

The Christian Life.

HIS CARE.

God holds the key of all unknown,
And I am glad;
If other hands should hold the key,
Or if he trusted it to me,
I might be sad.

What if to-morrow's cares were here,
Without its rest?
I'd rather he unlock the day,
And as the hours swing open, say,
"Thy will is best."

The very dimness of my sight,
Makes me secure,
For groping in my misty way
I feel his hand, I hear him say,
"My help is sure."

I cannot read his future plan
But this I know—
I have the smiling of his face,
And all the refuge of his grace,
While here below.

Enough; this covers all my want,
And so I rest;
For what I cannot, he can see,
And in his care I sure shall be
Forever blest.

—Rev. John Parker.

Upward Trend of the Christian Life.

To the ungodly man to-day is worse than yesterday and to-morrow will be worse than to-day. It cannot be otherwise, because the trend of the path he treads is downward. Hope is a stranger in the breast of a wicked man. It is not so with the righteous. "The path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day." The trend of that path is upward. To-day is better than yesterday, and to-morrow will be better than today. This is true whether the traveller be a child, a youth, a mature man, or an aged patriarch.

Life is not one momentous strain. Its music is ever changing. If each day were a repetition of the preceding day, and each year a repetition of the preceding year, what a dreary thing life would be. We soon become weary of the man who talks on and on and never says anything new. We wish he would stop, take breath, think a little, read a little, and listen to others a while. Then he might begin again and tell something new and fresh. A pool of water which never changes becomes offensive, unsightly, unwholesome. But a stream that flows on ceaselessly keeps itself pure. One can sit on the banks of a rolling stream and listen to its music and watch its laughing, leaping, sparkling waters, and never tire. It is always the same stream, but always new.

The Creator has mercifully arranged our life so that it is always changing. In the morning we begin to live almost as though we had not lived before. We go on for a few hours, and a change takes place. The sun goes down, the night wraps its shadow about us, and we fall asleep. In the morning we wake, refreshed with rest and slumber, and begin again. The day is new and we are new. It is like turning over a new leaf. It is like being born again. It is like a new song. Hope rises in the soul, as the sun rises in the heavens. It is like travelling in the mountains, where the traveller rejoices in the morning that he shall see things before night which he never saw before—mountains

he never before looked upon, canons he never before traversed, cliffs on which his eager eyes never rested before. He ascends new peaks from which the view is grand and enchanting.

To everyone who tries to live right and live for God every day is new. He sees new beauties in the Bible; new lessons in nature, new glories in grace, new comforts in life, new charms in friendship and love. His pathway shineth more and more. The best is always before him. Forgetting the things which are behind, and reaching forth to those things which are before, he presses toward the mark of the prize. There are mountain summits more lofty than any he has scaled. There are religious experiences richer than any he has enjoyed. There is more abundant life than any he has known before. Thanks be to God for new days, new years, new joys, new glories! O Christian, lift up thy heart and sing! Let hope have a large place in thy soul. Rejoice in the future.—*Advocate*.

OVERLOADING THE MINISTER.

It is an old complaint but a very present one that the modern church is inclined to overload its minister. A recent number of the *Ram's Horn* contains a very telling cartoon illustrating this fact. There are a half-dozen persons gathered about the bent form of their pastor, and they are engaged in placing upon his seemingly willing shoulders the burdens they themselves in some measure ought to carry. They have piled upon him, in addition to meeting the demands of the pulpit from week to week, pastoral visits, Sunday-school, prayer-meetings, church finances, church attendance, and just near them is one, apparently a late comer, who is about to lift upon him the Young People's Society. The figure represents a stalwart sort of fellow, and there is a resigned air upon his strong face, but it can very readily be seen that his form must bend beneath the load thus placed upon him.

It is a striking sermon that cartoon of the *Ram's Horn* preaches, and yet it is one that is proclaimed to a greater or less degree by almost every church in the land. From the necessity of the case we suppose a pastor must bear a large share of these burdens. At any rate, he must be more or less in touch with all the interests represented, and if he is devoted to his work, must bear a certain part of the load upon his heart. That he bears more than he ought as a rule, goes without saying. For the most part the members are willing, and even more than willing that he should do this, and then in addition they are too busy with their material interests to help him very much. Their offices, their stores, their home duties, their social demands, their pleasurable enjoyments, all these things take so much of their time that they can give very little to the doing of church work or to helping to carry the weight caring for it involves. This is, however, an evil that somehow ought to be lessened. No one who has not done it knows the incessant and insatiable demand that is made upon the faithful minister of the average church. The work of preparing two sermons, moderately acceptable with all the additional needful duties that belong to the office is enough to appall almost the strongest of men.

As we have indicated the demands of the ministerial office are such that not one of these burdens can be cast off entirely. They may be lightened, however, and the intelligent membership of our churches should see to it that in so far as possible they have a share in carrying the load which the successful prosecution of church work always involves. The beginning of another year is a good time at which our churches may consider how and in what way they may lighten a little at least the burdens that rest upon their pastors.—*Baptist Commonwealth*.

WHAT THE BIBLE IS TO ME.

The Bible is my church. It is always open, and there is my High Priest ever waiting to receive me. There, too, I have my thanksgiving, my praise, and a field of promises; in short, all I can want, there I find; and a congregation of whom the world is not worthy—prophets, martyrs, and confessors.—*Charlotte Elliott*.

How delightful this Bible looks to me when I see the blood of Christ sprinkled upon it! Every leaf would have flashed with Sinai's lightnings, and every verse would have rolled with the thunders of Horeb, if it had not been for Calvary's Cross.

Now as you look you see on every page your Saviour's name. He loved you and gave himself for you, and now you who are sprinkled with that blood, and have by faith rested in him, can take that precious book and find it to be green pastures and still waters to your soul.—*Spurgeon*.

I have seen much of this world, but I never knew how to live till now. All the comfort I have, and that is more than the whole world can give, is, the feeling of the Good Spirit in my heart, and reading in this good book, the Bible.

You are now in the prime of your age and vigor, and in great favor and business; but all this may leave you, and you may one day better understand and relish what I say to you, and then you will find that there is more wisdom, truth, comfort, and pleasure in retiring and turning your heart from the world to the Good Spirit of God, and in reading the Bible, than in all the courts and the favors of princes.—*Oxensten, Chancellor of Sweden*.

TRUE FORGIVENESS.

Henceforth, when we pray, "And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us," let us not only ask ourselves if we are equal to that daring word, if we are not possibly praying that we may not be forgiven, but let us inform the venerable words with their best possible meaning and mean by them no less than it is our desire and purpose to give back to those who have done us or others cruel wrong their true selves, to this end making ourselves subsidiary to the benign and healing forces of a forgiving world. Praying in this wise, we shall not fail of a good answer to our prayer; for we are not so made that we can open wide our hearts for an outgoing spirit of forgiveness—and not at the same time open them as wide for the incoming of the spirit of peace and health and power which is none other than the Spirit of that Eternal One, forever instant and urgent in all natural creatures and events, most in the conscious soul in which they reach their present culmination, not without tender, sweet and solemn presages of yet better things to

be, on this side and the other of that solemn night which rounds our mortal joys and sorrows with its quiet sleep.—*Christian Register*.

THE TREE OF LIFE.

Let Christ be your tree of life and you the vine. Form a creeping union between you and that tree. The tendrils from which you will draw your sustenance will be your faith. Grow with him and draw your divine sustenance from the tree. Faith fastens all to Christ. What is the result of this union? We accept the truth whether we understand it or not. We know that the union of States has made this the most happy and prosperous nation on earth. When we are united in Christ there is no condemnation for us. He takes upon himself your sins and mine. From such union must grow a holy life within. If within us there is a living union with the Spirit, I show the Spirit in my nature, and my exterior shows that God is incarnated. What speech, what manner, should we have if Christ is within us? His is the whole inspiration of right living.—*Rev. E. J. Wolf*.

Danger of Living With Consumptives.

Is real danger because the sputum of affected persons diffuses itself through the air and finds lodgment in the system of others. If exposed to consumption use fragrant healing Catarrhazone, the most efficient germicide known. No case of catarrh can withstand Catarrhazone which cures this loathsome disease thoroughly. Cold in the head is cured in a few minutes, and bronchitis, asthma and lung trouble are cured to stay cured if Catarrhazone is employed. "I don't know any remedy so good for catarrh and bronchitis as Catarrhazone," writes N. T. Eaton, of Knowlton. "It cured me after years of suffering and saved me from consumption. Two months' treatment \$1.00; trial size 25c."

Nothing is sweeter than love, nothing stronger, nothing higher, nothing broader, nothing better either in heaven or earth, because love is born of God, and, rising above all created things, can find its rest in him alone.—*Thomas A. Kempis*.

When your joints are stiff and your muscles are sore from cold or rheumatism; when you sprain or bruise yourself, Perry Davis' Pain Killer will take out the soreness and fix you right in a jiffy. Avoid substitutes.

How careful one ought to be to be kind and thoughtful of one's old friends. It is so soon too late to be good to them, and then one is always so grieved.—*Sarah Orne Jewett*.

They Drove Pimples Away.—A face covered with pimples is unsightly. It tells of internal irregularities which should long since have been corrected. The liver and the kidneys are not performing their functions in the healthy way they should, and these pimples are to let you know that the blood protests. Parmelee's Vegetable Pills will drive them all away, and will leave the skin clear and clean. Try them, and there will be another witness to their excellence.

It is an excellent plan to have some place to go to be quiet when things vex or grieve us. There are a good many hard times in this life of ours, but we can always bear them if we ask help in the right way.—*Miss Alcott*.

Mark this distinction: A purely local disease of the skin, like barber's itch, is cured by Weaver's Cerate alone. But where the blood is loaded with impurity, as in Salt Rheum, Weaver's S... also should be used.