

temptations that surrounded him, which might well have absorbed all his energies, he set himself to raise up the people of Israel out of the slough into which they had fallen, and strained his power and influence to the utmost in doing so. The success accorded him was a marvellous demonstration of what could be accomplished by one earnest man under God's guidance, and should be a standing incentive to men of all ages to grapple with the problems that surround them. The politician might do much to raise the tone of public discussion and of electoral morals; the business man should use his influence to purify commerce; and each in his sphere should exert himself to the betterment of the world and the improvement of the relations between man and man. There might be more money and greater comfort in abstaining from interference with the ways of the world; but the man who failed of his duty in this regard would certainly fall short of attaining the sum of the possibilities which his nature contained.

Properly Answered.

The interesting and important question noted below was proposed by the *Christian Herald*, and was answered in last week's issue of that Journal by Rev. Joseph Hamilton, author of the serial story now running in the *DOMINION PRESBYTERIAN*. The answer is so just in principle, and so true to nature and experience, that we commend it to our readers.

Question:—"Is it right for a parent to show more love for one child than for another?"

Answer:—A wise parent will be careful not to show such preference or partiality for one child as may excite the jealousy of the rest. Yet it is perhaps impossible to love all the children equally. There are intellectual and spiritual affinities that naturally draw a parent's heart toward one child more than the others. There are even opposite qualities which excite special admiration and love. And perhaps there is nothing that appeals to a parent's tenderness so much as weakness of body or mind on the part of some one of the children. The very helplessness of a child moves our pity, and "pity is akin to love." These and other causes seem to make it impossible to distribute our love equally over all the children in the family. And this partiality or preference within due bounds, seems to me to be right. It is a fundamental law of our being to have special loves. Now we cannot obey that law outside of the family, and wholly ignore it within the family.

Yet a parent ought to be careful not to show any marked preference for one child over another. It may be inevitable that he shall have such an innate preference, but in his dealings with his children he ought to be as fair and impartial as it is possible to be. Laziness here has wrought ruin in many families. In the parable of the Prodigal Son there is reason to suspect that the younger son was pampered before he made that unfortunate break. We fear, too, that David was too partial to Absalom, and suffered in consequence. It was Jacob's marked partiality to Joseph that excited the jealousy of the other sons. Let him that readeth understand.

The best boys in our public schools, academies, colleges, and theological seminaries are those which have been brought up at a Christian mother's knee.

Notes on Samson.

SAMSON—The character in the Old Testament that ought to be studied by an athletic age. He is the strongest man about whom we have any account, and yet about no other have we so many weaknesses recorded. This seems to show that his life was written for a warning, and is a proof of the Apostle's statement that bodily exercise profiteth little. Sandow does not possess the sum of human knowledge, and dumb-bells may help flabby muscles, but do little for fallow minds. The culture of mind and body is necessary for the perfect man.

SAMSON was fortunate in his home. God chose the home of a carpenter for His own Son, and often for His greatest servants. He chooses such a birthplace. Why? Well, in Samson's place, two things were assured—piety and plain living. We acknowledge that the first of these is most important, but so also is the second. We live in a most pampered age, and our luxuries are fast becoming our necessities. The strongest man was reared on homely fare. Sometimes a poor, shivering creature, with pallid face, declares on a platform that he lives on vegetables and cold water. The audience is inclined to add, "And you look like it." But who will dare to say a word when Samson comes forward and declares that he is a cold water man?

SAMSON was fortunate in early finding his calling. In the camp of Dan he found it as a youth. To early find one's life work is of the utmost importance. Sometimes when the family is large, it is apportioned out according to fancy. The eldest a merchant, the next a lawyer, the next a doctor, and the next, who was once discovered perched upon a stool addressing his assembled sisters, must be a minister. Poets are born, not made, but so are merchants, so are mechanics. The question of the choice of a calling must be made a subject of prayer, and of close study of the bent of the mind.

"Time in Flight."

A "NEW CENTURY" SONG OF PRAISE.

Time in flight, the ages roll,
Tide eternal, light and shade,
Boundless sea whereon the soul
Blesseth Christ's "Be not afraid";
Time in flight, a hundred years,
Gone, begun, in hate and love:
Storm and calm alike have fears:
Guidance cometh from above.

Time in flight, life's helm in hand,
Christ our Captain, God the Lord:
Helpless, trustful, let us stand,
Taking courage from His Word:
Truth the standard of our faith,
Fealty's banners raised on high,
God eternal, life or death,
Fear we naught since Thou art nigh!

Time in flight, O give us light,
God the Father, God the Son,
Majesty and meekness,—might,
Spirit regnant, God the One!
Doubts defied and hopes unfurled,
Higher yet our aims in view,
Love can make of life a world
Throbbing with the good and true.

Quebec.

—J. M. Harper.

I once asked Thomas E. Edison if he was a total abstainer, and when he told me that he was, I said: "May I inquire whether it was home influence that made you so?" And he replied, "No, I think it was because I always felt that I had a better use for my head."

Sparks From Other Anvils.

Christian Guardian:—The Church that will patiently and persistently and prayerfully do most to bring about a revival of family religion will do most to bring about the day when "the earth shall be full of the glory of God as the waters cover the sea."

Herald and Presbyterian:—God has heard prayer, and he will hear his people when they pray. We have great encouragement to pray. Let us enter this century with courageous and consecrated hearts, and work and pray for the coming of Christ's kingdom.

Christian Observer:—The New Year may be a good season for a happy change in the matter of church notices. Too many notices of a secular, or semi-secular, nature are sent up to the pulpit, especially in the county churches. Ought not the pulpit notices to be confined to matters which directly concern the work of the Church?

United Presbyterian:—There is one very important fact: They who adopt the Bible as the rule of their lives are the best people, and the nations and races which have accepted the Bible as God's book are the best nations and races. If the Bible brings out the best that is in us, and leads us into what is best, is it not the book for your study?

Christian Intelligencer:—The vision of sudden and great riches in luring many to risks and sacrifices harmful to what is highest and best in themselves. A time of prosperity calls for special watchfulness against a trust in mere temporal, which may be also mere temporary, riches, and for the placing of highest emphasis on the things which perish not in the using. Character is more than condition, and will have value when prosperity may be a thing of the past.

Lutheran Observer:—Temptation tests and proves us. If our hearts are fully set to obey God, it will but drive us closer to him; and he is faithful, and will not suffer us to be tempted above that we are able, but will, with the temptation, also make a way of escape. As we put forth our strength to resist he will energize us and help us to come off conquerors. When we fall it is commonly because of a divided heart. Our purpose to follow God is lacking in integrity or wholeness.

North and West:—The constant blowing of particles of sand against a window pane will, in time, dull the polish of its surface and after a time the beautiful landscape without will lose its brightness and seem to have a haze resting upon it. So some people shut themselves up until the little annoying things of life have so dulled the windows of the soul that they cannot appreciate the brightness about them, and all the world wears a sober aspect. Let them come out of themselves into the clear shining of God's love and they will see things as they are.

New York Observer:—"We have read of a negro entertainment at which, in lieu of printing on the tickets, 'Not transferable,' a notice was posted over the hall, which read: 'No gentleman admitted unless he comes himself.' It might be a good plan if a notice were posted over the doors of the churches reading: 'No gentleman admitted to church membership unless he comes himself to church services, the midweek meetings included. The presence of wives or daughters not accepted as a substitute for the attendance of the man himself. Certainly religious duty is a thing which is 'not transferable.'"