

SECRET PRAYER.

"But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly"—Matt. 6:6.

When you have entered into your closet and shut the door, it is then your privilege as a Christian to open up direct communications with the Throne of grace and pour out your heart to God in supplication and prayer. You are kneeling in a Spiritual atmosphere where the very dew of heaven is falling and surrounded by angels who have been given charge over you and if whisperings of evil come to you they must come from the outside and even if some of them penetrate through that heavenly atmosphere and reach the mind that is no guarantee that they will reach the heart for if you use as a weapon of defense the precious promise that "the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin" you will soon route the enemy.

It is the business of the enemy to put all manner of obstacles and hindrances in your way to keep you from entering your closet, he will plan and plot in many ways to shut the door and bar you out. Be not afraid of his barring your door, the great thing to be afraid of is your being on the outside if he ever does bar it; always make sure that you are on the inside and then victory is yours, you have no fear about getting out again for on your knees you cannot only pray your own door open but doors in Africa, China, Japan, India, and the islands of the seas; doors that have been overgrown for centuries with the vines of priestcraft, idolatry, ancestor worship and superstition, doors that have been barred with prejudice and hatred, doors behind which millions of captives waiting to be set free; yes, you "secret closeter," it is your great and holy privilege to pray open doors for the gospel to enter that no man can shut. Paul had many adversaries, but a great door and effectual was opened unto him. But the great trouble with many of God's children is that they have no closet.—Selected.

THE HILLS ARE STILL THERE.

She was a woman of wonderful faith. Often had it been severely assailed, but it remained firm. One day I said to her, "I wonder if back in your life somewhere there is not a story of the foundation of this faith—or the beginning of it?" And perhaps because I am an old and privileged friend, or perhaps because she knew I would understand, she told me about it.

"It was when I was a very young girl that there was a fire in our village. It was the home of one of my mother's dearest friends that burned. She was a woman to whom my childish heart had deeply attached itself, and her home had become almost a second home to me. I was heart-broken over her loss. I longed, yet dreaded to go to her. When I went the embers of the home were yet red. She was standing in the yard. She saw me coming and came to meet me. After a few moments

she turned away from the blackened ruins and faced the distant hills. I can hear her voice yet—"The hills are still there." It was all she said, but it was the text of the mightiest sermon on faith I ever heard. All through my life that single sentence spoken out of the heart of loss and sadness has wrought itself into my life's experiences. And always as I have looked on these unchanging features of the landscape have I been reminded of the Presence that abides with us unchanged through all human changes and through all the vicissitudes of life."

As she was speaking there flashed into my thought the words:

"When the anchors that faith had cast
Are dragging in the gale,
I am quietly holding fast
To the things that cannot fail."

Oftentimes the shadow lifting reveals a sky of blue of which we little dreamed. We find that "what most seemed reproof was love most true."

When the material is swept away from us, looking away beyond the temporal may we see the eternal. "The hills are still there." And thus our hearts be comforted.—Sel.

HOLINESS.

Holiness is a definite second blessing experience provided for through grace and promised to all God's children. John Wesley writing of that faith by which we are made holy says this: "But what is that faith whereby we are sanctified, saved from sin, and perfected in love? This faith is a divine evidence or conviction—

1. That God hath promised this sanctification in the Holy Scriptures.
2. It is a divine evidence or conviction that what God hath promised He is able to perform.
3. It is a divine evidence or conviction that He is able and willing to do it now.
4. To this confidence that God is able and willing to sanctify us now, there needs to be added one thing more—a divine evidence or conviction that He doth it." (NOW)—Sel.

THE WORDS OF MAN AND THE WORDS OF GOD.

An unbeliever once said, "Gibbons, Voltaire, Chesterfield, Hume and Pain are the champions of infidelity. Their works completely overthrow Christianity."

Let us now see if the above statement is true. In Gibbon's Hotel which he once owned on Lake Lemon is a room now where Bibles are sold. The printing press from which Voltaire's infidel books were once issued, has been used to print the word of God. Chesterfield's parlour, once an infidel club-room, is now a place where Christians meet together for prayer and praise. Hume predicted the death of Christianity in twenty years; but he has gone to his grave, and the first meeting of the Bible Society in Edinburgh was held in the room where this prince of sceptics died. Pain, on landing in New York, was foolish enough to say that in five years not a Bible would be found in the United States. But it is a fact that

there are more Bible Societies in America today than ever in its history.

The words of infidels sometimes sound big, but they and their words pass away and still the gospel of Jesus Christ goes on making the hearts of the weary glad, bettering man's life and fitting him to live and to die.

An infidel woman who denied the truth of the resurrection of the human body, said before she died that she wished to be buried in an iron coffin in a stone vault that she might prove there could be no resurrection. After her death a bird dropped a small seed upon the soil of her grave. It grew little by little each year until its roots began to go down into the cracks of the stones of her tomb. Blessed by the gentle rain and the glowing sun it grew until those little roots became large enough to burst open the grave and throw the iron coffin with her dried bones out upon the open ground.—Selected by A. M.

DARWIN'S TESTIMONY.

"The eminent naturalist and evolutionist, Charles Darwin, dubbed the Patagonian Indians "the missing link" between man and monkey, and declared them incapable of moral discernment. Allen Gardiner accepted the challenge and so wonderful were the results of the missionary work he initiated among those most degraded savages that Darwin later wrote Gardiner's Society: "The results of the Tierra del Fuego Mission are perfectly marvellous, and surprise me the more that I had prophesied complete failure." He actually enclosed in his letter a check for £50 as a contribution to the society, and requested the honor of being made one of its honorary members."

GOD'S BEST.

While the flood of worldliness is sweeping thousands into a cold, formal worship, let us be satisfied with nothing short of God's best. Thank God there has been a rock cleft for us, that will prove to be a safe hiding place if we will only take our shelter there. Above everything our blessed Lord admonishes us that "we be not troubled." Again he said, "Let not your hearts be troubled." There remaineth a rest for the people of God. Hallelujah! Beloved saints, let us see to it that nothing shall be allowed to hinder us from entering into that rest. It is our blood-bought privilege. It is a part of our inheritance in Him. Remember His words, "Hold fast that thou hast, that no man take thy crown."—Selected.

Some would have us believe that God is too good and merciful to send his created things to hell. They will tell you that we as human beings would not do our children in such a cruel way. God doesn't send anybody to hell, they send themselves there because they will not accept the salvation so freely offered. People who reject God's call refuse the only remedy that will prepare them for the mansions of the blessed. The Bible says, "Judas went unto his place." His place was among the damned spirits of eternal night. He would have been out of his place anywhere else.—Sel.