whose helplessness and immaturity are left unde-

If wife and husband are separated, the two that were one sundered, the hearers to committ themselves upon | broken half of a union that was wellnigh perfect remaining with rough and jagged edges, sensitive to each rude pected to go away in their sins, and to touch, and aching day and night, the grief is beyond human aid for awhile. Into that sanctuary no profane foot Make no appeals to the fears of sin- may enter. The heart knoweth its through lack of faith. When the He- he found time to pray. Indeed, these ners; but leave the impression that own bitterness, with which a stranger brews refused to follow the report of appear to have been with him seasons they have no reason to fear. Say so intermeddleth not. That such wounds little of hell that your people will in- are healed by time, and that in time fer that you do not believe in its ex- new associations and companionships Istence. Make the impression that, if | may take the place of those that death | people; for they are stronger than we." | great multitudes came together to hear God is as good as you are, He will destroyed, argues nothing against the they were turned back into the wilder. and to be healed by him of their in send no one to hell. Preach the love poigency of the first desolation. I ness for thirty-eight years. When at firmities, but he withdrew himself into of God, but ignore the holiness of His | question whether any new relation | the end of that time the children of | the wilderness and prayed." love, that will by no means clear the ever establishes itself in the precise these faint-hearted men came again to Impenitent sinner. Often present God | place of the old. The heart has its In his parental love and relations; but locked doors, inscribed "In Memoig ore His governmental and legal re- riam," though so wise and tender is such impossible a task as their fathers ments, and can scarcely find time to lations to His subjects, lest the sinner God, and so elastic and many-sided is had imagined. The way kept opening eat. We make this a reason for not should find himself condemned already humanity, that grief wears itself out as they advanced. They walked across praying; Jesus made it a reason for and the wrath of God abiding on him. by degrees, and they who thought to Jordan dry, Jericho fell, the Lord did praying. Is there any doubt which is for any of the essays they may select Preach God as all mercy, lest a fuller spend their years in the house of for them what they could not do for the better course? Many of the wisest and publish. No restrictions. Try above named stock before purchasing elserepresentation of His character should mourning do, at last, find themselves themselves when they were willing to have in this respect done as Jesus did. again in the house of feasting.

just and sin-hating, but as a sentiment | sibilities are bound up in the baby's | at Kadesh Barnea was enormously ex- | hand. A wise man once said that he -an involuntary and undiscriminating little bundle of life. So much of hope, pensive for Israel. so much of joy, so much of investment, Try to convert sinners to Christ is in the nature of things included in men to day is wasted from lack of faith. become hurried, he could not do all

denial, cross-bearing, and crucifixion covers our lost darlings. One never us, and we take counsel of our fears, creature who was so vital, so essential, to the home happiness, so truly a part Be sure not to represent religion as of the daily round; for whom the mother cared with a constant selfwas its own full reward. One wakens pleasure-seeking classes, and you will books. I never see the white ribbon serving, or you will endanger your pathy with the stab of anguish that 3:19.

But, dear friends in the shadow, beware of the selfish side of grief. After the first interval, when tears must have their way, it behooves you to be up and doing, lest your brooding over loss and loneliness make your home and your presence a torture-chamber to those who remain to love you, a sphere to be avoided by the young and the happy, who derive from your abself-pity a wholly wrong conception of the power of the Christian religion to uplift and console in hours of darkness. I have seen a mother's grief temptation in one instance, and in another have known to work almost daughter. Indeed, there are those who always mourn in such fashion that their tones, looks and wordsfull of sadness, but it is God-appointed to every grieving heart, and God Himself assists him or her who attempts it

in faith and with prayer. All is seldom taken at once. We we duties, we have responsibilities, to those who are still with us, and the only noble way, the only Christian way, of meeting and bearing grief is, with God's help, to do this cheerfully. Pillow the aching head on the thought, "God knows." Rest the tired eyes on His starry words of promise. Gird up the loins, take the staff in hand, and go forward; for ever beside thee, poor sorrowing one, even in the hottest fire of pain, if thou love and trust Him, I There is the scar of the wounds in His hands, in His feet, and he who strengthens thee to-day was once nailed to

Another reason against a selfish indulgence in grief, the sort of indulgence that by and by half insensibly finds itself an enjoyment and an occupation, is that this kind of grief is pagan. If we accept our Lord's positive statement that "in My Father's house are many mansions," and if we expect to meet our dear ones in the Father's house, in the Father's own good time, we cannot wait with patient hope for the hour of reunion? We can spare our children for a journey across the Atlantic, or for a long period at college; we can give them in marriage to those with whom they go to dwell in other lands and other homes. Is heaven the only spot which seems to our hearts an abode of exile? Is the Lord's bright angel, who beckons them to immortality, the only messenger whom we cannot receive with faith when he comes in the Lord's name? Dearly beloved, we are to blame if we cultivate the selfishness of grief .- MRS. MARGARET E. SANGSTER, in Congrega-

## The Loss of Unfaith.

We often speak of the losses that come to men through lack of judgment, "We are not able to go up against the The most difficult stroke to bear is as ready to lead the Fathers to Canaan exciting day, he allowed himself longer often the loss of a child. Infinite pos- as their children. The want of faith time than usual for prayer before-

convictions of sin. Make no disagree- we go heavily for long, long days, and the Hebrews. Some command comes like prayer for producing this calm certainly please you.

we judge simply from what we can see; to about where we were before. There is the swift Jordan, there are the walled cities and the giants, but now we say, "I will obey God," and lo, Jordan divides, Jericho falls and the giants are but men. We enter Canaan. But not merely a name, but a life? the waste of it! We might have reached happier conditions, a larger and richer life years before if our lack of faith had It is no task to profess Christ before not kept us out. We "were not able to enter in because of unbelief." Heb.

who come to their Kadesh Barnea in | be sure of it, that no battle was ever the public confession of Christ. That seems to many a man like a walled our light under a bushel. In these city and a giant, and he turns back in- days, when sin stalks in the streets and to the wilderness. Years after, in long zigzag of unfaith he comes back to it. He boldly confesses Christ, and he finds that with that act of faith he has entered upon a richer, fuller, deeper spiritual life. There are many confessed Christians in all our churcheswho of us is not numbered among them?-who have taken counsel of their own resources and their own fears when some plain but hard duty has confronted them, and the same long | so easy to put on the meek, humble, wasted years have followed. At last | forgiving Christ. The meekness of God has brought them back to the Christianity is now, as ever, a stumbsame place, the difficulties have been ling block. The world still hesitates just as great as they ever were, but be- to forgive, etc. A man, therefore, cause they have obeyed now they have entered the promised land. They have | ing his carnal self, who batcles honey, the wilderness for the garden | impulses, who is ready to return good of Canaan. Christian experience for evil, etc., proves that Christ through that act of faith has become living and speaking to him. Such rich and happy and fruitful.

forward to some new enterprise of re- | Magazine. ligious service, to take some bold and valiant stand in their community for honesty, for purity, for temperance, for carrying the Gospel into the houses and directly to the hearts of the unchurched about then: And because that call has been declined, they find that they have missed their "day of visitation," the tone of Christian life has been lowered and murmurings at God doing. take the place of songs of gladness. At the beginning of the new year, which, according to the prevailing customs of American life, is devoted see a form like unto the Son of God. to special religious work in our churches it is certain that to many a pastor and people will come the command to "go forward." It will need faith to obey that command. It will be risking something, we think, to obey it. But years afterward, if we do not obey it, we shall look back with keenest sorrow as came to us in that command. If we had walked through that dark door we should have found ourselves right

We think of God's commands as hard and burdensome, but a divine command is the most precious thing that can come to us. It is only burdensome when we draw back from it. It is always a gate opening into the blessedness of a promised land. The best thing in life is that God will command us. No man ever turned back from obeying a clear command of God who did not find that he was turning his back upon his Canaan, and choosing instead the wandering and the sorrow of the wilderness. - Watchman.

## Too Busy to Pray.

Jesus appears to have devoted himself especially to prayer at times when present and the heart promptly to his life was unusually full of work and improve it at the moment, constitute excitement. His was a very busy life; the great secret of living a useful life. there was nearly always "many coming and going" about him. Sometimes, bowever, there was such a congestion capacity or knowledge, but we do not of thronging objects that he had so often speak of the losses sustained scarcely time to eat. But even then half overcomes envy. A real good- Sequel to French Treser by De Caleb and Joshua, and accepted the of more prolonged prayer than usual timid policy of the ten spies who said. Thus we read: "So much the more went there a fame abroad of him, and

Many in our day know what this the borders of Canaan, they found that | congestion of occupations is-they are act upon His word. He had been just | When Luther h d a specially busy and was too busy to be in a hurry; he A very large part of the lives of most | meant that, if he allowed himself to

able allusions to the doctrines of self- water with our tears the mound that to us: the promised land is just before self-possession. When the dust of business so fills your room that it threatens to choke you, sprinkle it we think that faith in God is visionary; with the water of prayer, and then then we go back to the wilderness, and you can cleanse it out with comfort after years of wandering we come back and expedition .- Rev. James Stalker.

### Proofs of Christian Discipleship.

What proof can we give that our life is hid with Christ in God? How can we best show that our Christianity is

1. By confessing Christ before the

world. As we profess, so must we act men. Not all professors of Christianity are confessors of Christ. Not all dare to own the Master in the midst There are many in our congregations of a faithless and unbelieving age. But won by hiding our colors or placing meets us at every corner, it is imperative that all around us should know whose we are and whom we serve. He who bravely glories in the Cross, and openly confesses his faith to be the faith of all ages, who proves his words by his deeds, etc. -is giving a real proof that he is living for and in Christ. 2. To assume the attitude of Christ towards the world. It is easy enough to say that we are Christians, but not

who shows himself vigorous in restrainexchanged the manna for the milk and | bravely with the rising tide of carnal man will have unbounded influence for There are whole churches to-day good. His meekness, charity, sympathy whose unfaith keeps them in the wilder- etc., will prove that he has taken Christ ness when they might just as well be for his model. He will be an apostle living and working in the promised for Christ, and Christ will live and land. The Lord has called them to go speak in hin to all around. - House

### Random Readings.

An acre of performance is worth the whole world of promise.—Howells.

Exactness in little duties is a wonderful source of cheerfulness .- F. W

It is a good thing every little while to stop and look at the why of our The claims of habit are generally too

small to be felt till they are too strong o be broken. - Johnson. Many men owe the grandeur of their

ives to their tremendous difficulties. -The Lord tells us to carry cur cross

and cast our care, but we often try to cast our cross and carry our care.

If we would begin by thanking God for all the joys we owe him, we should that we threw away such opportunities | have little time left to complain of our vexations.

> Every to-morrow has two handles. We take hold of it by the handle of anxiety or the handle of faith. -Herald and Presbyter.

Be such a man, live such a life, that if every man were such as you, and every life a life like yours, this earth would be God's paradise.—Phillips

Sympathy is one of the most vital forces of Christianity. Cold men seldom win. To reach a human soul in darkness and lift him up into the light, we must be touched deeply with a sense of that soul's danger and need. Heart power is real power.

If we would do good in this world we must do it as we have the "opportunity," and when we have it. The art of seeing the "opportunity" when -Religious Herald.

"Good nature disarms enmity, allays irritation, stops even the gar- | Spier and Surennes French and rulty of fault-finding. It more than natured man is the most troublesome | Porquet, Elementary French Grammarmorsel that the malign passions ever attempted to feed upon. He is the natural superior of irritable persons.'

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o'clock, and Halifax at 7.15. Passengers

treal at 18.05 Sunday evening.

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| cpress from Sussex   | 8.30                            |  |
| st express from Quebec and Mon-<br>treal (Monday excepted) | 9.35                            |  |
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| ay Express from Halifax                                    |                                 |  |
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