

FOR LOVE'S SAKE.

Sometimes I am tempted to murmur
That life is flitting away,
With only a round of trifles
Filling each busy day—
Dusting the nooks and corners,
Making the house look fair,
And patiently taking on me
The burden of woman's care ;

Comforting childish sorrows,
And charming the childish heart
With the simple song and story,
Told with a mother's art ;
Setting the dear home table,
And clearing the meal away,
And going on little errands
In the twilight of the day.

One day is just like another !
Sewing and piecing well
Little jackets and trousers,
So neatly that none can tell
Where are the seams and the joinings—
Ah ! the seamy side of life
Is kept out of sight by the magic
Of many a mother and wife.

And oft, when I'm ready to murmur
That time is flitting away
With the self-same round of duties
Filling each busy day,
It comes to my spirit sweetly,
With the grace of a thought Divine :
"You are living and toiling for Love's
sake,
And the loving should never repine.

"You are guiding the little footsteps
In the way that they ought to walk,
You are dropping a word for Jesus
In the midst of your household talk ;
Living your life for Love's sake,
Till the homely cares grow sweet—
And sacred the self-denial
That is laid at the Master's feet."

—*The Home Friend.*

GOD'S CALL TO SERVICE.

By the REV. RURAL DEAN ARMITAGE, of Halifax.

St. Matthew xxi. 28 : "Son, go work to-day in my vineyard."

The instructions given by the Father in the Parable of the Two Sons were meant to stand for the requirements of God. The parable represents the great call to service from our Father in Heaven to all His sons on earth. The command you will notice (1) *affectionate*, "My Son;" (2) *practical*, "go work;" (3) *urgent*, "to-day."

The text has a wide application, but let us confine our attention to a single standpoint. God calls every son to service, that is to say, personal work for Christ is a duty laid on every Christian.

This arises from the nature of Christ's religion.

(a) As Christ was in the world, so are we to be in the world.

(b) Christianity is diffusive or expansive.

It can never be held as a theory and is only known in practice. It is only kept as it is imparted to others to spread abroad in the world. Unless the light is allowed to shine the candlestick will be removed. Its great principle is universality.

The Christian has but one question, What is Christ's will? The great Duke of Wellington gave an answer to the young man who asked his opinion about the wisdom of foreign missions which should never be forgotten. His one thought was where does duty lie, and so he made answer in another question, "What are your marching orders?" Then he repeated the great commission, "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature."

The policy of isolation is an impossible one. No Christian can stand aloof and yet retain spiritual health. Selfishness leads to decay and death. The history of the gold fever tells the story of human selfishness and reveals the weakness of human nature. The Klondike gold seeker discovers his treasure and guards carefully the secret. How different it is even in the sphere of science! Lord Lister gave his great antiseptic discoveries to the world; so with Koch and tuberculin, Behring and anti-toxine, Roentgen and his marvellous X rays. How much greater is the need that the only true riches should be made known and the rich treasures of Christian truth given to all!

All are to be workers, not ministers alone. It was the Moravians who rediscovered the true view of Christian duty that every man should be a worker. It was from them that Wesley took his great motto, "All at it, and always at it." The Nihilists in Russia have honey-combed that great empire with a powerful secret organization by the use of a method by which every new member is made to gain ten others, which leads to a tremendous increase of membership.

Christ's plan of campaign is from the individual to the race. We have learned the value of individual action in the South African wars. The sniper watches for his man,

and so in Christian work we should watch for our man and pursue the policy of the sharpshooter.

The requirements for service should be kept in view. The first is that the worker should be a true Christian. It is a law of all life that we must possess before we can impart. The need is for rock-men. Then the worker must be filled with the love of Christ and men, and realize the value of the human soul.

Next comes prayer, which is a necessity of soul-winning, and without which there is no power for service. And lastly we note the need of earnestness and enthusiasm, for the work is Christ's and should be undertaken in His spirit and for His sake.

POWER.

"According to the power that worketh in us."—Ep. 3: 20.

Man's body is a frame; it cannot move without power. Man's soul is a framework and needs a higher power. Power is the measure of speed, the source of strength, the secret of success, the spring of beauty, the crown of character. Men are great and noble, mean or worthless, according to the power. Some are cheapened by greed, degraded by distinction, others rise to the fulness of men in Christ Jesus. It is ever according to the power; in quantity, quality, and aim.

I first visited the Tyne in 1844 with a cargo of sulphur from Sicily. The river craft were not in a hurry to come alongside for our cargo, and this gave us plenty of time to look at the life of the river. An object was seen daily in the shape of a small steamer, built very early in the days of steamers. She was so short of power that she could only go with the tide. She delivered goods at various places between Newcastle and Shields. The boys named her the *Tom Tit*. Her paddle box at a distance did not look larger than a flour barrel, and she was the curiosity of the river. She moved according to her power!

In order to full equipment it is necessary to measure the lights, sound the depths, scan the horizon. O the riches and amplifications!