

ON MEDITATION AND PRAYER.

READ over the subject of your meditation, either in the Bible or whatever book you may be using. Pause after a verse or two, to follow out such reflections as God may suggest. Consider how Jesus Christ practised the truth or the precept which he is teaching you; how those faithful souls whom you yourself know are practising it; how the world neglects it how you have departed from it, and why. Then lay your shame before God, prostrating yourself before Him in the solitude of your closet. Then reflect upon the occasions which cause you to commit these faults, and the best means of avoiding and remedying them: what the Lord justly requires of you that you may keep from such falls, and repair the past; pray Him to fill your heart with all that He would see in it; ask Him to strengthen the determination to improve which he has given you; trust in His goodness and in His solemn promises never to forsake us in time of need; and rest in the hope that He will finish the good work which He has begun in you.

Do not trust to your good intentions if they are barren and without result. Labor bravely to become gentle and humble of heart. If something is done amiss which only effects you personally, and what is due to yourself, bear it without saying anything. If any hasty word has escaped you, after inward humiliation for it, make amends by speaking kindly, and doing some little act of kindness, if possible, to those you have treated rudely. Never forget how God has dealt and does deal with even you continually, how gently and patiently. Let that be your example, learn from Him how to deal with others.—*Fenelon Letter to the Duchess de Beauvilliers.*

BEHOLD, THE BRIDEGROOM COMETH.

LET us take our lamps and go forth to meet the Bridegroom. To meet the Bridegroom? Yes, He is coming. Let it be no scorn to any of us to avow and to act on this simple belief. Let others search and calculate, and let us reap all lawful fruit from their discovery of truth, knowing that all truth is God's. But here we take our stand; we know that that glorified form of the Son of Man, and the Son of God lives

and upholds all things by the word of His power, and is waiting to visit this earth in His person. This knowledge, this hope, we will yield for no man; persuaded that when all other knowledge fails, it shall stand; when all the rest of human hopes are disappointed, it alone shall end in perfect fulfilment.

This coming of the Bridegroom is the most joyous day for Heaven and earth, the most joyous for the church the most joyous for every faithful soul. All nature has been earnestly expecting it; for then, first, shall the wilderness rejoice and blossom as the rose; then none shall hurt or destroy, but the redeemed of the Lord shall come with songs, and everlasting joy upon their heads, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

The Lord will come in person to this earth; His risen elect will reign here with Him. This is my persuasion, and not mine alone, but that of Christ's waiting people, as it was that of His primitive apostolic Church, before controversy blinded the eyes of the fathers to the light of prophecy.—*Dean Alford*

BEYOND.

NEVER a word is said,
But it trembles in the air,
And the truant voice has sped
To vibrate everywhere;
And perhaps far off in eternal years,
The echo may ring upon our ears.
Never are kind acts done
To wipe the weeping eyes,
But, like flashes of the sun,
They signal to the skies;
And up above the angels read
How we have helped the sorer need.
Never a day is given,
But it tones the after years,
And it carries up to heaven,
Its sunshine or its tears;
While the to-morrows stand and wait
The silent mutes by the outer gate.

There is no end to the sky,
And the stars are everywhere,
And time is Eternity,
And the here is over there,
For the common deeds of the common day
Are ringing bells in the far away.

—Henry Burton.

RAINY SUNDAYS.

I ATTEND church on rainy Sundays because:

1. God has blessed the Lord's Day and hallowed it, making no exceptions for rainy Sundays.
2. I expect my minister to be there. I should be surprised if he were to stay at home for the weather.

3. If his hands fall through weakness, I shall have great reasons to blame myself, unless I sustain him by my prayers and presence.

4. By staying away I may lose the prayers which may bring God's blessing, and the sermon that would have done me great good.

5. My presence is more needful on Sundays when there are few than on those days when the church is crowded.

6. Whatever station I hold in the church my example must influence others. If I stay away, why may not they?

7. On any important business rainy weather does not keep me at home, and church attendance is, in God's sight, very important.

8. Among the crowds of pleasure-seekers I see that no weather keeps the delicate female from the ball, the party or the concert.

9. Among other blessings, such weather will show me on what foundation my faith is built. It will prove how much I love Christ. True love rarely fails to meet an appointment.

10. Those who stay from church because it is too warm, or too cold, or too rainy, frequently absent themselves on fair Sundays.

11. Though my excuses satisfy myself, they still must undergo God's scrutiny, and they must be well grounded to bear that.

12. There is a special promise that where two or three meet together in God's name He will be in the midst of them.

13. An avoidable absence from the church is an infallible evidence of spiritual decay. Disciples who first follow Christ at a distance, afterward, like Peter, do not know Him.

14. My faith is to be shown by my self-denying Christian life, and not by the rise or fall of the thermometer.

15. I know not how many more Sundays God may give, and it would be a poor preparation for my first Sabbath in Heaven to have slighted my last Sunday on earth.—*Southern Christian Advocate.*

It appears to me that in this age of mechanics and political economy, when every heart seems "dry as summer's dust," what we want is not so much, not half so much light for the intellect, as dew upon the heart.—*F. W. Robertson.*