

### A RICH INVESTMENT.

A very poor old lady who had been placed in a charitable institution, through the generosity of friends, was sometimes heard to say that there was "just one thing she did want to enjoy before she died."

This one thing was a visit to her native town. Although it was but seventy-five miles from the city in which she lived, the old lady had not been in her native town for nearly forty years.

"I've lived several hundred miles away most o' the time and never had any money for the trip," she said, "and since I've lived nigher I've been poorer still and ain't never seen the time when I could spare the seven dollars and forty cents—that's just what it'd cost—for the trip. I've got some cousins there, all the kin folks I've got on earth, who'd be glad to see me, and I could put in a dreadful happy week if I could once get there."

Now there was in the city, near the institution in which this old lady lived, a circle of the King's Daughters. One of them happened to visit the institution and hear the old lady's often expressed wish, and at the next meeting of the circle this young girl had something to say.

"We are all going away on our vacations soon," she said, "and it occurred to me that if we could send old Hannah Barton away for a couple of weeks the thought of the intense enjoyment she would derive from the trip to her old home would make our own vacation pleasure greater, and give her a joy that would last all of her life. Why can't we do it?"

"We can," promptly replied another member of the circle. "There are six of us. Supposing we earn a dollar and a half each and carry it to old Hannah. That will be nine dollars. Let's do it."

It was unanimously voted to carry out this plan, and one day, a week or two later, poor old Hannah received a visit from the six young girls, who left a roll of crisp new one dollar bills in the old lady's fingers for her to alternately cry and laugh over.

"I'd a beautiful time, a beautiful time," old Hannah says to this day, every time she speaks of her visit. "I'll never forget it—never. And I'll never forget the dear girls who made it possible for me to go. I pray every night for God's blessing to be on them. I had pleasure enough out o' that visit to last me all my life."

But it will not have to last old Hannah all her life, for this particular circle of the King's Daughters, at its last meeting, resolved to make it a part of its charitable and benevolent work to send old Hannah to her old home for two weeks every summer as long as she lives.—*Forward.*

### TRIBUTE TO PRAYER.

They had been friends since their early boyhood. One was now a successful merchant whose name is a household word throughout the United States, standing for honor, probity and high Christian character. The other was a lawyer, a man of integrity and good standing in the community also; but withal, a disbeliever in God and His providence.

The two had been talking about the efficacy of prayer; and the merchant, urged to speak from his own experience, had confessed that he took this text literally: "In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths."

"I never make a large purchase of goods, nor plan any important change in my business," he proceeded to explain, "without first asking special divine guidance."

The lawyer smiled tolerantly.

"Oh, yes, I understand," he replied. "But your phenomenal success can all be explained in a natural way. For instance, most men act impulsively, sometimes yield to their whims, or to ideas suddenly conceived. You escape this danger through your system of praying before you act. The prayer gains you a little time. Besides, your feeling of reverence for the Being you worship has in itself a tendency to clear your mind of prejudices; to restore your balance and make you a reasonable, logical person—otherwise, a good business man."

A light broke over the face of the merchant.

"Thank you for this weight of indirect testimony," he responded. "Ah, how much there is in what you say! In the attitude of prayer one comes near to the Fountain of all wisdom. And being there, he comes to his best self; he touches the highest point of manhood. And this advantage is all independent of what he receives in answer to his petition. No wonder that the praying man rises from his knees enlightened and uplifted."—*New York Observer.*