

stands a tree of God's right hand planting. A signal of health, strength and comfort.

II. Look at the source of its fertility; always water at the root. Hidden, constant, sufficient. So the Christian. "Whoso drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst. It shall be in him." To refresh, renew, revive, sustain. It grows slowly but steadily for hundreds of years, and with wonderful regularity. Rain of winter does not make it overjoyful, parching summer does not make it droop; storms do not break it, heavy weights piled on its head make it more fruitful.

III. Look at its shadow. Long feathery leaves radiate from its crown.

So the Christian is a protection. "The Lord blessed the households of Egyptians, for Joseph's sake"

The widow of Serapta kept in comfort for eleven months, and to Paul was given all that sailed with him! Dignified and mighty influence. The salt of the earth, the light of the world; truly the light is sweet.

IV. Look at its fruit.

What constant and unfailing supply. Not like the heath, or the grass, or the ground, or barren fig tree, but more fruit as time advances, "increasing in every good word and work." This is the way to grow old pleasantly, beautifully, influentially. "Mark the perfect men."

V. Look at its productive power.

Cut the palm tree down and shoots will spring up. "There's hope of a tree."—Job, xiv, vii.

How true is this in times

1. Of persecution. The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church.

2. Times of personal declension. "I will look again."

3. The times of resurrection. Raised in beauty, purity and power.

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### HOME PIETY.

By Rev. J. E. Haml, Lloydstown.

Home, then, is that abode of man on earth where each member of that home is at peace with God and

at peace with one another. The first element then in a truly pious home is that God is dwelling by faith in the hearts of all. We may try to beautify our homes by enhancing them, by introducing the arts of painting, music and literature, but if Christ is not a constant companion of all, then that home is lacking in the first and fundamental principle of true piety, and if there are any here to day who feel that their homes are not as happy as they should be, if you really are in earnest and want a remedy, you will find it when you really faithfully ask the Lord to bless your home. Like the newly-married couple who soon after their union found out that they were not at all suited to each other, and in consequence they quarreled. They went in their plight to a celebrated minister (and you would all know his name if I mentioned it) to ask his advice. In conversation with them the minister enquired if they had asked the Lord to bless their married life. They replied "No." He advised them to go to their home and earnestly pray to God about it, and that even yet the Lord might bless and make them happy. I reiterate his words to you to day. If you feel that your homes are not what you would like them to be, there is the sure and never failing remedy, namely: Access to the Heavenly Father who is ever willing to preside over every earthly home of ours, solacing our sorrows and intensifying our joys.

The influence of a man's home life upon his character will never be fully measured in this world. Eternity alone will reveal what must have been his experiences under the roof where he was born. And the high estimate that our Lord placed upon the home life of men is seen in His attitude towards the convert when He said "Go home to thy friends and tell them." Home has the first claim upon us. "Go home to thy friends and tell them." Home is the place above all others where we should be ever ready to bear witness, and yet it is the most difficult place on earth to do so; for as soon as we begin to show that we are anxious to live a pious life

in the home, some less thoughtful but more aggressive member of the family will be ready to point the finger of scorn. But we must go on. We must not be discouraged by difficulties. For a Christian's duty first of all is, to show his religion at home. It is a comparatively easy thing for one to come out to church Sunday after Sunday, and at least assume a kind of piety. But a piety that goes no further than the church door, a piety that leaves not its impression upon our lives and conduct, will count for nothing, for a truly pious man learns first to show piety at home.

A Christian home should be above all other homes an attractive home; and this attractiveness should be seen in every member of the home in intercourse with each other, and this is where so many of us fail. "We keep the smile for the oftime guest, and the frown for our own, though we love our own the best." How restful and lovely to visit a home, a peaceful home where all the members of the family realize their responsibility to that home! A home where the father and mother receive their due respect, where the sisters in their real unselfishness study the wants of their brothers, and where the brothers are continually ministering to the pleasure of their sisters. This is the home that is in the truest sense an attractive home.

But not only must we strive to be attractive in our attitudes each to the other, but this attractiveness must be carried into the arrangement of our homes. What little furniture and pictures we may chance to have, let us arrange them in the most attractive manner; and for pity's sake have all the rooms open to the children. Don't keep one room locked up for the occasional visitors, and then when it is opened you are greeted with a cold, musty air that chills one to the very core. Open all the doors to the children. Live in the best rooms. The best is none too good for the children, for their success or failure in life depends largely upon how we treat them in the home.

Another element in a truly pious home is its instructiveness, a home where all are instructed and equip-