

## THE PROP.

After the lesson of the evening had been presented, prayer indulged, and songs sung, the pastor opened the mid-week prayer service for personal testimony. The first to respond bore evidence of having least of the world's material comforts. She made her living meager though it was, over the wash-tub; but as Aunt Emmo rubbed and rinsed and dried and ironed one washing after another she thought out her problems to her own edification, and, in the particular testimony of this evening, for all assembled.

"I couldn't live without this mid-week visit to the house of God, she began. "The weeks are pretty long, longer I fear for a laboring woman than for any one else. I must have this hour as a sort of prop.

"It's this way: If I took a basket of damp clothes out in the yard, pinned forty or fifty garments on a line that stretched from one corner of the yard to the other, there'd be an awful sag and the line might snap. One of my washings did fall to the ground last week, and I had to put it back in the tub. What I do is to get a good strong prop, put it under the very middle of the long line and in that way not only is the line kept from breaking, but my washing is safe out of the dirt.

"Brothers and sisters, it's a long distance from Sunday morning to Sunday morning and there's lots of chances for a spiritual sag. You go hanging one day after another along the line of the week with the hundred and one trials and troubles and the first thing you know the strain will begin to show and like as not something's going to snap. The Wednesday evening prayer hour is the prop to put under the middle of that line of days. Brothers and sisters, I simply can't keep my soul refreshed down through the long days of a week without this spiritual prop."

And everyone who knew Aunt Emma was conscious that her words not only came from the heart: but that they had gone straight to the hearts of those present with homely force. The mid-week prayer service is a spiritual prop to take the sag out of the days.—N. W. Christian Advocate.

## WHEN SHALL WE LEARN?

What a vast portion of our lives is spent in anxious and useless forebodings concerning our own future or that of our dear ones! Present blessings slip by, and we miss half their sweet flavor, and all for want of faith in Him who provides for the tiniest insect in the sunbeam. Oh, when shall we learn the sweet trust in God that our little children teach us every day by their confiding faith in us? We, who are so mutable, so faulty, so irritable, so unjust; and He, who is so watchful, so pitiful, so loving, so forgiving. Why can not we, slipping our hand in His each day, walk trustingly over that day's appointed path, thorny, or flowery, crooked or straight, knowing that evening will bring us sleep, peace and home?—Phillips Brooks.

The way to stop the movie is to show nothing but clean pictures.

## ALONE.

It is human to stand with the crowd, it is divine to stand alone. It is manlike to follow the people, to drift with the tide; it is godlike to follow a principle, to stem the tide.

It is natural to compromise conscience and follow the social and religious fashion for the sake of gain or pleasure; it is divine to sacrifice both on the altar of truth and duty.

"No man stood with me, but all men forsook me," wrote the battle-scarred apostle in describing his first appearance before Nero to answer for his life for believing and teaching contrary to the Roman world.

Truth has been out of fashion since man changed his robe of fadeless light for a garment of faded leaves.

Noah built and voyaged alone. His neighbors laughed at his strangeness and perished in style.

Abraham wandered and worshipped alone. Sodomites smiled at the simple shepherd, followed the fashion, and fed the flames.

Daniel dined and prayed alone. Elijah sacrificed and witnessed alone. Jeremiah prophesied and wept alone. Jesus loved and died alone.

And of the lonely way His disciples should walk He said: "Straight is the gate and narrow is the way which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it."

Of their treatment by the many who walk in the broad way, He said: "If ye were of the world, the world would love his own; but because ye are not of the world, therefore the world hateth you."

The church in the wilderness praised Abraham and persecuted Moses. The Church of the kings praised Moses and persecuted the Prophets.

The Church of Caiaphas raised the Prophets and persecuted Jesus. The church of the popes praised the Saviour and persecuted the saints. And multitudes now, both in the church and the world, applaud the courage and fortitude of the patriarchs and prophets, the apostles and martyrs, but condemn as stubbornness or foolishness like faithfulness of truth today.

Wanted, today, men and women, young and old, who will obey their convictions of truth and duty at the cost of fortune and friends and life itself.—Sel.

Many churches need more fire in the pulpit and less ice cream in the basement.

## KEEP IT OUT OF THE SHOW WINDOW

"Even if you have a grouch, you needn't put it in the show window," said the newsboy, who was conceded to be the most successful in the bunch. He was a cheery fellow and no doubt had learned that he could do better business if he carried a smiling face. No matter how he felt, there was no advantage in putting the soiled papers on top.

We can not always escape annoyances that have a tendency to produce a grouch, but we do not need to put it in the show window. The control that will keep the grouch out of the face and conduct is the kind of control that will eliminate grouchiness.—Wesleyan Methodist.

## THE PERIL OF INDULGENCE.

Dr. Straton, of New York, calls attention to the danger to sound religion and to democracy in government arising from the extravagance and craze for amusement which has struck our age, especially since the war. He says:

"If we grow a sturdy generation upon downy beds, fancy foods, lazy hours, shows, chewing gum, and dances, we will accomplish the miracle of the ages. If we are to abide as a nation, we must let the ideals of our fathers be wedded to the splendid spirit of modern progress.

The Evangelical Messenger, in a review of the condition of the churches, says: "Time and temper are against the soul's best interest. After seven years of storm and stress we find ourselves, as a people stranded in the hollow of superficiality and folly. Everywhere is a terrible reaction which leaves the masses morally dazed and spiritually deadened. We were promised, we recall, a new world marked by devotion to nobler ideals; we find ourselves in a paradise of fools. Only those who have been faithfully moored in God have weathered the storm unharmed. Only those who have a tight grip upon the Almighty are sure of themselves today."—The Presbyterian.

## IN A TUNNEL.

In the meeting yesterday I was filled with joy and I thought it would never be dark again; and now it is all gone, and I am in the depths. What is the matter with me?"

Have you ever been in a railroad tunnel?"

"Certainly I have," said the young Christian, "but I do not see what that has to do with it."

"When you were in the tunnel did you think the sun had been blotted out of the sky?"

"No, of course not. I knew the sun was in the sky just the same as ever, although I could not see it just then. But what has that to do with my experience?"

"Were you much depressed when going through the dark tunnel?"

"No; I knew I would soon be out into the light."

"And did you get out?"

"I am out now!" was the joyful reply. "I see what you mean. Divine facts are just the same, no matter how I feel, and I am to rejoice in the facts, not in my feelings. I see! I see!"

"Just so. The work of Christ is the same, the Word of God is the same. Our feelings can not alter what Christ has done or what God has said—and that is the ground of our peace!"—Sel.

"A Mohammedan contractor was building a line of railroad in India, and had to advance money in hiring his laborers, obtaining security from them in turn. But a missionary noticed that he demanded no security from the Christian coolies, and asked why. 'I know your people,' answered the Mohammedan; 'their religion is sufficient security. I can trust them.' This is one proof that a man has been saved: 'By their faults ye shall know them.'"