

PERSONAL WORK.

Have you ever wondered why it is that most people find it easy to talk on almost any subject in the world but religion? Some become tongue-tied, some are embarrassed, and others are offended if you try to introduce the question of religion. A writer tells about a young girl on a train who was very indignant because a preacher, who had known her a long time, had dared to ask her about her soul. Later when the minister had left the train and another friend had taken the seat beside her, she poured forth the story into his ears.

"Why, he even asked me if I were sure I was really on the road to heaven," she said. "He had no right to talk like that to me and make me feel perfectly dreadful."

"What did the conductor say to you when you boarded the train?" her friend asked.

"He only asked me where I was going."

"And you didn't mind it at all. You know that he was asking you to save you from a possible mistake. The preacher had the same motive, only the case was a good deal more serious."

Very different is a story related by Dr. Pentecost, who says that it was with some fear and trembling that he once ventured to ask a certain great man if he were a Christian.

Courteously the man answered and allowed him to continue the conversation. At the close Pentecost said: "I hope you have not considered me impertinent in speaking so abruptly on this subject." Grasping his hands with tears in his eyes, the man answered: "Don't ever hesitate to speak to any man about his soul. I have been longing for twenty years to have some one to speak to me. I believe that there are thousands of men in this city who are in the same condition that I am, carrying an uneasy conscience and a great burden on their souls, not courageous enough to seek instruction, yet who would willingly receive it."—S. S. Lesson Illustrator.

A case of this kind occurred to a young girl whose husband was the only professing Christian of the family she had married into. Her father-in-law was a prosperous merchant, and a kind hearted man, but he took no interest in religion, and seldom entered a church but to attend a funeral or a wedding. The girl had never ventured to speak to him about salvation, but she did live a Christian life before him. About a year after her marriage she got courage to invite him to go to a special revival service with her, and much to her surprise, he consented at once.

At the close of the sermon there was an earnest call for seekers to come to the altar, and the girl felt that she ought to ask her father-in-law to go. And yet her heart sank with fear at the bare thought of it.

"He will think you are impertinent; he has sense enough to decide for himself without interference. And if you offend him he will probably never come back to church with you," the devil whispered into her ear.

A severe struggle was taking place in the girl's heart, so that when she did turn to her father-in-law, and pled with him to

seek the Lord, her eyes were filled with tears, and her voice was trembling. "My dear, I have stood here wondering if you cared enough for my soul to speak to me about it," the man said. "People have not seemed to care very much. And I believe it would have been the disappointment of my life if you had let this opportunity go by."

How different this was from what the enemy had told her. "I learned then that there is no use paying attention to his advice, for it is always based on falsehood," said the young woman afterward. "And I saw a new beauty and truth in God's Word which tells us to be instant in season and out of season."—Sel.

TEN REASONS FOR A FAMILY ALTAR.

"Because it will send you forth to the daily task with cheerful heart, stronger for the work, truer to duty and determined in whatever is done therein to glorify God.

"Because it will give you strength to meet the discouragements, the disappointments, the unexpected adversities and sometimes the blighted hopes that may fall to your lot.

"Because it will make you conscious throughout the day of the attending presence of an unseen, Divine One, Who will bring you through more than conqueror over the unholy thought or thing that rises up against you.

"Because it will sweeten home life and enrich home relationship as nothing else can do.

"Because it will resolve all the misunderstanding and relieve all the friction that sometimes intrudes into the sacred precincts of family life.

"Because it will hold as nothing else the boys and girls when they have gone out from underneath the parental roof and so determine very largely the eternal salvation of your children.

"Because it will exert a helpful, hallowed influence over those who may at any time be guests within the home.

"Because it will enforce as nothing else can do the work of your pastor in pulpit and in pew and stimulate the life of your church in its every activity.

"Because it will furnish an example and a stimulus to other homes for the same kind of life and service and devotion to God.

"Because the Word of God requires it and in thus obeying God we honor Him who is the giver of all good and the source of all blessing."

Dr. Biederwolf relates the following interesting incident:

"The story is told of a little Japanese girl who studied at an American college and spent a Christmas vacation in the home of one of her class-mates. She had seen much else in America, but the thing she longed most of all to see on the inside was a Christian home, and such a home this one was known to be. She had a delightful time, and as she was about to leave at the end of the vacation time the mother said: 'How do you like the way we American folks live?' 'Oh,' she said, 'I love it. Your home is wonderful. But there is one thing I miss, said the girl, with a far-away look in her eyes. 'It is

this that makes your home seem queer to me. You know I have been with you to your church, and I have seen you worship your God there. But I have missed the God in your home. You know, in Japan, we have a god-shelf in every home, with the gods right there in the house. Do not Americans worship their God in their homes?"

Christianity can never influence our country unless it pervades the home life.—The Christian Nation.

WRECK CAUSED BY THE MOVIES.

We heard a young man who had recently been converted testify at a camp meeting last summer that when he attended the moving picture shows and saw a thrilling exhibition of some daring exploit he felt like going out and doing the same thing himself. The following from the New York Tribune is another evidence of the pernicious effects of these moving pictures:

Fred Poller, eighteen years old, made it clear to the Newark police and railroad detectives just how and why the locomotive, water tender and first coach of a train on the Central Railroad of New Jersey were derailed and overturned at Port Newark recently.

Fred confided that he had seen such a stunt on the screen and for a long time had wanted to have a train wreck of his own creation. So he set about finding a train to wreck and a place to wreck it. He went to a switch near Maple Creek in the Jersey Meadows, and with a rod of pig iron broke the switch lock, he told the police, and placed two iron bolts in the four sections of the switch after swinging it wide open.

Then along came a passenger train bound from Elizabethport for Broad Street, Newark. That was at noon. There was a rasping sound as the train struck the derail, and the locomotive turned over on its side, the water tender and the first coach following. No one was injured. The wreck was kept a secret until the railroad detectives arrested Poller.—Free Methodist.

TIME.

Time is one of the most sacred things with which we have to do. Every moment brings to us opportunities both to do good or to do evil. Nor can we excuse ourselves from duty on the ground that we 'haven't time.' We have 'all the time there is.' It is simply a question of how to use it.

Some people have plenty of time to promote their own interests, but little or no time to help those in need; plenty of time to read novels, but little or no time to read the Bible; little or no time for Christian service; plenty of time for entertainment, but little or no time for prayer meetings; plenty of time for foolishness, but little or no time for Jesus. Will we improve our time, or will we waste it?—Gospel Herald.

"We never know for what God is preparing us in His schools—for what work in the hereafter. Our business is to do our work well in the present place—whatever that may be."