

We need the constant vision of God. Underneath a pretty sketch, in which the shrubbery and flowers and paths of a garden were plainly visible, was written, "Here is the garden; but where is the gardener?" After turning the picture into every conceivable position for some time in vain, at last the right angle was obtained, and suddenly the features of the gardener stood out so plainly, that where before one could see nothing but the garden, now nothing could be seen but the gardener. Life is full of God's presence for those who have eyes to see aright. He who is blinding men to the divine vision is preparing them to run down the steepest road to sin and ruin. On the other hand, those who in any measure quicken the sense of God in the hearts of others, whether it be the mother with her child or the teacher with the class, are doing the highest possible service for humanity.

We need a truer vision of one another. Competition and rivalry blind us to the sacredness of human life, and in our cynicism we make it a cheap and common thing. Oliver Wendell Holmes once said, "If you look at a man, you see just enough to make you suspicious of him. If you look into a man, you see enough to make you think a little more of him. If you look right through a man, you see enough to fill your heart with compassion and to lead you to help him." That is how Christ looks at men. He sees more clearly into human hearts than any of us, yet He never despairs of human nature. There is a legend that, while walking with His disciples, they came upon a dead dog by the wayside. While the disciples could not conceal the disgust they felt, the Saviour said, "How white and beautiful his teeth are!" He ever sees in the most degraded and sinful some touch of hallowing beauty through which His redeeming grace may come.

We need a clearer vision of heaven. The strongest and purest lives are those stimulated by "the power of an endless life." Travellers say that in Cyprus it is nearly always sunshine. There are occasional clouds, of course, but even in the clouds there is no gloom. They are warm and soft, like the wings of a dove, and when they

pass away, the air is filled with the fragrance which the flowers have yielded in the grateful shade. That is what the clear vision of heaven will do for this life. It will fill our days with sunshine, and when the clouds do come, as come they will to all of us, there will be no gloom in them, but instead of horror and despair, they will leave behind them the fragrance of the flowers of Paradise.

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### CALM AND SURE

When the anchors that faith had cast  
Are dragging in the gale,  
I am quietly holding fast  
To the things that cannot fail.  
I know that right is right;  
That it is not good to lie;  
That love is better than spite,  
And a neighbor than a spy;  
That the rulers must obey;  
That the givers shall increase;  
That duty lights the way  
For the beautiful feet of peace.  
And that somewhere beyond the stars  
Is a love that is better than fate.  
When the night unlocks her bars  
I shall see Him, and I will wait.  
—Washington Gladden

### SAMUEL THE REFORMER

By Rev. J. A. McKeen, B.A.

Dark days had come to Israel. They were being grievously oppressed by the Philistines, and they were making themselves servants in a still harder bondage by yielding to the sin of idolatry. The priests were living bad lives in the sight of the people, before whom they should have been placing high ideals, and, in sign of God's judgment, there was no open vision.

This was their darkest hour, but to meet it the dawn was hastening. There was about to be a reformation, and it was for such a time as this that Samuel was born. He came into the world as the "asked of God," and even before birth he was dedicated to the Lord.