A Pretty Story About Mrs. Spurgeon.

How Mrs. Spurgeon bore herself in the fire of affliction her friends know well. She was very brave and patient and sweet. Yet at times she had her sad and desponding hours. A curious experience she had on one occasion after a long sickness is worth repeating. "At the close of a very dark and gloomy day," she says, "I lay resting on my couch as the deeper night drew on, and, though all was bright within my cosy little room, some of the external darkness seemed to have entered into my soul, and obscured its spiritual vision. Vainly I tried to see the Divine hand which I knew held mine, and guided my fog-enveloped feet along a steep and slippery path of suffering. In sorrow of heart I asked, 'Why does my Lord thus deal with His child? Why does He so often send sharp and bitter pains to visit me? Why does He permit lingering weakness to hinder the sweet service I long to render to His poor servants? These fretful questions were quickly answered and though in a strange language, no interpreter was needed, save the conscious whisper of my own heart."

"For a while," remarks Mrs. Spurgeon, "silence reigned in the little room, broken only by the crackling of the oak log burning on the hearth. Suddenly I heard a sweet, soft sound of a little, clear, musical note, like the tender trill of a robin, beneath my window. 'What can that be?' I said to my companion, who was dozing in the firelight; 'surely no bird can be singing out there at this time of the year and night?' We listened, and again heard the faint, plaintive notes, so sweet, so melodious, yet mysterious enough to provoke for a moment our undisguised wonder. Presently my friend exclaimed, 'It comes from the log on the fire!' and we soon ascertained that her surmise was correct. The fire was letting loose the imprisoned music from the old oak's inmost heart."

And Mrs. Spurgeon turned this incident into helpful and comforting parable. "Perchance," she said, "the oak had garnered up this song in the days when all went well with him, when birds twittered merrily on his branches, and the soft sunlight flecked his tender leaves with gold; but he had grown old since then and hardened; ring after ring of knotty growth had sealed up the long forgotten melody, until the fierce tongues of the flames came to consume his callousness, and the vehement heat of the fire wrung from him at once a song and a sacrifice. Ah! thought I, when the fire of affliction draws songs of praise from us, then indeed we are purified and our God glorified. Some of us are like the old oak log—cold, hard and insensible; we should give forth no melodious sounds were it not for the fire which kindles round us, and releases tender notes of trust in him and cheerful compliance with His will. Singing in the fire! Yes! God helping us, if that is the only way to get harmony out of those hard, apathetic hearts, let the furnace be heated seven times hotter than before."—*Southern Baptist.*

RELIGION AT HOME.

A young woman went to live in a house supposed to be a thoroughly religious home. She said afterward that from what she saw in that home she was inclined to think there was very little in religion. She saw disagreement and contention, and strife and unkindness, which did much to lead her toward infidelity. Lovers of Christ, is there not for us a very solemn lesson in this? How closely all we do and say is watched by the world; and if they see in us exhibitions of temper, anger, passion, unkindly feeling, censoriousness, ets., how greatly it will tend to undo all the influence of our professions and our efforts for the cause of God.

One of the great wants of the age is more of Christ in the homes. Let us get so much of the religion of Jesus that we will everywhere exhibit the mind and the temper of Christ. Christ said: "If I be lifted up, I will draw all men unto me." He may be lifted up in our lives, and if so, the drawing influence may be felt. It matters not how gifted the minister or leader, or Christian worker; if there be exhibitions in his life of those things not in harmony with his teachings, it neutralizes his best efforts. Nothing can take the place of a consistent life. Jesus is saying today: "Return to thine own home, and show how great things Jesus hath done unto thee." He has done, and the world will be powerfully drawn to Him.

BEARING HIS BROTHER'S BURDEN.

The *Epworth Herald*, in the following incident, tells of one who followed literally the Master's injunction to "Bear ye one another's burdens":

The Santa Fe railroad once found it necessary to reduce the force employed in the freight department.

Among those who were to be discharged was a man with a wife and half a dozen children, and his salary was the family's only income. Lines appeared in his face as the expiration of his term of service drew near, and his eyes told a story of suffering and despair.

Dean Walters, a fellow-employe, saw all this. It made him sick at heart, and his friends saw that something was the matter, but he kept his thoughts to himself. For a week he watched the other workmen suffer in silence, and at night he could not sleep for thinking of the hardships in store for this man's wife and little ones. Then he made a resolve. Going to the head of the department, he said:

"If I resign my position, will you keep Mr. Blank?"

"Yes," replied the head of the department.

"Accept my resignation," said Walters, and he left the room without another word.

WHERE IS HEAVEN?

A minister one day preached upon heaven. Next morning he was going to town and met one of his old, wealthy members. The brother stopped the preacher and said:

"Pastor, you preached a good sermon on heaven; but you didn't tell me where heaven is."

"Ah," said the preacher, "I am glad of the opportunity this morning. I have just returned from the hill-top up yonder. In that cottage there is a member of our church. She is sick in bed with fever; her two little children are sick in the other bed, and she has not a bit of coal, nor a stick of wood, nor flour, nor meat, nor any bread. If you will go down and buy a sovereign's worth of things—nice provisions—and send them to her, and then go there and say, 'My sister, I have brought these provisions in the name of our Lord and Saviour,' then ask for a Bible and read the 23rd Psalm, and then go down on your knees and pray—and if you don't see heaven before you get through, I'll pay the bill."

The next morning the man said:

"Pastor, I saw heaven and spent fifteen minutes in heaven as certain as you are listening."

God is grieved, acutely pained, when believers fail to trust Him. Such disbelief is a distinct affront to His Majesty. On the other hand the great Creator takes unfeigned delight in those who hope in His mercy. Faith is the hope-bringing principle in life, the constructive principle in all social development.

JOHN J. WEDDALL & SON,

Headquarters for Dress Goods of Every Description.

Our Spring and Summer Goods have arrived and we will be pleased to have your earliest inspection.

Popular Suitings for Spring and Summer will be Voiles, Etamines, Floconnes, Twine Suitings, Panama Suitings, Glorias, Sail Cloths, Roxanas, Melrose, Oxford Voiles, Striped Sicilians, Irish Satin Cloths, Serges, Venetians, Lustres, Vicunas, etc.

☞ We have all these goods in blacks, creams and the newest colorings.

Samples sent by return mail on application.

John J. Weddall & Son,
FREDERICTON, N. B.
AGENTS FOR STANDARD PATTERNS.

HALL'S VEGETABLE SICILIAN Hair Renewer

Always restores color to gray hair, all the dark, rich color it used to have. The hair stops falling, grows long and heavy, and all dandruff disappears. An elegant dressing. If your druggist cannot supply you, send $1.00 to R. P. HALL & CO., Nashua, N. H.

WEAVER'S SYRUP

is a reliable preparation for Purifying the Blood and thus cures permanently

Boils
Erysipelas
Scrofula
Eczema

which arise from it's derangement.

Davis & Lawrence Co., Ltd.,
MONTREAL. Proprietors, NEW YORK.

One of the Many.

Mrs. G. D. Allen, of Baie Verts Road, N. B., suffered from severe cramps for several years, obtaining only temporary relief from doctors. She was also greatly afflicted for four years with Salt Rheum in her hands. She was advised to try

GATES'
Life of Man Bitters
and Invigorating Syrup.

This she did, also using Gates' Nerve Ointment on her hands. She has written us explaining how after 3 months' treatment she has been permanently cured of both diseases, and she is now recommending others to give these medicines a trial.

For further information address

C. GATES, SON & CO.,
MIDDLETON, N. S.

FREE TO ALL
A Silver Plated Teapot

Consumers of National Blend Tea, without doubt the best Blend Tea on the market, when you have bought twenty pounds you will receive a Silver Plated Teapot free of charge.

The cheapest House in town to buy Flour.

D. W. Estabrook & Sons.
York St. and Westmorland,
FREDERICTON, N. B.