

he recorded a promise, and shall he not perform it? "hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?" "Ask me," saith Jehovah, "of things to come concerning my sons, and concerning the work of my hands command ye me." "Thus saith the Lord God: I will yet for this be inquired of by the house of Israel to do it for them." Let, then, our prayers for the Holy Spirit be more frequent, more fervent, and more importunate. Let us desire more, and expect more, than we have ever yet received. Let meetings for special prayer evince the earnestness of our longings after heavenly influence, and then it will be no presumption to indulge the hope, that an effusion of the Holy Spirit, bearing resemblance to that which has effected so glorious a revival in many of the churches in other parts of the world, may ere long descend, in all its vivifying and gladdening influence, upon our's also!

H. F. B.

#### GOOD ADVICE TO BEGINNERS.

*Set a value on the smallest morsels of knowledge.*—These fragments are the dust of diamonds. Of these fragments the mass of learning is composed. "It is true," as Poor Richard says, "there is much to be done, and perhaps you are weak-handed; but stick to it steadily, and you will see great effects, for constant dropping wears away stones; and by diligence and patience the mouse ate in two the cable; and little strokes fell great oaks." A man may learn that in two minutes which may be valuable to him all his life. Even if you see no use in the thing learned, do not despise it. Learn all that you can, and you will live to see its value. Never let slip an opportunity of gaining a new idea. And remember that the beginnings, even of the most sublime sciences, are often so simple as to seem worthless.

*Redeem time for study.*—The busiest workman can spare some moments. If you mean to get wisdom, you must learn the value of moments. Great attainments have been made in these little snatches. Whether you work or play, do it in earnest; but never be unemployed an instant. Unstable and indolent people lose much of life in thinking what they shall do next. Always have a book within reach, which you may catch up at your odd minutes. It is incredible, until trial has been made, how much real knowledge may be acquired in these broken scraps of time. Resolve to edge in a little reading every day, if it is but a single sentence. The man who pursues this method will infallibly become learned. Take a little time for reading from each end of your night's rest. If you can gain fifteen minutes a day, it will make itself felt at the close of the year. I have sometimes thought that the mind acts with double vigour when forced into these brief periods of application.

By degrees, you will learn to save moments from recreation, from idle talk, and even from work. And in the long winter evenings, you will certainly be inexcusable, if you do not devote an hour or two to your books.

*Regulate your thoughts when not at study.*—A man is thinking even while at work; why may he not be thinking about what is useful? Study is intended to discipline the mind; let your mind be kept under check and rein, while your hands are employed. Revolve in your mind what you have last been reading. Commit useful things to your memory, and turn these over in your thoughts, while you ply the hammer or the wheel. Remember that most of the matchless effusions of Robert Burns were conceived while he was toiling after his plough. Moreover, there is such a thing as study without books. Keep your mind in an inquiring mood,