

THE DAY'S WORK.

THREE things Theodosius purposed; as he rose,
Should be accomplished ere the evening's close:

His missal-copy, finely writ, and splendid
In crimson, gold, and azure, should be ended,
And written be the song of sacred praise
For choristers to sing on holy days;
Then, as an added, but not alien, grace—
As ocean's glass interprets heaven's face—
With every note aright, a music-scroll
Should give the body of his song its soul.

That morning, from a neighboring convent, came
A novice, knowing of Theodosius' fame,
Who craved instruction in the painter's art.
Hour after hour Theodosius saw depart
The precious morning light, yet patiently
Tutored the novice. Once again set free,
A woman eagerly besought his aid
For her sick child: Long time Theodosius
stayed,

Tending his patient, till, with tearful joy,
The mother gently kissed her rescued boy;
Vespers were sung: a brother, sore distressed,
Poured out his fears upon Theodosius' breast,
And, comforted, departed. Complaine said,
Theodosius turned wearily to bed,
Praying: "O God! to glorify Thy Name
Three things I purposed; now, with heartfelt
shame,

I see the day is ended, and not one
Of all those things my feeble skill hath done.
Yet, since my life is Thine, be Thine to say
Where shall be found the duties of the day;
And, in Thy work, my work perfected be,
Or given o'er in sacrifice to Thee!"
Then, suddenly, upon his inward ear
There fell the answer, gentle, calm, and clear:
"Thrice hath My Name, to-day, been glorified
In loving service—teacher, friend, and guide.
Such work with God for man, if gladly done,
Is heaven's ministry on earth begun.
To work the works I purpose is to be
At one with saints, with angels, and with Me."
—Arthur Chamberlain.

SOME GREAT CHURCHMEN.

VI.

JOHN NEWTON—*Continued.*

NEWTON, in order to accept his first spiritual charge, gave up a lucrative position, not knowing how he could live upon the small stipend offered to him. It was a venture of faith. But the Lord provided for him. John Thornton, whose charities, as the *Gentleman's Magazine* said, "transcended belief," said to him, "Be hospitable, and keep an open house for such as are worthy of entertainment; help the poor and needy. I will steadily allow you £200 a year, and readily send whenever you have occasion to draw for more."

Olney has ever been associated with the strong friendship that grew up between Newton and the poet Cowper. It was a friendship based upon spiritual affinity. Newton wrote of the poet, "In humility, simplicity, and devotedness to God, in the

clearness of his views of evangelical truth, the strength of the comforts he obtained from them, and the uniform and beautiful example by which he adorned them, I thought that he had but few equals." It was at Olney that Newton published his review of ecclesiastical history, a number of sermons, and many hymns.

But it was as rector of St. Mary Woolnoth, Lombard street, London, which he served for twenty-seven years, that Newton exercised his widest influence. His parish was, in the heart of the city, near the Royal Exchange and the Bank of England, and in those days the bankers and merchants resided near their offices or places of business. It was a ministry greatly blessed in word and work.

Newton's character was marked by deep sincerity of purpose. He was a man of strong convictions, yet most kind and lovable. His social instincts were strong; his house was open to all ranks and denominations. He combined the qualities of a father and a friend. Romaine, whose influence in London was so powerful at this time, was abrupt in manner and often made enemies. Newton was approachable, and "won golden opinions from all sorts of people." Lecky, the historian, says of him that "he was one of the most devoted and single-hearted of Christian ministers." Jay considered him "one of the most perfect instances of the spirit and temper of Christianity he ever knew."

John Newton was a model pastor. He knew that a house-going parson makes a churchgoing people. He loved to go in and out among his people and to have personal intercourse with them. He took special interest in the children.

John Newton was strong in preaching power. He was limited, it is true, on the side of delivery, which lacked in grace, and also by an unmusical voice; but all defects vanished in the face of his earnestness, his faculty of illustration, his intimate knowledge of the needs of his people, and his knowledge of Scripture truth. He continued his preaching to his last. "I cannot stop," he said; "shall the old African blasphemer stop while he can speak?"

Newton was a good friend; he grappled his friends to him with hooks of steel. And his friends were the choice spirits of the age. Whitefield might be called his spiritual father. Willerforce, the emancipator of the slave, often sought counsel from him. Cowper was seldom separated from him, during his life at Olney, for more

than twelve hours at a time when they were awake and at home. Milner was moved by him to undertake his "History of the Church." Hannah More was thankful for his shrewd and common-sense advice. Thomas Scott owed to him the clear grasp he possessed of truth, and the main idea of his great commentary. John Thornton was glad to have him as an almoner of his bounty. Charles Wesley prized the treasures of his head and heart. His heart was rich ground, in which the seeds of friendship germinated, blossomed, and bore fruit.

Newton loved and honored the Word of God. It was a veritable lamp unto his feet. He loved to read its pages, to meditate upon its truths, and to circulate it far and wide. He taught others to value the Bible. "Persons," he wrote, "to whom I give the Bibles value them more than gold. We have many here who esteem the Word of God as their food."

Newton was a brilliant conversationalist. Like Luther, his "table talk" will live. His sayings were full of wisdom and to the point. Space only permits the quotation of a few. "There are silver books, and very few golden books; but I have one worth more than all, called the Bible, and that is a book of bank-notes." "I have read of many wicked popes, but the worst pope I ever met with is Pope Self." "Love and fear are like the sun and moon, seldom seen together." "A Christian should never plead spirituality for being a sloven; if he be but a shoe-cleaner, he should be the best in the parish." "Candor forbids us to estimate character from its accidental blots. Yet it is thus that David and others have been treated." "Many have puzzled themselves about the origin of evil; I observe there is evil, and that there is a way to escape it, and with this I begin and end." "My course of study, like that of a surgeon, has principally consisted of walking the hospital." "It is pure mercy that negatives a particular request. A miser would pray very earnestly for gold if he believed prayer would gain it; whereas if Christ had any favor to him, He would take his gold away. A child walks in the garden and sees cherries. He knows they are good fruit and, therefore, asks for them. 'No, my dear,' says the father, 'they are not ripe; stay till the season.'"

Newton was an able hymn-writer. Christendom is indebted to him for some of the most beautiful gems of sacred song. He was Cowper's coadjutor in the composition of the well-known Olney hymns. Some of the widest used and most popular