

The Quiet Hour.

"BE YE HOLY."

A man who has been redeemed by the Son of God should be pure. He who is an heir of God should be holy. He who is attended by the celestial beings, and is soon—he does not know how soon—to be translated to heaven, should be holy. Are angels my attendants? Then I should walk worthy of my companions. Am I soon to go and dwell with angels? Then should I be pure. Are these feet soon to tread the courts of heaven? Is this tongue soon to unite with holy beings in praising God? Are these eyes soon to look on the throne of eternal glory and the ascended Redeemer? Then these feet and eyes and lips should be pure and holy, and I should be dead to the world and live for heaven.—*Albert Barnes.*

THE CHRISTIAN'S STRENGTH.

I crossed the ocean in a powerful steamship, which weighed more than twenty thousand tons, and pushed her way against wind and wave at the rate of over twenty knots an hour. I could not see the propelling force; that was hidden deep down in the glowing furnaces, helped constantly with fresh coal. That illustrates the spiritual life of every strong, healthy, growing Christian; his strength is measured by the inward supply of divine grace. The spiritual force and progress of a growing Christian prove that his life is hid with Jesus Christ. Happy are you if your neighbors who can see you every day can know by your outward conduct that your inner life is fed by an unseen Christ.—*Rev. T. L. Cuyler, D.D.*

A DAILY PORTION.

The manna was so pure and delicate that it could not bear contact with earth. It fell upon the dew, and had to be gathered ere the sun was up. Each one, therefore, had to rise early and seek his daily portion. So it is with the people of God now. The heavenly manna must be gathered fresh every morning. Yesterday's manna will not do for to-day, or to-day's for to-morrow. We must feed upon Christ every day, with fresh energy of the spirit, else we shall cease to grow. Moreover, we must make Christ our primary object. We must seek him "early."—*C. H. M.*

LORD, TEACH US TO PRAY.

One of the greatest needs of the world and the church to-day is men who know how to pray. The need is felt and acknowledged, but it is easily supplied; for prayer is a most wonderful thing and few of us know much about it. When we begin to study prayer we find it has in it something of the infiniteness of God and that in this matter the most advanced of us is

but a beginner. There are mysteries in prayer that we have never explored; there is a power in prayer that we have never wielded; there are joys and sorrows in prayer that we have never tasted. Though we may have been in Christ for years, we still need to come to him as disciples came of old with the request: "Lord, teach us to pray."—*Rev. G. H. C. MacGregor.*

KEEP OUT OF SIGHT.

The fisherman who understands his business keeps out of sight of the fish. It is recorded of a gentleman who, seeing a little Scotch lad very successful in catching fish, asked him the secret of his good fortune in catching so many, while he was seldom rewarded with a bite. "Easy enough, sir," said the boy, "I do nae go in sight of the fish. The successful fisher of men must likewise so hide himself behind the crags, as that the souls he would win will see "Jesus only."

DIG YOUR WELL DEEPER.

A dry time has always been improved more or less to dig wells deeper. There is no better time to do this than in the time of a drought. We know of many old wells that have been made better than new by being dug deeper in the time of drought. When the next time of drought comes they can be relied on as never before.

It is a very dry time just now in the religious world, and it is a good time for us all to dig our wells deeper. Do not be satisfied, no matter what your experience has been, but dig deeper. The love of many is waxing cold. There never, perhaps, was a time when it required more alertness to keep from spiritual drowsiness and famine than now. And there is no better way to keep awake and refreshed with that living water that Jesus promised than to dig your well deeper, and then "with joy shall ye draw water out of the wells of salvation." Let us all resolve to go deeper! The dryer it gets around you, the deeper you need to dig.—*Christian Witness.*

CONFESSING CHRIST.

To the confession of Christ there can be none but captious objections. Christ needed, Christ found, Christ saving from sin "unto the uttermost," Christ dwelling within, Christ keeping from falling, Christ the bread of life—not a crust, but the "whole loaf," as Rutherford confesses—Christ the well of water in the heart, and Christ a perfectly satisfying portion. But why confess Christ a perfect Saviour? For the same reason that he is to be confessed at all. If he is enthroned within, and reigns after all his foes are expelled, let him have the laurels of a conqueror wreathing his brow. This is especially obligatory, since the devil has loudly professed that he has so strongly entrenched himself in the human soul that he is inexorable till death's power is added to that of the Son of God. Why not let people find out from our lives instead of our lips that Christ is made unto us sanc-

tification? Why not by the same method let the world discover your apprehension of the forgiving Christ? The answer in both cases is, that Christ himself has appointed the instrument by which he shall be confessed, namely, the mouth, while the life confirms what the lips utter.—*Dr. Steele.*

TAKE TIME.

We are often in a hurry in our religious devotions. How much time do we spend in them daily? Can it not be easily reckoned in minutes? Probably many of us would be discomposured by an arithmetical estimate of our communion with God. It might reveal to us the secret of much of our apathy in prayer, because it might disclose how little we desire to be alone with God. We might learn from such a computation that Augustine's idea of prayer, as "the measure of love," is not very flattering to us. We do not grudge time given to a privilege which we love. . . . Whoever knew an eminently holy man who did not spend much of his time in prayer? Did ever a man exhibit much of the spirit of prayer who did not devote much time to his closet? Whitefield says, "Whole days and weeks have I spent prostrate on the ground, in silent or vocal prayer." "Fall upon your knees and grow there," is the language of another, who knew whereof he affirmed. It has been said that no great work in literature or science was ever wrought by a man who did not love solitude. We may lay it down as an elemental principle of religion, that no large growth in holiness was ever gained by one who did not take time to be often and long alone with God.—*Austin Phelps.*

THE SECRET OF WINSOMENESS.

What is it in Jesus that so draws men, that wins their allegiance away from every other master, that makes them ready to leave all for his sake and to follow him through peril and sacrifice even to death? Is it his wonderful teaching? "Never man spakē like this man." Is it his power as revealed in his miracles? Is it his sinlessness? The most malignant scrutiny could find no fault in him. Is it the perfect beauty of his character? None nor all of these will account for the wonderful attraction of Jesus. Love is the secret. He came into the world to reveal the love of God—he was the love of God in human flesh. His life was all love. In most wonderful ways during all his life did he reveal love. Men saw it in his face and felt it in his touch and heard it in his voice. This was the great fact which his disciples felt in his life. His friendship was unlike any friendship they had ever seen before or even dreamed of. It was this that drew them to him and made them love him so deeply, so tenderly. Nothing but love will kindle love. Power will not do it. Holiness will not do it. Gifts will not do it—men will take your gifts and then repay you with hatred. But love begets love; heart responds to heart. Jesus loved.—*Dolan.*

Be one of the very few who, a thing to be done, will not trust it to the uncertain tomorrow.—*Dinah Muloch Craik.*