

The Benefit of Adversities.

It is good that we have sometimes some troubles and crosses; for they will often make a man enter into himself, and consider that he is here in banishment, and ought not to place his trust in any worldly thing. It is good that we be sometimes contradicted, and that men think ill or make odious of us; and this, although we do and intend well. These things help often to the attaining of humility, and defend us from vain-glory; for then we are more inclined to seek God for our inward witness, when outwardly we be condemned by men, and when there is no credit given unto us. And therefore a man should settle himself so fully in God that he need not to seek many comforts of men. When a good man is afflicted, tempted, or troubled with evil thoughts, then he understandeth better the great need he hath of God, without whom he perceiveth he can do nothing that is good. Then also he sorroweth, lamenteth and prayeth, by reason of the miseries he suffereth. Then he is weary of living longer, and wisheth that death would come, that he might depart and be with Christ. Then also he will perceiveth that perfect security and full peace can not be had in this world.—Thomas à Kempis.

The opening article in the April "Studio" is Part II of "The Work of J. M. Swan, A. R. A." The frontispiece is a very beautiful colored reproduction of one of his drawings in pastel, called "A Jaguar." Several other illustrations of his work are given also. "Some Modern Italian Artists," by Dr. Romaldo Pantini, gives a good general idea of the whole Italian art movement of the present time. In an article on "Some Recent Work by Nelson and Edith Dawson" a short review of the decay and revival of personal workmanship is given. This article is well illustrated. "A Spanish Painter: Francisco Pradilla"; "Norse Mythology as Illustrated by Anton Molkenboer"; "How to Use a Led Pencil", written and illustrated by E. Borough Johnson; these are all articles of great interest to both the artist and the general reader; while in "Studio-Talk" the work being done in Europe, Great Britain, the United States, and Canada is reviewed by special correspondents.—The Studio, 5 Henrietta St., Covent Garden, London W. C., England.

The May number of that most useful little magazine, "Table Talk", comes to hand with many good suggestions to housewives in regard to their table during the early summer. Recipes for all kinds of delicious dishes are given, and so clear are the directions that the most inexperienced of cooks can follow them. An article called "Just About Boiling" is of a somewhat scientific nature but helpful too. Of a more general character are articles on "Modern Superstitions," "Gossip", and "A Cook Book of 1700"—A Belated Review.—Table Talk Publishing Company, Philadelphia.

The Gentlewoman for May has instalments of the serials running, as well as several very good short stories, chief among which is one by Ellen Thorneycroft Fowler, "The Man with Transparent Legs". This paper is chiefly made up of fiction, but in the number before us there is an illustrated article on "Fencing for Ladies," and a quantity of verse.—The Gentlewoman, New York City.

We should recognize the good in the world, as well as the evil.

Our Young People

General Topic—How to Get Rid of Sin.—John 1. 5-10.

BY W. A. STEWART, M. A.

Ever since the smoke of Abel's sacrifice went curling up to heaven man has been asking the question How is he to get rid of Sin: and of all others this is precisely the question he himself has been least able to answer.—Can the Ethiopian change his skin said Jeremiah, or the leopard his spots? then may we also do good that are accustomed to do evil.

In the fulness of time, however, this hopeless aspect of the question was removed.—Light hath visited us from on high and the people that walked in darkness have seen a great light.

The testimony of Scripture is that unless there be a real personal and implacable hatred of sin in the heart of the seeker himself there is no way of getting rid of sin.—Unless sin be seen to be a man's born enemy, even as Haman the Agagite was the sworn enemy of Israel by descent, there is no hope. Sacrifices in themselves of whatever kind are artificial and vain: So long as a man loves sin or regards it even with indifference its fatal consequences will attend him like his shadow in the sunli. In the gospel call, therefore, Faith is always preceded by Repentance—"Repent and Believe."

Presuming then that sin is seen to be our direst foe and the fruitful parent of all suffering and sorrow, the way to get rid of it is seen to be through the mutual co-operation of ones own self and another.

It is with sin as with thriftless poverty. In order to lift a man out of his natural poverty it is not enough that the philanthropist pays all his debts, furnishes him with suitable food and clothing and surrounds him with all the circumstances of comfort and luxury. So far so good, but if that is all that is done little is accomplished, for he may be rich to-day and poor again to-morrow. If such a man would continue in comfort and abundance he must learn to be prudent and economical; he must strive to be industrious and to cultivate within the sphere of his own life all generous virtues.

And so if one would rid himself of sin—of spiritual poverty of the most loathsome character—it is absolutely necessary to avail oneself of the assistance of The Sinners Friend. Unto Him we may confidently appeal in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins according to the riches of his services.

But we must also strive to help ourselves. And we shall do that to best advantage by diligently using the means of grace God in his providence has so generously provided. And not to mention many of the staffs God puts into the hands of His pilgrims for their refreshment we shall not forget the Study of God's Holy Word, the exercises of public and private worship, the proper observance of The Sabbath Day. Another singularly helpful expedient is Fight. There is a time to fight and a time to flee, and happy are they who know when to do the one and when to do the other.

L'Amable.

It is easy to decry creed, but it should be remembered that the churches holding most rigidly to creeds have made the most progress.

Lady Macbeth's Hands.

EV. REV. JOHN E. POUNDS, D. D.

There is nothing under heaven that will remove the indelible stain of sin. The things around us may be soiled with the touch of polluted hands, without the hands being cleansed at all. Lady Macbeth was not altogether mistaken in thinking that the blood on her hands would incarnadine the sea, but that her hands would not be cleansed by all its waters. Tears of repentance will more nearly wash away sin than aught else. They will cause us to turn to Jesus Christ, in whose blood there is full remission.

Daily Readings.

Mon.,	May 27.—Cease to do evil. Isa. 1: 16-20
Tues.,	" 28.—Learn to do good. Rom. 12: 9-18
Wed.,	" 29.—Cast out by prayer. Matt. 17: 14-21
Thurs.,	" 30.—The uplifted Saviour. Isa. 45: 18-25
Fri.,	" 31.—The saving look. Num. 21: 4-9
Sat.,	June 1.—Living near the Master. John 1: 35-39
Sun.,	" 2.—Topic. How to get rid of sin. 1. John 1: 5-10

Penitence is the first movement to mercy, and confession to God is the first step upward.—Bishop Huntington.

Tried by final tests, and reduced to its essential elements, sin is the preference of self to God, and the assertion of the human will against the will of God.—John Watson, D. D.

In Stanley's account of his African experiences, he tells of his first encounter with a pygmy tribe that used poisoned arrows. With contemptuous smiles the young men drew out the tiny darts, flung them away, and continued answering the savages with rifle shots. When the day's fight was over, the wounds, which were mere punctures, were syringed with warm water and bandaged, but soon the poison began to be felt, and all who were wounded either died after terrible suffering, or had their constitutions wrecked, or were incapacitated for a long time. So the smallest sin does its work, sooner or later.

A Book For Mothers

CONTAINING MUCH INFORMATION AS TO THE CARE OF CHILDREN, AND THE TREATMENT OF ILLS THAT COMMONLY AFFLICT LITTLE ONES—GIVEN FREE.

"Baby's Battles; A Message for Mothers" is the title of a very handsome little pamphlet just issued by the Dr. Williams' Medicine Company. It is devoted entirely to the care of infants and small children and tells the mother how to aid her little ones in the emergencies of every day life. It describes the ills that commonly afflict children and tells how to treat them. This little book is one that should be in every home where there are infants or small children. All mothers who send their name and address on a post card to the Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont., will receive a copy of this book free of charge. Mention the DOMINION PRESBYTERIAN when writing.