

acquaint themselves with the great truths of salvation. Besides the duties of the Sabbath I held weekly prayer-meetings in different localities of the two congregations which were well attended. I also availed myself of the privilege of visiting the sick and the afflicted, together with other families of our church, and others in the congregations.

In the beginning of October I proceeded to Woodville, &c. as instructed and continued labouring in Woodville, Little Sands and Caledonia during the month of October. I held services every Sabbath day, in the morning at 11 o'clock in Woodville, and every alternate Sabbath evening in Little Sands and Caledonia. The attendance and attention given to these services in their places were most encouraging. I also as in the other congregations held weekly meetings in different places of the congregations were well attended and encouraging, together with visiting the sick and other families of our church in these places.

As to the amount of good which my feeble efforts in the service of the Lord have done in these congregations, I do not feel disposed to say anything, but trust that they will be blessed by the great Head of the Church.

The congregations have paid me full for September and October, and also for previous services given in my former report, ending 31st August, 1883.

### THAT THIEF "TO-MORROW."

By REV. THEODORE L. CUTLER.

Procrastination is not only a thief of time, it is a thief that robs us of many of our noblest impulses and sweetest satisfactions. An opportunity is offered us of doing a generous deed, or relieving a case of suffering. The heart is melted, and then is the time to give. "*Bis dat qui cito dat.*" But a sly imp whispers "Don't be in a hurry; to-morrow will be time enough;" the warm impulse cools off, and the thing is either never done at all, or else done so tardily that it loses half its grace. Two wrongs are inflicted. First we wrong the person or the good cause that we felt such a generous impulse to help. Secondly, we wrong ourselves out of a delightful satisfaction, and do a violence to our better nature.

A human heart is like metal: it can only be moulded while it is melted; to thrust either of them into a cold bath, makes them unmanageable. To kill a noble impulse by delay, is a sin. It is a

terrible thing to habituate ourselves to a process of hardening the heart, and nothing hardens it more effectually than to let a noble and righteous impulse cool down without being put on practice. "Say not to thy friend 'Go and come again, and to-morrow I will give,' when thou hast it by thee." If we have it by us, why put the friend off! "To-morrow" is commonly the straight road to the never. If the heart does not act while it is warm, it is not likely to act after it has been kept in the frigid atmosphere of delay.

My experience has been that we almost always do our best deeds on the spur of the moment. In deciding questions that belong entirely to the region of the understanding, and demand long study, deliberation is wise. But in all questions of ethics, the first judgment, the instinctive answer that leaps up instantly, is usually the right one. Conscience answers quickly: pray don't try to twist her first ready response, or torture her into the opposite opinion. Generous emotions speak quickly also, and strong: carry them out while you are in the mood. If you have wounded the feelings of another, make the prompt, hearty apology while you feel tender and contrite; as sure as you put it off until to-morrow, some sly devil will make you believe that apologies are humiliating, or that you were not so far in the wrong after all. If you have the opportunity given you to speak a timely word for the good of another's soul, speak it; the opportunity may not come again, or if it does, you may not be in the right frame to utter it. I am ready to confess that the best words or deeds that God has ever moved me to say or do, have been from obeying *first impulses*. Nearly all the worst blunders have come from tampering with good intentions, or freezing them to death by delay. It is in this way that we Christians "grieve the Spirit." He is the mover often of these blessed impulses. To kill them by procrastination hardens the heart. If in another world I can ever catch "to-morrow," I shall want to scourge him with a whip of scorpions.

And so will many a lost sinner who has let "to-morrow" rob him of heaven. So will you, my still unconverted friend, if you die in your sins. "Give me thy heart," and in return His will be a gift of eternal life. Salvation is not all getting, and getting for nothing—as some flashy exhorters often assert in revival meetings. It is the *giving* of your hearts and your time and purposes and your all