

Words of the Wise.

THE most powerful agencies of nature are invisible—light, gravitation, and electricity. It is so with the influences which one man exerts over another—and which Christians exert over the world.

MEN who see into their neighbours are very apt to be contemptuous; but men who see through them find something lying behind every human soul which is not for them to sit in judgment on, or to attempt to sneer out of the order of God's manifold universe.

THERE is nothing so trustworthy on earth as the Word of God. That which it discloses of God's nature, God's purposes, of man's duty, of man's destiny, is absolutely true, and shall find its fulfilment beyond all question. Heaven and earth shall pass away, but God's Word shall stand forever.

A CHRISTIAN, passing two young men on the sidewalk, heard one of them swear, and remarked, "I suppose it would take a good deal to induce one of us to steal." "I guess it would," they responded. "But," he added, "the law which says, 'Thou shalt not steal,' says also, 'Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain,' and to break the one commandment is as wicked as to break the other."

SAILORS in a storm must sometimes bind themselves to the rigging that they may not be washed overboard. The helmsman must often tie himself to the wheel. The same precaution is necessary in spiritual things. The waves of temptation are too high for us, and would sweep us away. We need to be bound. Church-membership is a bond. The communion of God's people, the prayer of faith and the study of God's Word are bonds which keep us from evil.

It is a great mistake to set up your standard of right and wrong, and judge people accordingly. It is a great mistake to measure the enjoyment of others by our own; to expect uniformity of opinion in this world; to look for judgment and experience in youth; to endeavour to mould all dispositions alike; not to yield to immaterial trifles; to look for perfection in our own actions; to worry ourselves and others with what cannot be remedied; to believe only what our finite minds can grasp.

A CLERGYMAN was recently annoyed by people talking and giggling. He paused, looked at the disturbers, and said, "I am always afraid to disapprove those who misbehave, for this reason: Some years since, as I was preaching, a young man who sat before me was constantly laughing, talking, and making uncouth grimaces. I paused and administered a severe rebuke. After the close of the sermon a gentleman said to me, 'Sir, you have made a great mistake; that young man is an idiot.' Since then I have always been afraid to reprove those who misbehave themselves in chapel, lest I should repeat that mistake, and reprove another idiot." During the rest of the service there was good order.

DR. EZRA ABBOTT, one of the New Testament revisers, says that "the greatest service which the scholars who have devoted themselves to critical studies and the collection of critical materials have rendered has been the establishment of the fact that, on the whole, the New Testament writings have come down to us in a text remarkably free from important corruptions, even in the late and inferior manuscripts on which the so-called 'received text' was founded," and "though the corrections made by the revisers in the Greek text of the New Testament followed by our translators probably exceed two thousand, hardly one-tenth of them, perhaps not one twentieth, will be noticed by the ordinary reader."

THERE is a bitter wisdom in this bit from "Daniel Deronda": "In general, mortals have a great power of being astonished at the presence of an effect toward which they have done everything, and at the absence of an effect toward which they have done nothing but desire it. Parents are astonished at the ignorance of their sons, though they have used the most time-honoured and expensive means of securing it; husbands and wives are mutually astonished at the loss of affection which they have taken no pains to keep; and all of us in our turn are apt to be astonished that our neighbours do not admire us. In this way it happens that the truth seems highly improbable." And what corresponding sweetness is there in this thought from the same book: "In many of our neighbour's lives there is much not only of error and lapse, but of a certain exquisite goodness, which can never be written or even spoken, only divined by each of us according to the inward instruction of our own privacy."

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