

and even to hoar hairs will I carry you: I have made, and I will bear; even I will carry, and will deliver you."

There is nothing more commendable in fullness of age, than fullness of knowledge and experience; nor nothing more honourable than to see ancient Christians very much acquainted with the Ancient of days.

It is a brave sight to see ancient Christians like the almond-tree. Now the almond-tree doth flourish and is full of blossoms in wintry old age; for, as Pliny tells us, the almond-tree doth blossom in the month of January. Experiments in religion are beyond notions and expressions. A sanctified heart is better than a silver tongue. No man so rich, so honourable, so happy as the old disciple that is rich in spiritual experiences; and yet there is no Christian so rich in his experiences, but he would be richer. As Julianus said, that when he had one foot in the grave, he would have the other in the school; so, though an old disciple hath one foot in the grave, yet he will have the other in Christ's school, that he may still be treasuring up more and more Divine experiments. And by this also you see what an honour it is to be an old disciple.—*Apples of Gold, by the Rev. Thomas Brooks.*

## ‘WHAT’S THE MAN GOING TO DO?’

OR,

### THE PRAYERLESS HOUSE.

The aged grandmother is sick. The pastor calls to tender his sympathy, speak a word of Christian consolation and encouragement, and, if invited, to offer prayer.

Being kindly introduced into the sick-room by the daughter-in-law, he takes a seat at the bedside of the enfeebled mother in Israel, and spends a short season in conversation on those points which never fail to interest the disciples of Jesus as they draw near to eternity. Such members of the family as are at hand assemble and give respectful attention, the mind being diverted only by occasional outbursts of one of the little flaxen-haired grandsons, whom his mother succeeds in keeping within reasonable bounds. As the flush on the cheek of the suffering patient indicates to the pastor that his remarks must not be further extended, and as he accordingly says a few closing words, the veteran pilgrim requests that prayer be offered. As the pastor gently kneels to address the throne of grace, the little boy, with mark-

ed surprise, appeals to his mother as he sits in her lap: "Mother, *what's the man going to do?*"

Oh, what a volume does this question at once publish! In New England, in Massachusetts, within sound of the church bell, within sight of the spire pointing toward heaven, within the house where domestic peace and plenty reign, a child, himself old enough to comprehend something of the love of Christ, looks with amazement on the servant of the Lord as he kneels for prayer, and earnestly asks his mother to explain the strange act!

What a responsibility will be found, in the great day of the Lord, to have reposed on those parents who, intrusted with the 'nurture and admonition' of children, find themselves obliged to explain to them the strange thing 'the man is going to do,' who comes in as a minister of Christ, and bows the knee to supplicate the blessings of heaven for the sick and sinking grandmother, and for all in the house. How awful and overwhelming the responsibility which those parents sustain who stand at the head of a household, where are all the mutual obligations which attach to any family,—where are intelligence, kindly feeling, and no lack of earthly comforts; parents who are themselves not unfrequently in the house of God, but who, nevertheless, by 'restraining prayer,' practically recognise no God,—no bountiful Giver of all they enjoy! Cannot parents who never pray be prevailed on duly to consider the duties they owe to the little immortals committed to their care? Will they not be moved to weigh well the point, *now*, that when they with their children shall appear before the judgment seat, not to be prayed for, but to account to God for not having themselves prayed, they will be under the painful necessity of reflecting that, while they had fed and clothed their children, and tenderly cared for them in sickness, they had neglected, either by precept or example, to give them any conception of the nature and importance of prayer? and that, therefore, while the posture of prayer was being assumed by the parish minister, their children were struck with surprise, and anxiously besought to have the great mystery explained.

Prayerless parents, look forward and consider, as you are able, what your feel-