

IT IS BETTER.

Keep a smile on your lips; it is better
To joyfully, hopefully try,
For the end you would gain, than to fetter
Your life with a moan and a sigh.
There are clouds in the firmament ever
The beauty of heaven to mar,
Yet night so profound there is never
But somewhere is shining a star.

Keep a song in your heart; it will lighten
The duty you hold in your hand;
Its music will graciously brighten
The work your high purpose has planned.
Your notes to the lives that are saddened
May make them to hopefully yearn,
And earth shall be wonderfully gladdened
By songs they shall sing in return.

Keep a task in your hands, you must labor;
By toil is true happiness won;
For foe and for friend and for neighbor,
Rejoice there is much to be done.
Endeavor, by crowning life's duty
With joy-giving song and with smile,
To make the world fuller of beauty
Because you were in it a while.
—Selected.

EASY WHEN WE'RE YOUNG.

An old teacher was once taking a walk
through a forest with a scholar by his side.
The old man suddenly stopped and pointed
to four plants just at hand. The first was just
beginning to peep above the ground and the
second had rooted itself pretty well into the
earth, the third was a small shrub, while the
fourth and last was a full-sized tree. The tutor
said to his young companion:

"Pull up the first."

The boy easily pulled it up with his fingers.

"Now pull up the second."

The youth obeyed, but not so easily.

"And now the third."

The boy had to put forth all his strength
and use both arms to uproot it.

"And now," said the master, "try your
hand upon the fourth."

But lo! the trunk of the tall tree grasped
in the arms of the youth, hardly shook its
leaves.

"This, my son, is just what happens with
our bad habits. When they are young we can
cast them out readily, but only divine power
can uproot them when they are old.—*Ex.*

A HINT TO BOYS.

I stood in the store of a merchant the other
day when a boy came in and applied for a situation.

"Can you write a good hand?" he was asked.

"Yaas."

"Good at figures?"

"Yaas."

"That will do; I do not want you," said the
merchant.

"But," said I, when the boy had gone, "I
know that lad to be an honest, industrious boy.
Why don't you give him a chance?"

"Because he hasn't learned to say, 'Yes, sir,'
and 'No, sir.' If he answered me as he did
when applying for a situation, how will he answer
customers when he has been here a month?"—*Pittsburg Christian Advocate.*

God will put up with a great many things
in the human heart, but there is one thing He
will not put up with in it—a second place.—
John Ruskin.

If a pastor goes home to his church or circuit
all dried up in his experiences, manifested
by dry sermons, his church can rest assured he
has been resting—from prayer. He has not
with joy drawn water from the wells of salvation.

"We do not worship a dead Christ; we worship
a living Christ, who enters into these
lives of ours, and saves them, and sways them,
and uplifts them to an ultimate perfection of
strength and purity and beauty."

"The rise in the road is never as steep
when you come to it as it looked when you saw
it ahead."

"Christianity is a religion that will not
keep; the only thing to do with it is to use it,
spend it, give it away."

"Be sure that straightforwardness is more
than a match at last for all the involved windings
of deceit."—*F. W. Robertson.*

"The first untruth, the first profane word,
the first evil of any kind, makes a pathway
for others to follow. Be careful to guard
against the first sin."

"The only question worthy of immortals
is not what I can get out of life but what
can I put into life."

"Fidelity in trifles and an earnest seeking
to please God in little matters is a test of
real devotion and love."

He that is choice of his time will be choice
of his company, and choice of his actions.—
Jeremy Taylor.

"What must I do to be saved, Believe
on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be
saved."—*Acts 10:30, 31.*

"Once having determined in your conscience
that you are sailing under the right
colors, nail them to the mast."

Instead of a gem or even a flower, cast
the gift of a lovely thought into the heart of
a friend.—*George MacDonald.*

"It is the way of the transgressor that is
hard. Christ's yoke is the only straining
harness we can ever wear."

To keep calm and fair-minded toward
those whom we dislike is a duty which is none
the less real because difficult."

Never make a plan without seeking God's
guidance; never achieve a success without giving
God the praise.—*A. T. Pierson.*

He who is false to present duty breaks a
thread in the loom and will find the flaw when
he may have forgotten the cause.—*H. W. Beecher.*

Know the true value of time; snatch, seize,
and enjoy every moment of it. No idleness,
no laziness, no procrastination: never put off
till tomorrow what you can do to-day.—*Earl of Chesterfield.*

If your foot slip, you may recover your balance,
but if your tongue slip, you cannot recall
your words.—*Telugu Proverb.*

"Remember that your best friends are your
father and mother, and have nothing to do
with those who think otherwise."

"The habit of saving is a significant trademark
upon any young man's life. And the habit of
saving time is more important than the habit of
saving money."

"Putting up with things that cannot be
helped means courage; putting up with things
that can be helped means cowardice.—*Lutheran Young People.*

"Every time that we yield to temptation,
It is easier for us to do wrong;
Every time we resist temptation,
It is easier for us to be strong."

No one can ask honestly or hopefully to
be delivered from temptation unless he himself
has honestly and firmly determined to do
the best he can to keep out of it.—*John Ruskin.*

"Censure and criticism never hurt anybody.
If false, they cannot harm you unless you are
wanting in character; and if true, they show
a man his weak points, and forewarn him
against failure and trouble."

Nothing is sweeter than love, nothing more
courageous, nothing higher, nothing wider,
nothing more pleasant, nothing fuller nor better
in heaven and earth, because love is of God
and cannot rest but in God.—*Thomas A. Kempis.*

Am I to thank God for everything? Am
I to thank him for bereavement, for pain, for
poverty, for toil?—Be still, my soul, thou hast
misread the message. It is not to give thanks
for everything, but to give thanks in everything.—*George Matheson, D.D.*

The short paragraphs used in this issue
were selected from "The Presbyterian Record,"
which is an excellent monthly of about 44
pages. 68,000 copies are published monthly.
Sample copies can be obtained free by addressing
The Presbyterian Record, Y. M. C. A.
Building, Montreal.

PATIENCE.

Sir Robertson Nicoll says on patience as a
Christian grace: "Patience, of which our Lord
speaks, is not the mere patience of nature. It
is the patience of grace. It is the patience of
hope and faith. It is not mere doggedness
and resolution. It is something more than
fortitude; it is the patience which not only
keeps our true selves, but makes our true selves.
It is a great thing to have the courage necessary
to resist trouble. It is a far greater thing
to have the patience that takes something out
of trouble, something which makes a new character,
something which anneals the spirit,
something which gives a new power of discerning
and loving and reverencing. To remain
under pain and trouble and to live in spite of
them is something, but far greater is the
achievement which permanently enriches the
soul."—*Alliance Weekly.*