

set aside, the ordinances of religion are patronized rather than thankfully and humbly observed, and active christian duties are on one pretext or another given up.

III. WHAT THE QUEEN OF SHEBA SAID. Her language shews that she was a generous, broad-minded woman.

7. *The half was not told me.* Rumor generally exaggerates but in this case language had failed to convey an adequate idea of the reality. Those who come to the "Greater than Solomon," will find in their own blessed experience far more than others were able to tell them, or their own hopes anticipate. The better we know Christ the more we shall find in him to admire. A young man who had been a leader of gaiety came to a Scripture reading at the persuasion of a friend. There he heard of the joy felt by those who believed in Christ, and the word of God went like an arrow to his heart. But stifling the rising conviction, he went from the meeting to a festive gathering, and was asked to sing. In the midst of the song the words vanished from his memory and in their stead a verse of a hymn that he had just heard. Hurriedly he left his friends and hastened homewards. In the cool night air his cry went up to God, and the answer came without delay. From that very night he rejoiced in God his Saviour, and consecrated himself to his service. He found such joy that he felt the half of the blessedness of trusting in Christ had not been told him. He said "I never knew happiness before. My former pleasure seems as nothing compared to the joy of knowing that the Saviour of sinners is my Saviour, and that he loves me."

8. *Happy are these thy servants which stand continually before thee.* "It is a great thing to be in close companionship with a good and true man. Here is one of the blessings of a noble friendship. Here is one of the gains of a good home, of a good church, of a good school, of a good neighborhood. We are too apt to forget our indebtedness to our best companionships. They are among our choicest and most influential advantages. What would this world be to us without them." (Trumbull). Be careful of the company you keep. Associate only with those whose language and behaviour will instruct and refine.

9. *Blessed be the Lord thy God.* "The queen of Sheba had the right idea of the order

of things. She didn't say that it was a great blessing to the Lord to have so wise a man as Solomon for a servant. She did say that the Lord ought to be thanked for consenting to use such a man as Solomon. How common it is to think of a man who is prominent in the Lord's work, as somehow being a great help to the Lord's cause; and how common it is to hear the suggestion, with regard to some prominent reprobate, that it would be 'such a gain' to the Lord's cause if *that* man could be enlisted in its behalf. It is a great honor for any man to be used of God for a good work. Thanks, not congratulations, are to be given to the Lord for what is accomplished by, or through, such a man." (Trumbull).

IV. WHAT THE QUEEN OF SHEBA GAVE. Her presents were in keeping with her rank and her estimate of Solomon, and with his royal dignity. We can give nothing to Jesus that is worthy of him, or can come up to a true and adequate estimate of his worth. But he is graciously pleased with whatever we present to him along with a loving and loyal heart. In the old schools of philosophy it was usual for the pupils to bring a present to their teacher at the commencement of each term. On one of the occasions when the disciples of Socrates one by one were going up with their gifts, a poor youth hung back. But when all the others had presented their gifts, he flung himself at the feet of the sage, and cried, "O Socrates, I give thee myself." And this is the gift the Lord Jesus asks of you. Give him your heart—yourself. Calvin's seal had engraven on it a hand holding a burning heart, with the motto, "I give Thee all; I keep back nothing for myself."

ADDED POINTS.

1. Test the truth of a rumor before you repeat it.
2. Be ready to give a Bible answer for everything you believe or do.
3. It is worth while taking trouble to find the truth.
4. Jesus can tell us all we want to know about duty, heaven and God. Commune with him.
5. Do not envy those who are more fortunate than ourselves.