

THE CHRISTIAN HOME

Mont Hurst

The ideal picture of the ancient Hebrew home is found in Psalm 128. Men have been charmed by the poet's picture of an ideal Scottish home in "The Cotter's Saturday Night." "From scenes like these, old Scotia's grandeur springs." But an earlier picture of the home where religion is supreme is portrayed by the psalmist as he contemplated the attractiveness and the blessedness of the old Hebrew home. The ideal home is founded on the fear of God, and a godless home is a menace to both state and church. "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom", and a home that recognizes no relation to God is sure to be a dangerous spot in any land and a peril to the state. For religion is not merely a mood of the mind, but it is the source of all motives and the spring of all action. Godly homes make godly nations.—Selected

THE HABIT OF RIGHT THINKING

Willa Hoey

It has been said many times that we are all, more or less, creatures of habit. Undoubtedly, there is much truth in the statement. And if we would become creatures of good habits, we must form the habit of right thinking.

That we have the power to determine what type of thought we entertain and live with, is one of the greatest facts of human life—it is a great determining factor.

If we entertain faith, hope and love, we have within our grasp the key to happy days. Faith in our heavenly Father, who neither slumbers nor sleeps—hope, because as His children we have a boundless inheritance, and love for the simple things of life, and for our fellowmen.

In a simple, homely way John Vance Cheney put a great truth along this line, when he said:

The happiest heart that ever beat

Was in a quiet breast,

That found the common daylight sweet,

And left to heaven the rest.

THE PRINCE HAS SOME GOOD IDEAS

The International News Service reporting an interview with the Christian Prince Ragoso, a Solomon Islander touring America, quotes the prince as saying:

"American ladies are white and beautiful. They should not paint their lips, cheeks, eyes and fingernails. It is, if you will pardon me for saying so, not civilized. My people are doing away with that." We hope American women and girls will get this idea, and pass up the paint brush when they are arranging to appear in company.

Speaking of his native land, the prince continued to say: "I was only a boy when the first missionaries came to the Solomon Islands. My father was Chief Tatagu. He told the missionaries to go ahead and see what they could do. I well remember that whenever there was a successful war made upon a neighboring tribe or distant island, the victory was always celebrated with a cannibal feast. My father took part in those feasts. Our men and women were always afraid. The young folks and children always lived in fear of being taken by enemy tribes as slaves or as victims of their cannibal feasts."

The Gospel of Jesus has indeed made a great change in the Solomon Islands; it takes away the wildness and sin from mankind and makes even cannibal races new creatures in Christ.—Wesleyan Methodist.

A SAD LOSS

It is a sad loss to the preacher (especially to the great preacher) when he loses his fire. "Better mangle your grammar than lose your fire," cried Joseph Parker, of London.

Canon Liddon, preaching in London on Luke 12:49, "I am come to send fire on the earth," said: "This fire which our Lord came to send was a divine enthusiasm imparted by his Spirit for the glory of God for the highest good of men, an enthusiasm enwrapping like flame the faculties of soul and body, transfiguring weak and commonplace natures by the pure and invigorating energy of a supernatural force."

George Whitefield was a mighty orator but the secret of his power was his fire; his sermons do not read anything extra, but as he preached them he was on fire. It is said that a newspaper man requested the privilege of reporting his sermons. Whitefield's reply was, "Yes, if you will put the thunder and lightning in them."—Selected.

DON'T CARRY BURDENS YOU CAN SET DOWN

An aged, weary-looking woman with a heavy basket upon her arm entered the train at one of the way stations. Carrying her burden with some difficulty down the aisle, she found an empty seat, of which she took possession. Instead of placing her burden upon the floor or upon the seat beside her, says an exchange, she continued to hold it, shifting its weight now and then from one knee to the other. A working man across the aisle watched her for some time in silence, but at last, when he could stand it no longer, he reached over and touched the woman upon the arm. "Madam," he said, "if you will set your basket down, the train will carry both it and you."

How much of human nature there is in this little incident! Some people never try to "ease a burden" which circumstances have decreed shall be theirs. They insist on carrying it even when they might temporarily lay it down and ease their breaking backs, or when the whole burden might be laid upon their Lord.—Watchman-Examiner.

SCANDAL A POISON

Scandal, hydra-headed, poison-fanged, lives on the garbage of the world, and slays even after it is seemingly killed. There is a story of a cobra which got into a West Indian Church during service. Some one saw it, went quietly out, procured a weapon, and coming back, cut off the snake's head. After the service the people went to look at the animal, and a native touched the dead head with his foot. He drew it back with a cry of pain, and in an hour he was dead. The poison-fangs had power to kill, though their owner was dead.

There was a company of ladies at a minister's home. As he entered the room he heard them speaking in low tones of an absent friend. "She's very odd," said one. "Yes, very singular, indeed," said another. "Do you know she often does so and so?" said another, mentioning certain things to her discredit. The minister asked who it was. When told, he said, "Oh, yes, she is odd; she's remarkably singular. Why, would you believe it," he asked in a low voice, "she was never heard to speak ill of any absent friend!"—The Sky Pilot.

HELPS TO DEVOTION

Mr. Wesley was once asked, "By what fruit of the Spirit may we know that we are of God, even in the highest sense?" His answer was, "By love, by joy, and peace abiding; by long-suffering, patience, resignation; by gentleness triumphing over all provocation; by goodness, mildness, sweetness, tenderness of spirit; by fidelity, simplicity, godly sincerity, meekness, calmness, evenness of spirit; by temperance, not only in food and sleep but in all things, natural and spiritual.

"This involves further total resignation to the will of God without any mixture of self-will; gentleness without any touch of anger, even the moment we are provoked; love to God without the least love to the creature but in and for God, excluding all pride and all envy, all jealousy and rash judging; meekness, keeping the whole soul inviolably calm, and temperance in all things."

These are very high tests of our having been separated entirely from all sin within and without. Let us examine ourselves in the light of such tests and humbly wait upon God for the revelation of His highest grace in our hearts and lives.—Selected.

SENTINELS

When Pompeii was destroyed there were many persons buried in the ruins who were afterwards found in very different positions. They found some in deep vaults, as if they had gone there for security. There were some found in lofty chambers. But where did they find the Roman sentinel? They found him standing at the city gate, where he had been placed by the captain, with his hands still grasping the weapon. There, while the earth shook beneath him; there while the floods of ashes and cinders overwhelmed him, he had stood at his post; and there, after a thousand years, he was found. So let Christians stand by their duty, in the post at which their Captain places them.—The Sky Pilot.

WHAT IS HOLINESS?

"Holiness is the exact opposite of sin. It is the absence of sin. Holiness is the cleansing of our being. It is the harmonizing us to divine providences. It is our inheritance restored. Holiness is a state of rest; it is rest from the fear of death, from the fear of judgment, from the fear of want, from inward strife, from worry, from civil war. It is a state of felicity. In its content we have the happiness of love, the happiness of purity, and the happiness of His pleasure."—Joseph H. Smith.

"BEHIND TIME"

The best laid plans, the most important affairs, the fortunes of individuals, the weal of nations, honor, life itself, are daily sacrificed because somebody is "behind time." There are men who always fail in whatever they undertake simply because they are "behind time." There are others who put off reformation year by year, till death seizes them, and they perish unrepentant because forever "behind time." Five minutes in a crisis is worth five years. It is but a little period, yet it has often saved a fortune or redeemed a people. If there is one virtue that should be cultivated more than another by him who would succeed in life, it is punctuality. If there is one error that should be avoided, it is being "behind time."—Freeman Hunt.