

*THANKFULNESS.*

Many good things seem to be fast dying out, and getting rarer year by year. Among these is gratitude. No one who watches what goes on in the world, can fail to see the want of it. People seem to think that they lower themselves by shewing thankfulness. It is as if they could get rid of a debt by refusing to acknowledge it. Children who owe all to their parents, cut themselves loose from them as soon as they can, and think it a very hard case if they are asked to do anything for their support in old age or sickness. They forget all the years during which their parents cared and toiled for them. The grudge a few weeks' or months' help in return. Or, they shew by their want of kindness and respect, that there is no feeling of thankfulness in their hearts. Those who spend their lives in the service of others, often find that those for whom they do most are quickest to repay good with evil. Large-hearted, kindly people do not wish to be thanked, but they like to see a right spirit in those whom they try to help. True self-respect is proved not by making little of what is done for them, and the friendliness of those who do it, but by fully acknowledging it. When an obligation is denied or forgotten, it becomes greater; for the person who has received the benefit is proved unworthy.

There seem to be many reasons which may explain how gratitude has become so rare. Among them is certainly that religion has less hold on people than it used to have. There is less feeling of what we owe to God, and more of the proud

self-trust, which thinks to do without Him and to be free from His control. So it follows that there is less thought of the goodness which He brings near to us by means of those in whom He puts some of His own love and kindness for our good and comfort.

There is a change also in the way in which the young are trained. They are not taught, as in old days, to look up to their elders, and to take thankfully what is done for them. They expect everything and everyone to give way to them; they must be first thought of. They get to think that the only use of those older than themselves, is to find them means of enjoyment and to make sacrifices to help them. They shake off control before they have learned to rule themselves. The selfish spirit of the child shews itself in the man or woman.—*Gospeller.*

Dr. Tait has appealed for public aid in the building of his church. There is \$130,000 coming from insurance on the burned building, and a contemporary calls attention to the fact that that there are 4,126 members, that the congregation last year could only raise \$151 for home missions, and \$138 for foreign missions, and asks: "How would it do for this suffering people to release their pastor for a year or two, to go on a lecture tour to raise money for a building fund?"

The Bishops of Melbourne and Ballarat have directed the clergy in their dioceses to refuse to officiate at any marriages of persons divorced under the new Victorian Act, or to issue marriage licenses to such parties.