

"YOUR SHIP WILL COME IN IF YOU SEND ONE OUT."

(By Rev. Julia Shelhamer.)

A prosperous bank sends out the above statement and explains as follows:

"Many people are waiting for their ship to come to port—waiting for financial success—and just waiting. But how can a ship return laden with fortunes unless one is launched?"

"It is a fallacy to imagine that some day, somehow, you will be successful, that providence will care for you and fulfil your wishes. But unless you have a plan, unless you launch your ship, upon what can you base your hopes? Success in life comes through planning ahead, starting a ship out on the financial sea with its course charted and planned properly so that when at last you desire to bring it home again your efforts will be rewarded."

Perhaps some of you are in need of blessings of far more worth than gold, and if you could see a ship come in laden with answers to your prayers you would feel like shouting yourself hoarse.

Many people are waiting for this—just waiting; but it is a fallacy to hope that some time, somehow, you will be a grand success or that God will accomplish for you your heart's deepest desire unless you launch your ship, for how can a ship come laden with wealth unless one is launched?

Now may we tell you how to bring in your ship?

Start one out today by prevailing prayer. Arise very early in the morning, get off alone, and pour your full heart out to God in earnest supplication. It takes time and a great deal of expense to load a ship. Don't expect to get something for nothing. B. C. Forbes, a noted writer on business affairs, says: "Don't forget that things don't just happen: they have to be made to happen!"

If you have a burden on your heart, or a strong desire for a certain blessing, pray through, though it may require weeks of time. Would you like to have two ships coming in? Then load a second one with little acts of self-denial and sacrifice. The more you give to God of time, energy and human comforts, the more you will receive in return.

Load your ship now with fasting and unselfish acts. Pack into its hold one-tenth of all you receive. If you pack in more than the tithe your cargo will be proportionately richer. Just what will come back to you when your ship comes in heaven only knows, for God has many happy surprises for His children.—Sel. From Canadian Free Methodist.

A COSTLY CIGARETTE

Referring to the ten million dollar fire in the Chicago stockyards in May of this year, the Chicago Board of Underwriters and the National Board of Underwriters, issuing a joint report said: "The fire was in all probability caused by a cigarette discarded from an automobile passing over the frame 43rd Street Viaduct. This ignited loose hay in the pens and, fanned by a moderate southwest wind, the flames spread rapidly."

This was indeed a costly cigarette, starting a fire that destroyed 50 acres of cattle pens, two and a half miles of runways and viaducts, banks, office buildings, warehouses, stables, shops and a hotel. But in the terms of an enslaving habit more or less related to other injurious contracts every cigarette costs too much. It is a great blessing to be a free man or woman, free from the slavery of tobacco.—The Wesleyan Methodist.

THE CARD-PLAYING HOME

A converted gambler of Chicago said with emphasis and from wide experience: "The card-playing home is the kindergarten for the gambling saloon." Says Mr. John Bigelow: "Nine people out of ten, when they for the first time accept an invitation to join in a game of whist or poker, have no more suspicion about the passions that may be apt to grow than the maid of sixteen when she engages in her first flirtation." The Christian Index observes: "We have never known a reputable, spiritually-minded, soul-winning preacher to be a card-player, nor have we ever known church members, distinguished for their piety and spirituality, and for their regular attendance upon the mid-week prayer meeting, who were card-players. Card-playing is not profitable for the development of Christian character and for enlarging the usefulness of Christians in the promotion of spirituality and consecration in the lives of others. Then tendencies of card-playing, like those of dancing, are in the wrong direction. Just as the dance furnishes victims of vice, just so social card-playing furnishes recruits for the gambling den."—Raleigh Christian Advocate.

THE CROSS

The Bishop of Liverpool says:

"In apostolic days men advocated a Gospel without the Cross. But St. Paul would have none of it. In the fourth century Arius taught a Christianity without a perfectly divine Saviour, and the Church would not have it. In the fifteenth century the Renaissance, intoxicated by the discovery of Greek and Roman literature, despised the 'jargon of St. Paul,' and would have paganized Christianity, but the Reformation brought northern Europe back to the Scriptures and to the Christ. Today men are proclaiming a Gospel without the supernatural. They are asking us to be content with a perfect human Christ; with a Bethlehem where no miracle was wrought; with a Calvary which saw sublime self-sacrifice, but no atonement for sin; with a sepulcher from which no angel's hand rolled away the stone. But we must have none of it. We will hold fast, we will transmit the faith once for all delivered to the saints. We will hand down to our children, we will proclaim to all the tribes of the earth, Christ incarnate, atoning, risen, ascending, our Intercessor at God's right hand, waiting to come again to judge the quick and the dead."—The Wesleyan Methodist.

HOME FOLKS FIRST

Would you like to know how always to say
The pleasantest thing in the pleasantest way
That will bring you friends you surely need—
Friends that are true in word and deed?
Just try them on the home folks first.

Do you want to know how always to do
The things that politeness requires of you?
For courtesy is the oil, you know,
That makes the wheels of the day's work go—
Just try them on the home folks first.

For home folks are nearest and dearest and best,
And home love is surest to stand every test;
So if you would know how to do and to say
The pleasantest things in the pleasantest way,
Just try them on the home folks first.

—Ex

A man never shows his own character so plainly as by his manner of portraying another's
—Jean Paul Richter.

THE MASTER HAND

By Prudie Ludington Hawn

"Just an old violin I hold,
How much will you bid?
It's seen better days, no need to be told
When the bow so blithely slid;
Only twenty-five cents I hear,
Who'll make it half a dollar?
Once some one held this dear,
'Twill furnish practice for a scholar."

Slowly thro' the crowd there walked
A gentleman with quiet tread;
In a low tone to the auctioneer he talked,
Others scarce heard what he said;
Taking the instrument and adjusting the strings
He likely drew the bow;
There was a flow of music like song birds in
spring,
Then a lullaby soft and low.

On and on he played
While the people stood spellbound;
With a master hand he simply swayed
With the treasure he had found.
They asked his name and position,
As with the instrument he walked away,
Why he was a great master musician,
One of the best in his day.

So it is with you, my friend,
Like an instrument out of tune and use.
Nothing seems to harmonize or blend
You're just a poor excuse
Until Jesus, the Master, grasps the bow,
And on your heartstrings begins to play
Then from that heart sweet strains will flow
If the Master holds full sway.

(Suggested by a little story Rev. Arthur Rothfuss used in a short talk at our Young People's District Convention held at Willis, Kansas.)
Topeka, Kansas.

SOME THINGS WE OUGHT TO REMEMBER

By Gilbert Baker

A river becomes crooked by following the line of least resistance. So does a man.
Idleness is the parent of vice, and ignorance is the cause of idleness.

Strong men grow through opposition.
The only place we can fit into without preparation is hell.

We live in a world where nothing is permanent but change.

The challenge that comes to us today is not to die for Christ and country and humanity, but to live for them.

There is more real good in a cheerful disposition than there is in a pedigree running back to the Mayflower.

A heated argument very seldom throws any light on a subject.

If there was less quarreling among the ninety and nine, the shepherd would have more time to find out what sheep was lost.

Starting to heaven at the grave stone is risky business.

There are people who seem to think that because they have religion they have no need of brains.

Most of Paul's letters were written from prison, and yet he never wrote a line with a groan in it.

North Tonawanda, N. Y.

"Strength for today is all we need,
For we never shall see tomorrow;
When it comes, tomorrow will be today
With its measure of joy or sorrow."

—Selected.