

Cleanings.

PRAYER, also, is no place for compliment, as "We thank thee, O Lord, for the works of thy distinguished servant."—*Dr. Smith.*

FULLER said very beautifully, "He that spends all his life in sport is like one who wears nothing but fringes and eats nothing but saucers."

He who sports compliments, unless he knows how to make a good aim, may miss his mark and be wounded by the recoil of his own gun.

THERE can be no excuse offered—or none admitted if offered—for the use of slang and slovenly expressions in the house and service of God.—*Standard.*

THERE are parents who give more interested attention and oversight to the grooming of their horses than to the schooling of their children.—*Religious Herald.*

CHRISTIAN faith is a grand cathedral with divinely pictured windows. Striding without, you see no glory or beauty, nor can possibly imagine any. But standing within, every ray of light reveals a harmony of unspeakable beauty and splendors.—*Hawthorne.*

WILLIE, aged ten, and Jemmy, aged six, were playing together. One of them was minutely examining a fly. "I wonder how God made him!" he exclaimed. "God don't make flies as carpenters make things," observed the other boy. "God says, Let there be flies, and there is flies."

I HAVE found nothing yet which requires more courage and independence than to rise even a little but decidedly above the par of the religious world around us. Surely, the way in which we commonly go on is not the way of self-denial and sacrifice and cross-bearing which the New Testament talks of.—*Dr. J. W. Alexander.*

It is a high, solemn, almost awful thought for every individual man, that his earthly influence, which has a commencement, will never, through all ages, have an end! The life of every man is as the wellspring of a stream, whose small beginnings are indeed plain to all, but whose course and destination, as it winds through the expanses of infinite years, only the Omniscient can discern.—*Carlyle.*

How hard it is to feel that the power of life is to be found inside not outside; in the heart and thoughts, not in the visible actions and show; in the living seed, not in the plant which has not root! How often do men cultivate the garden of their souls just the other way? How often do we try and persevere in trying to make a neat show of outer good qualities, without anything within to correspond, just like children who plant blossoms without any root in the ground to make a pretty show for the hour! We find fault in our lives and we cut off the weed, but we do not root it up; we find something wanting in ourselves, and we supply it not by sowing the Divine seed of a heavenly principle, but by copying the deeds that the principle ought to produce.—*Temple.*

I HAVE no patience with a certain class of Christians now-a-days who will hear anybody preach so long as they can say, "He is very clever—a fine preacher, a man of genius, a born orator!" Is cleverness to make false doctrine palatable? Why, sirs, to me the ability of a man who preaches error is my sorrow rather than my admiration. I cannot endure false doctrine, however neatly it may be put before me. Would you have me eat poisoned meat because the dish is of the choicest ware? It makes me indignant when I hear "another gospel" put before the people with "enticing words," by men who would fain make merchandise of souls, and I marvel at those who have soft words for such deceivers. "That is your bigotry," says one. Call it so, if you like, but it is the bigotry of the loving John, who wrote, "If there come any unto you and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed; for he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds." I would to God we had all more of such decision, for the lack of it is depriving our religious life of its backbone, and substituting for honest manliness a mass of the tremulous jelly of mutual flattery. He who does not hate the false does not love the true, and he to whom it is all the same, whether it be God's word or man's, is himself unrenewed at heart.—*Spurgeon.*

Scientific and Useful.

HICKORY-NUT CAKE.—Two cups sugar, one of milk, two-thirds cup butter, three of flour, three eggs, two teaspoons baking-powder, a cup nut-kernels cut fine.

SWEET PUDDING.—Four cups flour, one cup chopped raisins, one cup milk, one cup chopped beef suet, one cup molasses, one teaspoonful soda; steam three hours. Eat with sauce.

BREAD PANCAKES.—Soak the bread—about a quart—in as little sweet milk as will thoroughly moisten it; then mash the bread until it is a smooth paste; then add a teacupful of sour milk, half a teaspoonful of soda perfectly dissolved in tepid water, and stir in carefully sufficient flour to make a batter just stiff enough to make the cakes light without being thick and hard. (In other words, make them just as thin as they can be baked without sticking or tearing.) Try a cake or two on the hot buttered griddle, if you have any doubt about it. Eggs are not necessary to make light, wholesome pancakes of this kind, but if plenty, or not too expensive they add greatly to their delicacy. Two, three, or four eggs, as you can spare them.

POISONING BY PEACH STONES.—A fatal case of poisoning by peach stones, which is noted in the French papers as having recently occurred in Paris, should serve as a warning to families in which children are allowed to look after themselves for hours at a time. Probably very few adults themselves know how poisonous peach stones are. The victim of the recent accident in Paris secreted the stones of a number of peaches, and, obtaining a hammer, when left alone broke them open industriously and ate them; the result being that he was fatally poisoned by hydrocyanic (prussic) acid. Writers on toxicology state that one ounce of kernels contains about one grain of pure prussic acid, and this quantity, it is well known, is sufficient to kill any adult person. Even two-thirds of a grain has very often proved fatal, and indeed may well be regarded as a fatal dose for any child.—*Selected.*

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