

WANTED A priest for city work, either permanently as assistant, or as Locum Tenens for August. Apply B. B. C., care of Canadian Churchman, Toronto.

READ FIRST THE BEST BOOKS.

It takes no more time to read the best books than it does to read the second best. Indeed, to read the best books usually saves time by making other reading unnecessary. In every subject there is usually one great book which is the foundation-head of the knowledge of that subject. Those who write afterward do little more than dip their pint cups into the spring. Read that book and it will make unnecessary the reading, with much care at least, of most of the other books on the subject. The same applies to every department of literature. There are not many greatest writers of any age. Only a few men, as someone has put it, are large enough to be seen at the distance of a hundred or a thousand years. Read their books, if they were writers. The other men of their time, as of our own time, have their place, but it is not what theirs is. We have only so much time for reading, not a great deal, even those who have the most leisure, and we cannot afford to waste it on what is not the very best. But how shall we know what is best? If you do not push yourself under the direction of some one who does. There is always in every community some man who knows the best literature and who is more than glad to impart his knowledge to a seeker. Do not think you are imposing upon him when you ask his help. It is no imposition to ask the lover of natural scenery to show you the view from the top of his hill behind his house—the little lake at its foot, the mass of the mountain opposite, the stretch of plain and sky and forest in the distance? It is the great joy of his life to share with you what he himself has seen. So ask this lover of literature to help you; to point out to you what the best books are; and, something equally important, how to approach them. For many an author who is apparently uninteresting, even forbidding, at first sight, will be found to possess the deepest, most satisfying treasures for him who reads aright.

"IGNORANT CONCERNING THEM WHICH ARE ASLEEP."

The grave diggers in Greenwood cemetery, in Trenton, N.J., saw an old white-haired man ride past them the other morning on his bicycle, with a bunch of rosebuds dangling at the handle bars; but the old man did not see them, and they heard him muttering to himself: "Don't look at the handle bars, father! look straight ahead of you!" The old man was on his way to the grave of his son, the bright-faced child of his old age, who but a few weeks before had taught his father how to ride the wheel, and had then died very suddenly. Slowly the old man pedaled up beside the little mound; he detached the bunch of roses, and laid his bicycle on the ground. Then he knelt by the grave, stretched out his hands and scattered the rosebuds over the sods so that

they made a carpet of pink and white and yellow. A gardener who was working a few yards away heard the old man repeat: "Don't look at the handle bars, father!" There was a little sob in his throat as he said the words, and the next moment he had pitched forward over the grave, with his face among the roses. A while after it began to rain, and noticing that he did not move, the workman went and touched him on the shoulder to arouse him, but he did not respond. They lifted him up and found that he was dead. Dead of a broken heart. And it would break all our hearts if it were not for the glorious Easter hope we have in Jesus Christ. Death is no longer a blind alley, but a thoroughfare leading toward the world of light.

BEFORE YOU TAKE DOWN THE SHUTTERS.

A young man who was eager to become an author once received a valuable bit of advice from Douglas Jerrold. Said he, "Be counseled by me. Don't take down the shutters before there is something in the window."

In this not unkindly way, the great wit uttered a warning which has been needed by a great many young people since his day.

A young man who was given an opportunity of gaining a first-class education, hesitated to accept the offer. "It seems almost selfish," he said, "when there is so much work to be done in this world." His mistake was in his failure to realize that preparation was a part of that work he counted so important.

Before you can give, you must receive. The grain must be sown before the harvest can be garnered. Nothing really worthy was ever accomplished without preparation. Do not be in a hurry to take down the shutters. There will be time for that when the windows are filled with what is worth the showing.

A KIND OF IDLENESS.

Idleness is a relative term. Very few young and healthy people enjoy sitting down and folding their hands in absolute inaction. Yet not all of them, by any means, deserve to be called industrious.

The old saying which declares that he is idle who might be better employed may shlake the self-satisfaction of some of you. When you read a trashy book instead of some of the helpful literature within reach of the poorest, you have filled up just as many minutes as if you had occupied them better, yet our proverb charges you with idleness.

And so when you waste time in flippant chatter, or in listening to gossip, or in half-hearted work, that accomplishes nothing. Time is precious. It should be filled with the best always. It is nothing short of idleness to employ it in any way whatever, provided you might have spent it more profitably.

—Gold is, to worldlings, the sole truth of life.

—The nobleness of life depends on its consistency, clearness of purpose, quiet and ceaseless energy.

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WHEN THE SULTAN GOES TO PRAY.

When the Sultan of Turkey attends the Friday midday prayer at the mosque, in Constantinople, the garrison of 30,000 men are stationed along the route so that he shall be safely guarded from the moment he leaves his palace until he is on his carpet in the sacred edifice. He often rides in a close carriage, surrounded by a body-guard. He makes these weekly journeys in fear of his life, and he insists on every precaution being taken. Thousands of people gather to see the Ruler of the Faithful, but the best way to see him is to get the ear of the Chamberlain or Grand Vizier, who, by judicious bribery, may be prevailed upon to admit you to the strangers' box of the mosque, where priests and politicians, soldiers, sailors and civilians jostle one another in their desire to obtain a glimpse of Abd-ul-Hamid at prayer.

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DIVIDEND NO. 38. Notice is hereby given that a dividend at the rate of seven per cent. per annum has this day been declared on the paid-up capital stock of the company for the half-year ending 30th June, 1898, and that the same will be payable at the office of the company, No. 78 Church St., Toronto, on and after 2nd July prox. The Transfer Books will be closed from 16th to 30th June inst., both days inclusive. By order of the Board. JAMES MASON, Manager. Toronto, June 9th, 1898.

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