

applaud, but verily thou shalt in no wise lose thy reward.

In the coming year suppose each one form a resolution and follow it out, to walk before men as a true Christian should. How often do we see men, who in religious meetings make nice little talks and then the very next day it may be, when on the streets tell vulgar stories and sometimes take the name of their Master in vain. Are such actions becoming to a follower of the Man of Galilee, from whose mouth proceeded words of wisdom and truth? Is it what may be expected from a true Christian? In the coming year let each one who professes to be a Christian be one in reality; let him, if he is accustomed to indulge in the things alluded to, try to make his conversation more pure. Let him not give his aid or encouragement to such degradations; but rather, let him cease from them himself and discourage them in others as far as in him lies. But, bear in mind that a sermon in example is far more impressive than one in words.

There are many other things that can be done by individual effort; but let it suffice here to name only a few, such as being pleasant and agreeable to all we meet. Let us not go through the world with a face "long drawn out," as though we found the Christian life dull and unattractive. A light heart and cheerful countenance maketh pleasant the paths of labor, and an encouraging smile helps many a faltering hand that otherwise might have given up hope and gone down in despair. But let not our cheerfulness become too much like levity, or what may seem silliness or insincerity; because cheerfulness is like everything else that is good, a blessing when rightly used, when not, a curse.

Be not afraid to do what is right whenever you have the opportunity. How many there are who hesitate for fear of being made the objects of ridicule. But why should it be so? Which is better, to suffer for a little the stings of the scorner and have the good will

of the Father; or to be unfaithful and be one of the scorners? Always remember there is no rose without the thorn, no reward without the labor, no labor of righteousness without the angry frown of Satan's followers.

Be true to yourself for that necessitates your being true to everyone else.

In your devotional meetings be earnest, thoughtful, reverent. Study to make them interesting as well as devotional, but do not imagine that no good is being accomplished because only a few are taking part, for we are not able to fathom the secrets of another's thoughts, and when a soul is deepest moved it frequently becomes silent to outward appearances; but communes with God alone.

Be merciful and helpful to those less fortunate than yourself. Man cannot tell in what way and when the Master's service will be rendered; but this much we know that we are reminded that "inasmuch as ye have done it unto the least of these my brethren ye have done it unto Me."

CHAS. R. SARGENT.

## EVOLUTION OF THE HEBREW CONCEPTION OF GOD.

### XI.

David died, says his admiring biographer, 'in good old age, full of days, riches and honor.' Fortunately for succeeding ages, David's reign was not in all respects pleasing to his subjects. As a military leader David stood always in the memory of the Hebrews without a peer, he was their model king. We cannot fail to see, however, that the ideal king, the David whose praise has been sounded in Hebrew song and story, is a far different character from the *real* king, whose kingdom was doomed to be destroyed in a few brief generations after his martial hand was withdrawn. And it was well that such was the result. Not as a great military empire, but as a people of "intense religiousness," did the He-