

HE THAT LOSETH HIS LIFE SHALL FIND IT.

If you could have stood beside that little cot in that solitary hut in Ilala where a white man, David Livingstone, was dying alone, except for the black servants, who came to peer in occasionally to see if he needed them and who, when they did come in to wake him, found him dead upon his knees, do you think you would have found him complaining of losing his life as the candle burned low beside his bed in that solitude? To be sure, he had lost his life—one of his lives—but he had found another, a life which spread through Africa, which abides still in Africa, and which molded the world's thought of Africa.—Selected.

EFFECTUAL PRAYER.

An arrow, if it be drawn up a little way, goes not far; but if it be pulled up to the head, it flies swiftly and pierces deep. Thus prayer, if it be only dribbled forth from careless lips, falls at our feet. It is the strength of ejaculation and strong desire which sends it to heaven and makes it pierce the clouds. It is not the arithmetic of our prayers, how many there are; nor the rhetoric of our prayers, how eloquent they be; nor the geometry of our prayers, how long they be; nor the music of our prayers, how sweet our voice may be; nor the logic of our prayers, how argumentative they may be; nor the method of our prayers, how orderly they may be; nor even the divinity of our prayers, how good the doctrine may be—which God cares for. He looks not for the horny knees which James is said to have had through the assiduity of prayer! We might be like Bartholomew, who is said to have a hundred prayers for the morning and as many for the evening, and all might be of no avail. Fervency of spirit is that which availeth much.—Bishop Hall.

MY ALL.

“Laid on thine altar, O my Lord Divine,
Accept this gift I make for Jesus' sake;
I have no jewels to adorn thy shrine—
No far-famed sacrifice to make;
But here within my trembling hand I bring
This will of mine—a thing that seemeth
small,
But Thou, O Lord, canst understand
How when I bring thee this—I bring
thee all.”

BE CHEERFUL.

“Be cheerful. Give this lonesome world a smile.
We stay at longest but a little while.
Hasten we must, or we shall lose the chance
To give the gentle word, the kindly glance.
Be sweet and tender—that is doing good;
’Tis doing what no other kind deed could.”
The oldest person that ever lived did not stay in the world long enough to have a moment to waste on anything so ugly and unavailing as selfishness and sulkiness. Grapple with the first tendency toward it that you find in yourself and be its master for all time.—Sel.

HISTORY PROVES IT.

All history proves the truth of the statement that “if you want a thing done get a busy man to do it.” The Evangel calls attention to this fact by publishing the following list of men whom God called upon for special service:

Moses was busy with the flocks at Horeb.
Gideon was busy threshing wheat by the wine-press.

Saul was busy searching for his father's lost beasts.

David was busy caring for his father's sheep.

Elisha was busy ploughing with twelve yoke of oxen.

Amos was busy following the flock.

Peter and Andrew were busy casting a net into the sea.

James and John were busy mending their nets.

Matthew was busy collecting custom.

Saul was busy persecuting the friends of Jesus.

William Carey was busy mending and making shoes.

John Milton was busy mastering classics.

Adoniram Judson was busy investigating religious truth.

Charles Spurgeon was busy as a teacher.

Don't you think that is pretty good company to be in?—J. Willie Baer.

TOO POUPLAR.

The preacher who is universally popular, “whom none know but to love, whom none name but to praise,” who has aroused no opposition, who has made no enemies, awakened no unkind criticism, has met no resistance, had no conflicts, no friction, no storms, all quiet—and universal calm—such a pastorate should awaken very grave suspicions and severe examination; a strong fear else there had been compromise and surrender at vital points—certainly such a pastorate has come into a perilous region, one accursed of our Lord. “Woe unto you when all men speak well of you, for so did their fathers of the false prophets.” A bad succession to be in!—Sel.

WORK AND PRAY.

“Work: for I am with you, saith the Lord.”—Haggai ii. 4.

I heard a story the other day of an old ferryman, who had painted on one of his oars the word “Pray,” and on the other the word “Work.” A gentleman was one day being rowed by this fisherman across the ferry, when he noticed the words, and, out of curiosity, asked what they meant. The old man did not answer, but, laying down one of his oars, began to pull very hard with the oar on which was painted “Work.” You can guess what happened! The boat made no progress at all, but began to turn round and round! Presently the oar “Work” was laid down, and the oar “Pray” taken up and used; but with the same result! After a moment the ferryman picked up both oars, and, with a few long hard pulls brought the boat to the shore. “Do you see now, sir,” he asked the gentleman, “why I have painted those words on my oars? It is

just to teach us that we must work and pray together, that work by itself will be of no use in God's sight; but that if we want our work to stand in the last day, it must be all sanctified by prayer, and blessed by God.

“The Lord tells us to pray, and He tells us also to work, for He has plenty of work for us all to do in His vineyard.

“Work and pray, pray and work, that's how it should be! No drones in the Lord's hive, but all busy working bees, doing what he gives each one of us to do, and asking Him to bless us in the doing of it.

Well, good morning, sir! may you and I always row our boats with both oars.”

A LESSON IN GIVING.

Nannie had a bright silver dollar given her. She asked her papa to change it into dimes.

“What is that for, dear?” he asked.

“So that I can get the Lord's part out of it.” And when she got it into smaller coins, she laid out one of the ten. “There,” she said, “I will keep that until Sunday.”

And when Sunday came, she went to the box in the church and dropped in two dimes.

“Why, said her father, as he heard the last one jingle in, “I thought you gave one-tenth to the Lord?”

“I said one-tenth belongs to him, and I can't give to the Lord what is His own. So, if I give Him anything, I have to give Him what is mine.”—Sel.

“CRY ALOUD!”

It is time that God's people who believe in the Bible doctrine of holiness, bestir themselves to extra effort to promote and spread abroad the doctrine and experiences of full salvation. Let us fan the revival fires into a flame of zeal for God's glory and the salvation of His people. If we undertake to rest upon our oars the tide of evil will bear us away to worldliness, lukewarmness and death.—Morri-son.

TAKE TIME TO PRAY.

Prayers are hindered by undue haste in our devotion. We must take time to pray.

Public prayers and prayers offered in social meetings may well be brief, but nothing should be permitted to hurry our private communion with God. If we should note the time we spend each day in prayer and compare it to the time we give to trifles, we might have occasion to be ashamed. The little time we give to prayer shows how little interest we have in God and how faint and cold is our love for Him. We do not give time grudgingly to anything in which our heart is enlisted. We do not hurry through a task we enjoy.

Does anyone give time sparingly to a friend whom he highly esteems?

And shall we, who have so much time to give business, to pleasure, to friendship, to science, to art, and wish for more time to bestow, allow our seasons of friendship with our Heavenly Father to be cut short by the demands of business and calls of the world?—Sel.