

honoured as her own father, and the children even call him grandpa.

I HAVE no faith in that woman who talks of grace and glory abroad, and uses no soap at home. Let the buttons be on the shirts, let the children's socks be mended, let the roast mutton be done to a turn, let the house be as neat as a new pin, and the home be as happy as home can be; and then, when the cannon balls, and marbles, and shots, and even grains of sand, are all in the box, even then there will be room for those little deeds of love and faith, which, in my Master's name, I seek of you who love His appearing. Serve God by doing common acts in a heavenly spirit, and then, if your daily calling only leaves you cracks and crevices of time, fill these up with holy service. To use the apostle's words, "As we have opportunity, let us do good unto all men."—*Spurgeon*.

ONE of the most intelligent, and clear-headed professional men in the country, not himself a professor of religion, said in a conversation on the importance and reality of religion: "If there is anything in this world that tempts me to disbelieve the whole thing, it is when I see men profess to be converted—covenant to labour for Christ and His cause for ever—go to communion, and partake of His body and blood, and then, in three months after, I see the same persons playing cards at whist parties, dancing at public balls, frequenting operas and theatres, and all manner of vain amusements. It looks to me like consummate hypocrisy, and I am tempted to think the whole thing a delusion."

Nor easily explained to others, and too ethereal to define, these (spiritual) joys are, on that account, but the more delightful. The sweet sense of forgiveness; the conscious exercise of all the devout affections, and grateful and adoring emotions God-ward; the lull of sinful passions; an exulting sense

of the security of the well-ordered covenant; the gladness of surety, righteousness, and the kind spirit of adoption, encouraging to say, "Abba, Father;" all the delightful feelings which the Spirit of God increases or creates, are summed up in that comprehensive word, "Joy in the Holy Ghost!"—*Dr. Jas Hamilton*.

THE late Cæsar Malan, of Geneva, met, in one of his visits to Edinburgh, with the poetess Charlotte Elliot. He complimented her upon the beauty of her poetry, and mentioned several lines and verses that delighted him. He then said "But do you know the All-beautiful? or, to be plain, do you know Jesus Christ as your Saviour?" She owned that she did not. But the question led her to serious thought. She embraced Jesus as her Saviour; and she wrote the beautiful hymn which has encouraged and guided many sinners in every land to seek and find Him in rest and peace—"Just as I am, without one plea."

MR. GLADSTONE, speaking of the radical Romish party, says: "It is a party which triumphs in Belgium; which brags in England; which partly governs and partly plots in France; which disquiets, though without strength to alarm, Germany and Austria; which is weaker, perhaps, in Italy than in any of those countries; but which is everywhere coherent, everywhere tenacious of its purpose, everywhere knows its mind, follows its leaders, and bides its time."

THE first duty of the worshipper is personal prayer. It is not necessary that he should kneel to pray; even the bowed head may be a poor substitute for the bowed and waiting heart. All forms fail; nothing but the personal outreaching of mind and heart after God will meet the want.

ABSENTERS for a time must not be condemned as apostates for ever; Thomas is not Judas.—*M. Henry*.