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"Every Man Hath his Proper Gift of God."

(I. Cor. vii. : 7.)

"Thou usest all Thy works;
The weakest things that be;
Each has a service of its own,
For all things wait on Thee.
Thou usest the high stars,
The tiny drops of dew,
The giant peak and little hill—
My God, O use me too!"

I have been filled with wondering amazement while reading the many kind remarks about the Quiet Hour, sent in for the "Suggestion" contest. Surely, I may well thank God and take courage, feeling that He has used me already, and will continue to bless the seed I try to sow. Only three suggestions for improvement have reached me. One reader wishes the "Quiet Hour" to be divided into four or five separate sections, one to give information about the various Christian societies, another to discuss temperance questions, etc.

Some people might be able to do this, but, as our text says, "every man hath his proper gift," and it is no use pretending to have a gift when we haven't it. I have no business to occupy valuable space by talking of things I know nothing about. Even if it could be done, the words would be dry and formal, simply a repetition of other people's words. One who lives in the country, in constant attendance on a helpless invalid, has no opportunity for personal and practical acquaintance with the great public questions of the day. I have not spent a night away from home for years, so must leave the discussion of public work to others who know something about the subject. Another reader would like me to take up the Sunday School lesson, but, again, the text stands in the way. In the first place, a teacher's business is chiefly to teach, to instruct, and I never take up any subject in the "Quiet Hour" as if our readers were Sunday-school children, although I am glad to see that some of the children read it. I would not presume to teach you, and my object is not to give information—you can find plenty of useful information in the other columns of the "Farmer's Advocate," but not much in this one. I am trying to reach out and touch my fellow-Christians, trying to cheer and encourage them by opening their eyes to the invisible realities around and within them, which can transform and brighten the most dull and commonplace existence. I want to help them to climb nearer, day by day, to the throne of God, winning them to a closer and more personal friendship with Jesus our Lord.

My gift is not to convert unbelievers, nor (through the "Quiet Hour," at least) to teach children. These two important duties are in the hands of people better fitted than I am to carry them out successfully. Then, there would be another objection to my following the routine of the S. S. lessons each week. When really worked up on any particular subject, the space allowed me is seldom large enough, but to be tied down to one particular subject each week would take all the life and spontaneity out of me. For instance, if the lesson happened to be about Abraham, I should very probably—from the natural contrariness of my disposition—want to talk about Elijah or John the Baptist. Sorry as I am, therefore, to refuse any kindly suggestion offered, it won't do to copy the famous old man and his ass, and, in attempting to please everybody, completely knock all my ideas on the head, and

so succeed in pleasing nobody, not even myself.

The third suggestion I gladly adopt. It is to give a short text, with a few words of explanation, to catch the attention of some who may not take the trouble to read a long sermon. My dear friend, Miss Rye, who has now passed joyfully through death into life, sometimes used to give me a text as a sort of inspiration for the day. So I will try to offer you an inspiration for the week, in line with the sermon preceding it.

As this is an explanation rather than a sermon to-day, you will have to turn to the Inspiration Corner and enlarge it into a sermon for yourself.

A THOUGHT FOR THE COMING WEEK.

"Thy servants are ready to do whatsoever my Lord the King shall appoint."—II. Samuel, xv.: 15.

"Lord, what wilt Thou have me to do? . . . It shall be told thee what thou must do."—Acts, ix.: 6.

Our business in life is not to do the work that seems most important in our eyes, but the work that really is most important, because God has given it to us. We are only soldiers, whose first duty is obedience. It is not our business to question the importance of the post where our Commander has stationed us, but simply to obey orders. When we are needed at the front, or in the thick of the battle, we shall be ordered there. Most of us know quite well what is our duty for to-day, to-morrow is no concern of ours. If we don't know, then let us say: "Lord, what wilt Thou have me to do?" And most certainly, if we "are ready to do whatsoever the King shall appoint," it shall be told us very plainly what our present duty is. If we fail to do the small duty, then we should be pretty sure to fail if given more important work.

About the Fresh-air Mission.

The following came in acknowledgment of a small contribution sent through "Hope" for the Children's Fresh-air Mission, for which she so earnestly appealed in our late issue:

"One has no idea just what the need of these poor children is. Day by day, the sad stories of their homes come to us, and you don't wonder we are drawn out to love them. Last night one of our ladies came in from the East End, and was telling me of two very poor but respectable families—one with six children, the oldest eight years, and the other family with eight children, and the oldest eleven years. The income of this last family is only five dollars a week. Hundreds of such cases are under our notice and care, and it is these children we are seeking to care for. Many have to be clothed outright before we can send them out, so you can imagine our hands are full sending out between 200 and 300. Above all, we are seeking to lead all these children to Christ, that they may know Him as their personal Saviour. Please remember us in prayer that in it all we may please Him.

"Yours very sincerely,
"CHAS. D. GORDON,
"Dominion Bank, Queen St., W.,
"Toronto."

Without the resolution in your hearts to do good work, so long as your right hands have motion in them, and to do it whether the issue be that you die or live, no life worthy of the name will ever be possible to you, while, in once forming the resolution that your work is to be well done, life is really won, here and forever.—Ruskin.

Fashion Notes.

What to wear during cool summer and early autumn days sometimes becomes a problem to the woman who is obliged to economize as regards her wardrobe. For the day which is cool throughout, nothing serves the purpose better than the shirt-waist suit of fine serge, mohair, pique, thick duck or linen, or the checked summer or taffeta silk, which is being much used this summer by the dressy woman for such general utility suits.

The silk, of course, costs a good deal to begin with, as it is never very wide, and a good many yards are necessary for making up the suit. It is claimed, however, that a good soft piece wears very well, and that it has the advantage of always looking well, never wrinkling much, or becoming mussed-looking, as linen suits sometimes do after a few days' wear. With these dresses, heavy underclothing may be worn, and a jacket dispensed with.

When the days are warm and the evenings cool, some sort of a jacket seems absolutely essential, so that one may have the luxury of a cool waist during the day, and run no risk of taking cold after sundown. The jacket and skirt suit, made of cloth of some sort, with a shirt-waist of lawn, organdy, chambray, vesting, or silk, seems to answer all requirements in this line admirably, and, if prettily made, the fit, above all things, being perfect, will be found serviceable for most occasions. These little jackets are usually made in the Eton style, or in the close-fitting "corset" design.

For those who wish something really dressy, however, for wear with frilled organdies or "fussy" dresses of any description, possibly the silk coat will be found most satisfactory. These are usually seen in black, biscuit or champagne shades, and are almost invariably made in the loose box style, with wide bell sleeves, or with the regulation puff and cuff. To look really well, the trimming should be somewhat elaborate; the deep, round collar of lace, with cuffs to match, being much worn. Fancy braid, which, for a black coat, might be black and white, and for a fawn one, cream and gold, is also quite fashionable as a trimming, and the Persian band embroidery, which may be obtained as richly elegant in design and as delicate in coloring as one could wish.

Whichever one chooses upon, shirt-waist suit, skirt and jacket, or separate coat, it should be remembered that "fit" counts more than material or trimming, and that it really pays to have a garment well made, even if one has to do with a dress or two less in the year to make up for it. . . . In conclusion it may be said that the country girl or woman who has not yet tried the utility of a cravenette raincoat as a general knock-about wrap, has a comforting experience ahead of her. For driving in all sorts of summer weather, there is nothing better. It keeps off the dust as well as the rain, and, on occasion, may be used for warmth also, always looking suitable, and enabling one to emerge from its sheltering folds after a long drive, with the consciousness of looking clean and respectable.

Corset covers made quite full in front and elaborately trimmed with lace, through which baby ribbon in pale blue or pale green is run, are very dainty for wearing with semi-transparent waists of organdy, mull, Brussels net, Swiss muslin, or with the openwork yokes of all-over lace or embroidery.

Have you some old shirt-waists that are hopelessly out of style?—then make them into kimonos for morning wear. Take off the neck-band and cuffs, leaving the lower part of the sleeve open to the full width. About the neck, round the sleeves, down the front, and all the way round the lower edge of the waist, stitch a bias band of striped or dotted goods in some shade that will match the waist, and you will wonder what a pretty kimono you will have.

Pointed girdles are quite the fashion just at present. Most of them are made of soft silk or ribbon, with a vertical buckle up the back, and a lower, broader one in the front.

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