

Words of the Wise.

It was George Herbert who said a handful of good life is worth a bushel of learning. I HAVE lived to thank God that all my prayers have not been answered.—*Years Inglow.*

"I HAVE never yet met with a man, or with an author, who both understood Christianity and disbelieved it."—*Beattie.*

WILLIAM PENN wisely says: "When thou art obliged to speak, be sure to speak the truth, for equivocation is half-way to lying, and lying is the whole way to hell."

Do, like a child, lean and rest Upon thy Father's arm; Pour out thy troubles on His breast, And thou shalt know no harm; Then shall thou by His hand be brought, By ways which now thou knowest not, Up through a well-fought fight, To heavenly peace and light. —*Paul Gerhardt.*

AFTER all, the pure sceptic proves in the end the least formidable of the opponents of Christianity. He cannot have a zeal "according to knowledge," for to him, by his own confession, knowledge is hopeless, and a zeal without it is so inconsistent and so futile that it must ere long sink to the level of a philosophical or literary curiosity, rather than go forth as a living and world-subduing power.—*John Cairns.*

"A MAN who is a member of a congregation is interested in having it prosper. Looked at from a pecuniary point of view, he is engaged to do what he can to secure its progress, and has staked his reputation upon its success or failure. The easy way in which some men who are very eager in matters of ordinary business treat their church responsibilities, is a very serious reflection upon their honesty and practical sense, to say nothing of their devotion to God."—*United Presbyterian.*

To believe in a Presence within us pleading with our prayers, groaning with our groans, aspiring with our aspirations—to believe in the divine supremacy of conscience—to believe that the spirit is above the letter—to believe that the substance is above the form—to believe that the meaning is more important than the words—to believe that truth is greater than authority, or fashion, or imagination, and will at last prevail—to believe that goodness, and justice, and love are the bonds of perfectness, without which, who-soever liveth, is counted dead though he live, and which bind together those who are divided in all other things whatsoever—this, according to the biblical uses of the word, is involved in the expression, "I believe in the Holy Ghost."—*Dean Stanley.*

"THE strength of God pilot me; the power of God preserve me; the wisdom of God instruct me; the eye of God watch over me; the ear of God hear me; the word of God give me sweet talk; the hand of God defend me; the way of God guide me. Christ be with me; Christ before me; Christ after me; Christ in me; Christ under me; Christ over me. Christ on my right hand; Christ on my left hand; Christ on this side; Christ on that side; Christ at my back; Christ in the heart of every person to whom I speak; Christ in the mouth of every person who speaks to me; Christ in the eye of every person who looks upon me; Christ in the ear of every person who hears me. Today, I invoke the almighty power of the Trinity. Salvation is the Lord's—salvation is the Lord's. Salvation is Christ's. May Thy salvation, O Lord, be always with us!"—*St. Patrick.*

"CONVERSIONS and revivals are beyond all human power and effort. If you try to introduce anything like mechanical force into the system which God has placed in His own keeping and direction, you will soon be convinced of the futility of your efforts. 'Impossible,' will be the verdict on every such trial. But 'with God all things are possible.' It is true as God's Word—true as all the Church's history—true as each believer's experience, that the careless can be awakened; the preacher's voice made powerful to souls; the hearers moved, not to tears only, but to repentance; the backslider restored; the Church revived. But by what means? Not by mere effort, or only by organization, or vigour, or concentration of labour, or looking for results. No. By the Spirit of God only, and by Him perfectly. There is no careless man on earth whom He cannot and may not awaken—no preacher living who preaches Jesus, whose words he may not make to be quickened seeds of eternal life—no hearer to whose heart He may not effectually speak—no backslider too far gone to be restored to Him—the Church too dead to be revived."—*Anon.*

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