

4. In another psalm the Bible is spoken of as a sun, flooding the whole world with light and heat. As such we sometimes know it. But more often in the stress and vicissitudes of our earthly pilgrimage we know it as a lamp for our own difficult way: "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet." This recalls Charles Kingsley's phrase. On a dark, misty night he was cheerful, for, said he, "there is light enough to get home." That is all we really need—light enough to get home—and, if we follow His Word, that at least we shall not miss. We need not too wistfully and anxiously anticipate long futures, but live and walk from day to day in the light vouchsafed.

5. The Bible teaches us how to obtain the true freedom. Liberty is not lawlessness. Liberty is not the reluctant compliance with law. The true liberty is delight in the law. "If the Son shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed." If we set Christ before us as the law of our life, if our chief aim is to be well pleasing unto Him, we shall look above lesser judgments and condemn them whether they flatter or blame, waiting for the one true verdict.

"The long *bazar* may praise, but *thou*,  
Heart of my heart, have I done well?"

6. The Bible will help us to choose our true friends, and these we shall find among the lovers of the law. In choosing our friends we need not be too narrow. We need not insist that they should agree with us in everything. We need not put them through a catechism. The one test is whether they raise us or lower us. If you know one in whose presence your higher nature asserts itself, in whose company you think and speak more nobly and more gently, you have found a companion "of them that fear God and of them that keep His precepts," and that is enough. If, on the other hand, in certain company your lower nature takes the mastery and is ministered to, that is the company and the only company from which the Bible warns you away.

7. Nevertheless, you are not to be selfish. You are to care for the salvation of others. "Rivers of waters run down my eyes, because they keep not Thy law." This was a very noble and a very tender heart. You may keep any company provided that is your spirit, the spirit of Christlike solicitude and yearning to reclaim and redeem.

8. Once more, there is no need that you should

trouble about the difficulties of the Bible or about its fate. It will last long enough, as one has said, to answer any questions which may be asked of it or about it.—*The British Weekly*.

## I WANT TO BE HOLY

Heavenly Father, aid Thy child, who longs to become holy!

But then I must be patient under humiliation—let myself be forgotten, and be even pleased at feeling myself set aside.

*Never mind! I am resolved, I wish to be holy!*

But I must never excuse myself, never be impatient, never out of temper.

*Never mind! I am resolved, I wish to be holy!*

Then I must continually be doing violence to my feelings—submitting my will always to that of my superiors—never contentious—never sulky, finishing every work begun, in spite of dislike or ennui.

*Never mind, I am resolved! I wish to be holy!*

But, then, I must be always charitable towards all around me; loving them, helping them to the utmost of my power, although it may cause me trouble.

*Never mind! I am resolved, I wish to be holy!*

But I must constantly strive against the cowardice, sloth, and pride of my nature, renouncing the world, the vanity that pleases, the sensuality that rejoices me; the antipathy that makes me avoid those I do not like.

*Never mind! I am resolved, I still wish to be holy!*

Then, I shall have to experience long hours of weariness, sadness, and discontent. I shall often feel lonely, and discouraged.

*Never mind! I am resolved, I wish to be holy!*

For then I shall have Thee always with me, ever near me. Lord! help me, for I want to be holy!

A devout woman once wrote thus: "In my own family, I try to be as little in the way as possible, satisfied with everything, and never to believe for a moment that any one means unkindly towards me."

"If people are friendly and kind to me, I enjoy it; if they neglect me, or leave me, I am always happy alone. It all tends to my one aim, forgetfulness of self, in order to please God."—*Gold Dust*.