

Let us, then, be careful how we judge of failure, for failure in the sight of man may not be failure in the sight of God. We are back, then, to the old story. The love of God is the one and only source of all good and true happiness. Without this our lives will ever be, let us strive and fashion them how we will, a *miserable failure*.

Therefore love and believe; for works will follow spontaneous,
Even as day does the sun; the Right from the Good is an offspring,
Love in a bodily shape; and Christian works are no more than
Animate love and faith, as flowers are the animate springtide.
Works do follow us all unto God; there stand and bear witness
Not what they seemed, but what they were only.

—*Frances Leamington, in Young Men's Christian Magazine.*

GETTING READY TO BE HAPPY.

Too many of us are looking forward to happiness in the future years instead of getting all the enjoyment possible out of the present. It is well to remember that the time will never come in this world when we shall have everything we want, just where and when we want it. The only way to be happy is to enjoy all we have to the utmost as we go along. It is right to lay up for old age in youth, right to prepare for a rainy day, but it is not right to bend all our energies to this end, and put off until the future the happiness we might enjoy every day. It is far too common to see people working and saving, denying themselves all recreation and many comforts, to lay up money to buy more land, to build a larger and finer house, or to save for their children, thinking that when they have accomplished this they will be happy and begin to take comfort. The hoped-for point may never be attained, or, if it is, sickness or death may have come first, and the dear ones whom we expected to be happy with may be gone forever.

How much better to use some of the good things of life as we go along—to make our humble homes as cheery and bright as possible now, instead of waiting for a better house! Don't starve to day, either

body, mind or soul, thinking that you will riot to-morrow. Don't hoard and scrimp through all the best years of your life, that you may be generous in your wills. Life is uncertain, and it is better to make your children happy while they are under the home roof—to call to that home every agency which will make their lives sweeter and better, than to deny them these that you may leave them a large bank account when you are gone.

Don't keep the parlor shut up and live in the kitchen, unless you want the boys and girls to be anxious to leave you. Take time to read, to rest and to enjoy the society of friends. Especially take time to enjoy the companionship of your children. It will only be a few years at best that they will be with you, and these ought to be years of happiness to both you and them. If we are ever happy in this life we must enjoy what every day brings us. We must be grateful and glad for all the good which comes into our lives, and patiently bear our trials, believing that all, if rightly used, will fit us for the enjoyment of perfect happiness hereafter.

—*Selected.*

INSPIRATION OF THE OLD TESTAMENT.

For Christians it will be enough to know that our Lord Jesus Christ has set the seal of His infallible sanction on the whole of the Old Testament. He found the Hebrew canon just as we have it in our hands to-day, and He treated it as an authority which was above discussion—nay, more, He went out of His way, if we may reverently speak thus, to sanction not a few portions of it which our modern skepticism too eagerly rejects. When He would warn His hearers against the danger of spiritual relapse, He bade them remember Lot's wife. When He would point out how worldly engagements may blind the soul to a coming judgment, He reminds them how men ate and drank, and married, and were given in marriage, until the day when Noah entered into the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all. When He would put His finger on a fact in past Jew-

ish history, which, by its admitted reality, would warrant belief in His own coming resurrection, He points to Jonah three days and three nights in the whale's belly. When, standing on the Mount of Olives, with the Holy City at His feet, He would quote a prophecy, the fulfilment of which would mark for His followers that its impending doom had at last arrived, He desires them to flee to the mountains when they "shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place."

Are we to suppose that, in these and other references to the Old Testament, our Lord was only using what are called *ad hominem* arguments, or talking down to the level of popular ignorance which He did not Himself share? Not to point out the inconsistency of this supposition with His character as a perfectly sincere religious teacher, it may be observed that in the Sermon on the Mount He carefully marks off those features of the popular Jewish religion which He rejects in a manner which makes it certain that, had He not Himself believed in the historic truth of the events and the persons to which He thus refers, He must have said so. But did He then share a popular belief which our higher knowledge has shown to be popular ignorance, and was He mistaken as to the worth of those Scriptures to which He so often and so confidently appealed? There are those who profess to bear the Christian name, and who do not shrink from saying as much as this; but they will find it difficult to persuade mankind that, if He could be mistaken on a matter of such strictly religious importance as this, He can be safely trusted about anything else. Yes, the trustworthiness of the Old Testament is, in fact, inseparable from the trustworthiness of the Lord Jesus Christ; and, if we believe that He is the true light of the world, we shall resolutely close our ears against any suggestions of the falsehood of those Hebrew Scriptures which have received the stamp of His divine authority.—*Canon Liddon.*

The Word of the Lord endureth for ever.