

HOPE'S QUIET HOUR

LET NO MAN TAKE THY CROWN

Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown. — Rev. iii. : 11.

In that day shall the LORD of Hosts be for a crown of glory, and for a diadem of beauty, unto the residue of His people. — Isa. xxviii. : 5.

"Heaven is so near, when we go to find it
We can't see clear for the glory behind it;
It's right at our feet, but we never mind it.

"Heaven is so near that we bump right in it,
On every side at every minute
That we live life right and deserve to win it!"

"Let no man take thy crown," said our Lord to His struggling disciples in Philadelphia. They had "a little strength," had kept the faith and had not denied His Name. Now they were encouraged with the hope of splendid opportunities ahead; before them was set an open door which no man had power to shut in their faces. Satan's forces should bow before their feet, because Christ the King had declared openly to all the world: "They shall know that I have loved thee."

It has been pointed out that Christ, in His message to the seven churches of Asia, holds the promise of a "crown" before the suffering church of Smyrna and the patient church of Philadelphia; and these two are the only churches out of the seven that are not called upon to repent. Smyrna seems, in the world's eyes, to be poor, but God says of her: "Thou art rich." Philadelphia seems to be weak and despised, but is crowned with the glory of God's great and wonderful love.

As the message came to disciples then so it comes to us to-day: "Let no man take thy crown." God does not call us to live at a low level of sordid commonplace, but sets before us a high ambition—a crown. In the verse given above, from the prophet Isaiah, we see that the LORD of Hosts Himself is the "crown of glory and the diadem of beauty unto the residue of His people." He offers Himself to all; but some despise the honor and privilege, preferring the lower ambition of some earthly crown.

The other day I saw a picture called "The Two Crowns." A man, with a face which tells of a splendid intellect and earnestness of purpose, is riding on a fine horse which is caparisoned magnificently. The rider wears a golden crown, and is decorated with many emblems of earthly glory. Beautiful women are flinging flowers in his path, and he has apparently reached the summit of worldly ambition. And yet the face is very sorrowful, as this earthly king looks wistfully at the figure of One hanging on a Cross, crowned with thorns faintly seen in the background. Evidently, like the rich young ruler who went sorrowfully away from Christ, this pictured ruler, when given his choice of crowns, chose one which looked grand, but which failed to satisfy his heart. He got everything he had been struggling for, and found that he had missed the real crown, which was worth a lifetime of effort.

St. Paul tells us how men strain every nerve to win the crown of fame in a race—a crown that fades very quickly—and he urges us to be as eager in our pursuit of the incorruptible crown which can never fade away.

This morning I read how some Arctic explorers, after many long years of tireless endeavor, were wearing the crown of the world's applause. How long will that crown be held up in sight of a fickle world, do you suppose? The other day, the favorites were the daring explorers of the air, to-day the explorers of the polar regions are wearing the crown of fame. Perhaps, by the time this is in your hands, the world may be wildly excited over some other discovery, and the fame which seems so

splendid dies out, as a star is lost in the blaze of the rising sun.

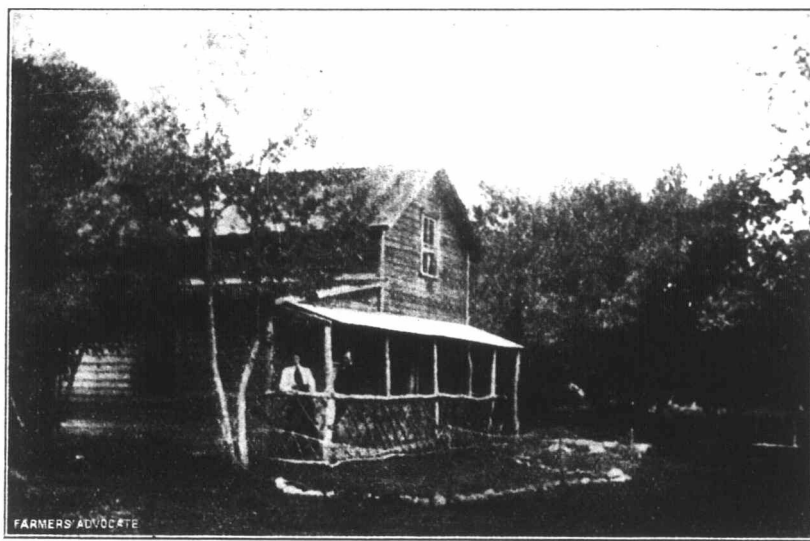
I am addressing, for the most part, men and women who don't trouble themselves about the applause of the world. You go steadily on with your work, year after year, without expecting or wishing to have your name telegraphed all over the civilized world. Perhaps you have no more desire to wear a crown than the poor little Shah of Persia, who wanted to commit suicide in order to escape that dignity.

And yet the message comes to each of you: "Let no man take thy crown!" You, like the young king in the picture described above, are given a choice of two crowns. Which of the two are you claiming?

Don't be satisfied simply to "git through" this earthly existence in a satisfactory and creditable fashion. Aim very high. Not the world's favor, but the love of God is worth living for.

"Say not 'Too poor,' but freely give; Sigh not 'Too weak,' but boldly try. You never can begin to live Unless you dare to die—"

says Henry Van Dyke. What Emperor could hope for a higher honor than that which is offered to you? You are made a little lower than the angels, and yet crowned with glory and honor. The Most Holy God has set His love upon



HOME, SWEET HOME.

you and called you to climb up beside the King of Love on the throne of the Cross and share His crown of thorns. He loved His brothers, and felt that any opportunity of helping them was a rich treasure—though it involved suffering and unpaid labor, though it meant shame instead of fame. And it was worth while. The love of the Father satisfied His eager ambition, and His own devoted love to men made His life sweet and rich and full.

It is—or may be the same to-day. A life is rich, not when much is snatched at, but when much is given out.

"Measure thy life by loss instead of gain; Not by the wine drunk, but the wine poured forth;
For love's strength standeth in love's sacrifice;

And whoso suffers most hath most to give."

Never consider that anyone has "died rich" just because he left a pile of money behind him, but remember that the people who die rich are those who have spent their lives in holy, unselfish, beautiful service for God and their fellows. They win not only the crown of God's love and favor, but they are also rich in the love of good men and women, and of unnumbered little children.

Among the wise sayings of the Book of Proverbs, we find this one: "It is not good to eat much honey, so for men to reach their own glory, is not glory." One who takes all the sweet things with a reach is like a man who eats too

much honey—nothing tastes as it should. The man who fights for the first place, caring little if others are shoved aside, is really small and paltry in his ambition. The man who is ready to drop his own plans at God's bidding, or pause like the Good Samaritan to help those in need, is a king in the sight of God and His angels. Every little kindness shown to one of Christ's "little ones"—shown to the children, the poor, or the old people, who can make no return—is gathered up eagerly by the glad guardian angel and placed as a bright jewel in the hand of the King. He will treasure it as a jewel of great price, and will rejoice with you and over you if your crown is blazing with many thousands of such jewels. I think He takes far more pleasure in the little everyday offerings which win little notice from men—"the cups of cold water"—than He does in the sacrifices which seem heroic and romantic.

It is a law of life that one who goes out of his way to injure another is injured himself, and one who goes out of his way to help another is helped himself. If we are not spending the precious years for God and our fellows, we are growing poorer, instead of richer, all the time. But we have nothing of our own to give, so we must live with God in order to be his stewards to others. The disciples could only feed the multitudes by going again and again and again to their Master for bread. We can only get effectually into touch with men by keeping always in living conscious fellowship with God. And—let us never forget it—it is impossible to

Power to be perfect, power to be whole — Matthew 5 : 48.

Completely holy in body and soul. — Romans 12 : 1.

Power to be righteous in heart and in life. — Luke 1 : 6.

Pure, clean, spotless, and free from all strife. — Romans 13 : 13.

Power to endure the chastening rod. — Hebrews 12 : 5-7.

Power to tread in the paths that Christ trod. — 1 Peter 2 : 21.

Up Calvary's Hill, to Humility Plain. — James 4 : 6.

More than conqueror again and again. — Romans 8 : 37.

Power to lay siege to the storehouse of heaven. — Malachi 3 : 10.

And bring down the blessings so freely God-given. — Proverbs 28 : 20.

To claim all that's promised to conquering faith. — 1 Peter 1 : 9.

Even all that God is, and all that He hath. — Galatians 4 : 7.

The promise is sure, ye shall receive power. — Romans 4 : 21.

Oh, doubt them no longer, but trust God this hour. — Matthew 21 : 21.

The promise in love He will surely fulfil. — Psalm 145 : 19.

And you with His Spirit just now He will fill. — Ephesians 5 : 18.

(SENT BY A READER.)

A SUITABLE GIFT FOR CHRISTMAS

"The Vision of His Face," by Dora Farncomb. The William Weld Co., London, Ont. Price, \$1.00; 224 pages; cloth.

"If the Master tarries and comes not, this message will be just as real for the dwellers in the 30th as in the 20th century, for its center is that everlasting theme, the 'Vision of His Face.' And while the book throughout is devotional, it is at the same time very deeply practical, and there are from time to time little suggestions that are admirably applicable to the tense life of our present age. . . . It ought to be a helper to many—the anxious, the spent, and the worn. It ought to inspire the loyal." — Church Life.

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Guard well thy words
How else canst thou be master of thyself?

Well-poised and courteous speech can make thee king

Among thy fellowmen,
Keep watch upon thyself

And govern well thy lips as doors unto a treasure-house.

That nothing may be stolen from thee unawares.

By sudden moods.

—MABEL P. HASKELL.

INGLE NOOK

FLOWERS FOR WINTER

It is of no use to select plants for winter blooming that are naturally delicate and require coaxing and careful culture even in greenhouses. There are few plants adapted to winter blooming, but these few will prove very satisfactory if they receive the proper care. Among these may be placed the geraniums, because there are few flowers that will lighten and brighten up a room more than they, and few that require less care; but sunshine is essential to them, so would not advise them for any one who does not have an east or south window in which to grow them.

Geraniums do not like a wet soil; they should be kept moist, but never wet. In potting them for winter blooming, it is necessary to see that the pot has proper drainage—pieces of broken crockery or brick are excellent for this purpose. Break up fine, and put an inch or more in the bottom of the pot, according to size. If the pots are properly drained, there will be no danger of the soil's getting muddy, since the water not necessary for the use of the plant will drain off. Another important thing to remember is never to select for winter blooming a plant that has bloomed during the summer. Very few plants, indeed, will

be crowned in God's sight if we are cross and disagreeable in the everyday life at home. It is not a glorious thing to be generous to the poor without paying one's just debts, or gracious to strangers and rude or exacting to one's family and servants.

Let no man take thy crown. Take it yourself NOW. Scientists tell us that a bar of metal is made of atoms, each separate and distinct, though held together by the strange force of "cohesion"—it looks like one piece. So each life is made of moments, separate and distinct. Each thought and act and word of yours and mine goes instantly into God's presence, to witness for us or against us. A shining life can only be made out of shining minutes and beautiful hours.

"Heaven is so near—why, we search all around us
Till it leans with its ear to our hearts to sound us,
And here in our own dear lanes it has found us."

DORA FARNCOMB.

YE SHALL RECEIVE POWER

(Acts 1 : 8.)

The Holy Ghost will in fullness come down. — Acts 1 : 4.

Your heart he will fill and your labor He will crown. — Matthew 16 : 19.

Every chain shall be broken and you shall be freed. — John 8 : 36.

For power He will give you to meet every need. — John 14 : 26.