

Parish and Home.

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EPIPHANY.

Dear Saviour, at Thy feet
I fain would lay
Such offerings as are meet
For Thee this day.

No gold have I, my King,
To form a crown;
But all my joys I bring,
And lay them down.

My prayers, High Priest divine,
On bended knee,
As incense at Thy shrine,
I offer Thee.

O Son of Man, to Thee
I consecrate
My griefs, whate'er they be—
Or small or great.

My whole life take, O Lord,
And may it be
One song of praise to God
For gifts to me.

—A.P.B., in *Parish Visitor*.

BUSINESS WORRIES.

The open weather of last month caused anxious thoughts to many a merchant. Generally, they expect an increase in business during the weeks preceding Christmas sufficient to make up for the looked-for slackness of the earlier season. But bad roads and warm weather kept the farmers from marketing their produce and purchasing their winter goods. No wonder that he who has payments to make at the new year should, at times, be anxious. It is at such times that his religion comes to the aid of the Christian merchant. He has done all that he can do, his stock is full and well assorted, his windows and store are

as attractive as possible, his business is properly advertised, he and his clerks are courteous, obliging, and ready, he has done all that his ability and experience can suggest. Now he must leave it with God to do; his business is in the hands of God as much as the crop on the carefully prepared land of the skilful farmer. He is a Christian. He reads, "He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things" (Romans viii. 32); "I will not fail thee nor forsake thee" (Joshua i. 5); and "I have been young and now am old, yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken" (Ps. xxxvii. 25); and "He is faithful that promised" (Heb. x. 23). With these promises why should he be anxious? His Father has charge of the whole matter—all is well. Sometimes, like Peter, he takes his eyes off God and looks at the waves and boisterous winds of rainy days, slippery sidewalks, unscrupulous rivals, pressing creditors, and then begins to sink in the waters of worry, discouragement, and despair. When this happens, he who is wise will do as St. Peter did, take his eyes off his surroundings, fix them again on his God, and cry, "Lord, save me, I perish." Immediately the hand strong with almighty power and love is stretched forth, and he who was sinking is raised to safety and peace, though the winds continue to howl. With the eyes raised above the mountains of circumstances to God in the clear blue of heaven, worry gives place to calm, discouragement to hope, despair to triumph. "If God be for us, who can be against us?"

A. R. O'Handley

CHRISTIAN HEROISM AND ITS REWARD.

It is nearly two generations since a boat's crew left their ship to reach the Hervey Islands. One of the passengers upon that boat desired to land, but the boat's crew feared to do so, as the cannibals were gathered together on the shore; but, holding up the Bible in his hand, he said, "Live or die, put me ashore." They would not go near the land; he plunged into the surf and held high the book. He reached the

land. The cannibals did not kill him, but he won their favor, and lived among them, and, for aught I know, he died among them.

Thirty years afterward another ship reached the same Hervey Islands, bringing literally a cargo of Bibles. They were all wanted, and were taken with the greatest eagerness, and paid for by these people. This was the result of the labors of that heroic young man who said, "Live or die, put me ashore." I was preaching to my people some time ago on behalf of the Bible Society. I mentioned this circumstance in illustration of the fact that it is not so long, after all, between the sowing and the reaping. When I came down from the pulpit and was standing in the middle aisle, there came up to me a tall, manly-looking gentleman, a man that looked as if he might be a descendant of one of the old Vikings, and said, "You will excuse me for coming up to speak to you and introducing myself; I am Captain" so and so—I need not give you his name—"I am in command of Her Majesty's frigate," so and so, "and I take the liberty of coming to speak to you in reference to what you said about these islands. I was there with my ship; I saw these people, and I saw the circulation of the Bible among them, and I never saw such Christianity in all my life as among the people of these islands." Said he, "They reminded me of those people of whom you read in the Acts of the Apostles."—*Dr. John Hall.*

TWO OLD FRIENDS.

On one of the streets of Chicago, says the *Tribune*, a crowd of people stood watching the vain attempts of a poor old horse to pull a heavily loaded cart out of a rut. Again and again he did his best; but the task was beyond him, and finally, sweating and panting, he refused to try further. The owner plied the whip till the bystanders began to express a pretty loud disapproval. Just then a man came up, saw what was going on, and in another moment was in the middle of the street.

"Where did you get that horse?" he asked.