

ADJUSTING EXPENSES—A TRUE STORY.

Brother and Sister Careful were seated by their cozy fire on New Year's day. They made a careful review of the year's receipts and expenses. The returns had not been what they had expected. The surplus was small. Then they began to talk about the year just beginning, and to lay plans. That which seemed to impress Brother Careful most was that "there must be retrenchment." They must economize, and they would as well begin it now as to wait. The sooner begun the better.

"One thing sure, my dear," said Brother Careful, "we must cut down some of our expenses; we must spend less this year."

"Yes," said his wife, "we will have to deny ourselves of some things which we have enjoyed in the past. I have already begun to think what I shall deny myself."

"That's the way it has to be," said her husband, "and we might just as well decide what it is we shall cut off, and begin it now."

So the two sat silently meditating over their problem. After a few moments the good wife said:

"I have had my heart set on going to see my sister, and I don't see how I can abandon the idea. I haven't seen her in two years; and besides the trip will be so full of pleasure, I don't feel that I can give it up."

"No, my dear," said her husband, "you should by all means make that trip. The round trip is only forty dollars, and you certainly can afford that."

"But the railroad fare is only a part of it," she replied. "If I go it will require two or three extra dresses for the occasion, and quite a good lot of accessories."

"How much extra do you think it will require to fit you out?" he asked.

"Oh, about one hundred and fifty dollars. I think I can make out on that amount."

"Oh, well," said her husband, "if that is all, then we will count that as part of the year's plans. Is there nothing else you think of, dear?"

"Well, our surrey has been in use now two years, and the polish is about all gone. It looks as though we will just have to sell it, and buy a new one. Why, I am really ashamed to ride in it, and especially since the Highfliers have such a lovely one."

"Yes, indeed, we must have a new surrey. I couldn't think of you driving to the club meeting in that old trap, and stopping it alongside the Highfliers' carriage. No, indeed, we'll get a new one. We can get a new one with the old one and two hundred dollars."

"Well, we will count that settled," said his wife. So they went over a good long list of things in which she was most interested, and found none that could be dispensed with, though some of them were pretty expensive.

They next took up the case of Brother Careful, to see what he could deny himself of, that expenses might be cut down. The trip to the grand lodge just must be made. He simply could not think of cutting that out. He hadn't missed a session in six years, and though it usually cost him about seventy-five to a hundred dollars, he got his money's worth in pleasure. A long list was gone over, and nearly everything seemed to be such that it "just must be." He could not give up his membership in the fishing and hunting club; he must keep up his lodge dues; his cigars and tobacco were necessities that could not be dispensed with, and it began to look as though the economy and retrenchment could not be inaugurated.

After some moments of silence he spoke up, saying: "Wife, I have been thinking of our church expenses. It seems to me we have been altogether too profligate in that matter. Why, last year I paid our preacher twenty-five dollars, and gave five dollars for missions, and Brother Closefit, who is worth twice as much as I am, only gave twenty dollars all told."

"Yes, but there was Sister Goodly, who isn't worth half so much as you, and she gave over fifty dollars."

"I know it," he said, "but Sister Goodly is something of a fanatic in matters of that sort, and women are not supposed to rank one in business matters."

So the two sat and talked the matter over at great length, and finally decided to cut their contributions to the church expenses in half, and to stop their church paper, because times were so hard they "simply could not afford it."—Christian Courier.

A BOY'S INFLUENCE.

"I wonder why Samuel Darrow is so much loved," said a visitor at the house of a friend of the Darrows.

"I know," piped a little voice, "it's 'cause Sam loves everybody."

"How do you know Sam loves everybody?"

"'Cause I sees he does. Now there's little Jim Blake, his father drinks, and sometimes Jim don't bring any lunch to school. Then Sam divides his lunch with little Jim always. And when the boys made fun of Jim Short because his elbows were out, Sam gave 'em a look that they won't forget in a hurry."

"A look! What would boys care for a look?"

"Well, sir, if you'd seen Sam's look you'd understand. It was just as if he'd said: 'Now, ain't you 'shamed of yourselves—making fun of a poor little fellow, who wears the best he's got?'"

"Doesn't that look of Sam's make the boys angry?"

"No sir, it makes 'em ashamed, and they like Sam all the better for it."

"Oh, I couldn't begin to tell you all he does, but he's forever doin' something for somebody. That day tiny Dick Mill got hurt, Sam carried him all the way home in his arms, an' Dick just loves Sam. When Burt Brown broke his leg, Sam went to see him every day; and when Billy Chester was sick, you'd ought to've seen the nice thing Sam took him."

"But what has Sam Darrow done for you?"

The little fellow's face flushed, then he said in a low voice, looking up deprecatingly: "You wouldn't think I came near being a thief and a liar once, but it's so. I found something I wanted, and no one knew but Sam. 'I'm going to keep it,' I told him; 'they won't know who's got it.' Sam gave me that look, then he said, 'But you will know, and so will God.' So I took it back to the owner."—Sel.

WHY DO WE SAY SO MUCH ABOUT HOLINESS?

We have several reasons, among them the following:

1. Because the Bible says so much about it.
2. Because religious people generally say so little about it.
3. Because it is imperatively commanded of God, and we are His witnesses to the whole truth.
4. Because it does so much for us now here in this life.
5. Because of what it promises us in the life beyond.
6. Because it is the only preparation for life, work, death, heaven, and the fellowship of God, and the saints in light.
7. Because we love to talk about it; we are full of it, and from the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh.
8. Because it glorifies God and exalts Jesus, who shed his blood that we might be made holy.
9. Because it is our occupation, our business; for He hath called us with a holy calling.
10. Because we have a perfect right to our King says: "Let the redeemed of the Lord say so."

Now, allow us to ask you one question. Why don't you say more about it?—Fenton.

AFRAID OF IT.

I once asked a young man how he had escaped the drink temptation when some of his companions and college chums were drawn into its depths.

"I was always afraid of it," he said: "I saw what it had done for the drunkards who frequented the saloons, and for the tramps and loafers who were once far better men. The honest truth is that I was and am afraid of it."

In this very willingness to acknowledge that he was afraid of drink lay the resistance of the temptation. When asked to drink by companions he had the strength of will to refuse, fearing the consequence. If they taunted him with being "afraid," a simple "yes" in acknowledgement of his fear took away from them much of their power to torment him.—Sel.

Does any man wound thee? Not only forgive, but work into thy thought intelligence of the kind of pain, that thou mayst never inflict it on another spirit.—Margaret Fuller.

LOST OPPORTUNITIES.

I lost the opportunity to engage that unsaved friend in conversation about his soul.

I lost the opportunity to testify for Christ in the prayer meeting.

I lost the opportunity to respond to the message from the preacher's lips when the Spirit prompted me.

I lost the opportunity of saying a kind word to that old lady who seemed so discouraged.

I lost the opportunity to let my light shine as a Christian when I attended that social function.

I lost my opportunity to give to that worthy cause, because I had made no provision for the Lord's share.

I lost—I lost—I lost!!! O, this sad wail that falls from the lips of so many professing Christians. Awake! my friend, to the passing hours freighted with golden opportunities to say a kind word, bind up the broken-hearted, or lead a soul to Christ.—Soul Winner.

JOINT HEIRS WITH CHRIST.

A dying judge, the day before his departure to be with Christ, said to his pastor, "Do you know enough about law to understand what is meant by joint tenancy?"

"No," was the reply. "I know nothing about law, I know a little about grace, and that satisfies me."

"Well," he said, "if you and I were joint tenants on a farm, I could not say to you, 'That is your hill of corn, and this is mine; but we would share and share alike in everything on the place. I have just been lying here and thinking with unspeakable joy, that Jesus Christ has nothing apart from me, that everything He has is mine, and we will share and share alike through all eternity.'—Sel.

A PRECIOUS HERITAGE.

Sweetness of temper is a precious heritage. It gives beauty to everything. It keeps its windows open toward the spice country and fills the home with perpetual delight. The fortunate possessor of a sunny soul is God's evangel in a dark world. He is a living gospel which no one will repudiate, and the blessedness of which all men will appreciate. The body will grow old and the smooth brow will be furrowed, but a happy disposition is an aureole to the gray crown of age. Blessed is he whose life looks out upon the land of Beulah and whose soul is responsive to the outlying vision.—Selected.

A PROOF OF THY LOVE.

Do you show your love by your works? While you have time, as you have opportunity, do you in fact "do good to all men," neighbors or strangers, friends or enemies, good or bad? Do you do them all the good you can, endeavoring to supply all their wants, assisting them both in body and soul, to the utmost of your power? If thou art thus minded—may every Christian say yes—if thou art but sincerely desirous of it, and following on till thou attain, then "thy heart is right as my heart."—John Wesley.

OUR INHERITANCE.

A God-fearing man was one day walking to church with a New Testament in his hand, when a friend who met him said:

"Good morning, Mr. Price."

"Ah, good morning," replied he. "I am reading my Father's will as I walk along."

"Well, what has He left you?" said his friend.

"Why, He has bequeathed me a hundredfold more in this life, and in the world to come life everlasting."—Sel.

The secret of happiness is never to allow your energies to stagnate.—Adam Clark.

Spirit-filled men must always be aggressive men. The Holy Ghost does not enter into men, to quiet them into inactivity, but to arouse them to active service.—Sel.

HATING SIN, PLEASING GOD.

Never do we so truly hate sin, as when we hate it for its own ugliness and deformity: even as we never love God so truly, as when we love Him for His own beauty and excellence. If we calculate aright, as we shall find nothing better than God Himself, for which we should love Him; so, neither shall we find anything worse than sin itself, for which we should hate it.—John Smith.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S COLUMN.

TEN LITTLE SMILES.

One little smile ran off alone to play, Conquered a pout it found on the way.

Two little smiles instead of one, Overtook a second pout—my, what fun!

Three little smiles said: "Come with us," Meeting a wee frown is a needless fuss.

Four little smiles at a merry pace, Whisked off a baby frown from an anxious face.

Five little smiles—a very jolly mix!— Overtook another pout; smiles now six.

Six little smiles—over half eleven— Enticed away another frown; now the smiles are seven.

Seven little smiles—what a lucky fate!— Met a tiny wee-begone, little band of eight.

Eight little smiles all in a line, Surrounded a pucker—see, the smiles are nine!

Nine smiles now in all—courageous little men— Took a stray pout prisoner, and swelled the ranks to ten.

Isn't it amazing—yet it's really true— What a single little smile all by itself can do!

ALBERT F. CALDWELL.

HOME RESPONSIBILITY.

Every girl who has arrived at years of discretion and remains at home, should assume some responsibility, and interest herself in home duties and be made to feel that she has a part and place in the home life; and that its duties must be borne by all the members of the family in common, and that she must do her part towards contributing to the general comfort of the home. A girl in her teens, at home, with no home duties, no responsibilities, and no interest in her home, can never become fitted for life by simply attending a gymnasium or a dancing school, nor can they without home duties and responsibilities ever make her helpful and happy.

In every Christian family, especially where an idle or useless life is considered unchristlike, the home duties and responsibilities have the first claim upon every one. None need to go abroad for work when God places work within her reach. "The daily round, the common task, provides ample opportunities for serving God and making the home happy by doing whatever our hands find to do." Even if we feel that we are capable of doing greater things we should remember that if the Lord has put us in the home, while there it is the place where we can serve him best and make others happy as well as ourselves.

But aside from the requirements of religion, even where no profession of Christianity is made, home and home duties commend themselves to every inmate—the baby as well as the more advanced in life; and one of the most common mistakes, especially in well-to-do families, nowadays, is to bring up a girl to do nothing for the homemaking. Aside from the good she could do others by making herself useful, she acquires habits in this way which will make her contented with life, and happy in the consciousness that she is useful and helpful to others.

"I really don't know what to do about my daughter Mary," said a perplexed mother who had come to an outspoken but kindly old physician for advice. "She seems so listless and does not seem to have any interest in life, and she's so irritable at times. I don't think that she has exercise enough, and I want to know what you think about my sending her to a gymnasium or to dancing school. She's tired of her bicycle, and the lawn tennis season is past. What would you advise?"

"How old is she?" asked the doctor.

"Nearly nineteen."

"Can she cook?"

"Oh, no; she knows nothing about cooking."

"Can she sweep?"

"No; my maid does all the sweeping."

"Does she take care of her own room and make her own bed?"

"No; I do all that. Her room is next to mine, and I've always attended to that since she was a child."

"Doesn't she have any part whatever in the household duties?"

"Well, really, no, I cannot say that she has."

"Then she has no duties, no responsibilities, no sense of obligation, no part in the work to be done that you and others are doing in your household?"

"Well, no."

"Then, madame," said the doctor, frankly, "your daughter has no need of a gymnasium in which to spend her pent up energies. I don't wonder that she is irritable and unhappy."

"What would you advise?" asked the mother weakly.

"I would advise you to make her feel that she is one of the family, and as such is responsible for her part of the homemaking. Give her a definite part to perform; let her make her own bed, and yours too if necessary, and she will soon become interested in life."

The mother took the doctor at his word and found the remedy as he had prophesied. It will work in every such case.—Christian Work.

SAW AND SUPPOSED.

Certain Jews from Asia who came to Jerusalem, 'saw' Paul in the city with Trophimus, an Ephesian, and 'supposed' that Paul had brought him into the temple, and so were bent on the apostle's destruction. Acts 22:27-29.

The Pharisees 'saw' Jesus eating with Publicans and sinners. They 'supposed' he was a gluttonous man and a wine bibber. Matt. 11:19.

They 'saw' Him let a sinful woman kiss His feet. They 'supposed' He was at least ignorant of her true character. They never dreamed that He had God's vision of the woman's heart. Luke 7:39.

Some miners saw two of their company quarreling, afterwards they 'saw' that one of them was missing, and 'saw' up on the hillside a new made grave; they 'supposed' the miner had murdered his companion and immediately lynched him without a word of explanation. Only when the missing miner returned, and they found the body of a dead fox in the new made grave did they realize their injustice, but it was too late.

A friend of mine had naturally wavy hair. As she was leading a meeting she lifted the standard very high. A lady 'saw' her wavy hair and 'supposed' she had crimped it with a hot iron and severely reproved her for wasting time in prinking before a glass. My friend did not defend herself or deny the charge, but quietly replied:

"Let us get down and talk with the Lord." And the Holy Spirit melted the company and richly blessed them.

She 'saw' that her husband was quiet and something was the matter, and 'supposed' he was offended with her, but he was only ill and abstracted.

He 'saw' that no letter came in answer to his enquiry and 'supposed' that his friend had not written, but later he discovered that the letter had been delayed in the foreign post nine days by quarantine.

We 'saw' that he did not come to the train to meet us when we arrived, not according to the appointment when we left, and 'supposed' he was careless about keeping his engagements, but most important business held him the first time and illness hindered him the second time.

She 'saw' her umbrella was not in its place and 'supposed' that her friend had taken it, but it turned out that she had not put it away the last time she used it.

Oh, how prolific is the family "I saw" and "I supposed." But love never sees and love never supposes. "Love thinketh no evil." "Love never faileth."

A little company of us spent some hours with W. P. Bay only a few days before he died. We were talking about slander. He said, "I never listen to it." Then he told us that only a short time before, somebody spoke a sentence to him concerning a mutual friend before he had time to stop it.

He replied, "I do not believe a word of it."

"But suppose it was true, you could not fellowship with her."

"Why not fellowship with her?" Why she would need me all the more and I should love her all the more, and she should never know by any look or word of mine that evil had been spoken to me against her."

The true followers of Jesus drop out of their lives all supposing. They, like Him, are not here to judge but to save. John 3:17. They never "imagine evil" in their "heart" against a "brother." They "judge" not according to appearance but judge righteous judgment." John 7:24.—Abbie C. Morrow.