

MAGGIE'S SIXPENCE.

A missionary told us the other day a very affecting little incident. He had been preaching a mission sermon in Scotland and telling of the condition of the poor women of India, and he observed that many of the audience seemed quite affected by his account. A few days afterwards, the pastor of the church where he had preached, met on the street one of his parishioners, a poor old woman, half blind who earned a precarious livelihood by going on errands, or any other little work of that kind that came in her way. She went up to him, with a bright smile put a sixpence into his hand, telling him that was to go for the mission work in India. Her minister knowing how poor she was, said: "No, no, Maggie; this is too much for you to give; you cannot afford this. She told him that she had just been on an errand for a very kindly gentleman and instead of the few coppers she generally received, he had given her three pennies ad a silver sixpence; and said she: "The silver and the gold is the Lord's, and the copper will do for poor Maggie." How many lessons do God's poor teach us! "Poor in this world, rich in faith and heirs of the kingdom!"

THE LIGHT WITHIN.

Has it ever been a part of your work to cleanse and polish a lamp-chimney? If so, then you can scarcely have failed to notice how easily deceived one is as to when the work is thorough and complete. We look at the glass, and it seems quite bright and clear, with not a blur or blemish. But wait till evening comes, and the bright flame is lit within. Ah, how many a blur before unseen, how many a blemish unnoticed, how much less clearer and stainless than it appeared in the ordinary day-light!

And is it not just so with the heart? We brighten it hastily as it were, with the usual daily devotions and imperfect self-examination, and glancing at it, think it does well enough. But when something touches a match to the wick of Conscience within, and there flames up the clear steady light of GOD'S pure law, how many a blur, and spot uncleaned, how many a stain stands forth revealed, obscuring the perfect holiness which should shine forth in those who are as lights in the world.

Then, if we would know when our work is pure and perfect, let us light that flame within, oftener, and be not satisfied with the polish which is only in outward appearance.

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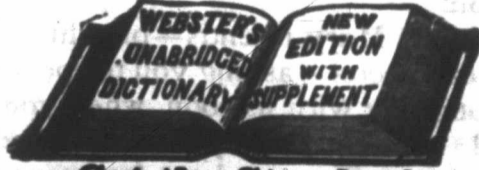
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