

THE QUIET HOUR

YOUR FATHER KNOWETH

Your Father knoweth what things ye have need of.—S. Matt., vi.: 8.

"I the Lord, am with thee,
Be thou not afraid!
I will help and strengthen,
Be thou not dismayed!
Yea, I will uphold thee
With My own right hand;
Thou art called and chosen
In My sight to stand.

"Onward then, and fear not,
Children of the day!
For His word shall never,
Never pass away!"

Here is part of a letter I received from "An Anxious Mother" a short time ago: "I used to enjoy Christ's Presence every moment in my youthful days, but cares distract and doubt enters, and things do not seem to be what they used to. Heaven used to be to me a place of rest and a real place. Now one says it is a state, another something else."

Would you tell me, through "The Farmer's Advocate," some time in the future—as it is too much to ask you to write private letters—what you think of Heaven, if we will know each other and remember what relation each one was to us in this life?

Would you have a place in your prayers for one who needs the way made plainer and doubts removed; and for wisdom and grace to manage children, to train them in such a way as will make them a blessing in after years. I feel unequal to the task, though I used to enjoy training them. It would be the crowning point to see them grow up pure and good. But oh! if contrary, the remorse, for I would blame myself. . . . they want to play on Sunday after church, or stormy Sundays when we cannot all go to church. Do you think it right to allow children with any toys, or to run down on the ice with their sleighs? . . . Would you sometime write on what you think is the 'unpardonable sin'?"

"Anxious Mother" also asks my opinion of a book she has heard of, and wants to know whether it would be helpful to her children.

I will try to answer these questions to the best of my ability, beginning with the last two. The book may be helpful to some readers, but it seems to me to be extravagant and unnatural; and also I disagree entirely with its presentation of the great gift of Prayer. If prayer were intended by God to be a magical charm—a talisman like the famous lamp of Aladdin—it would be a terribly dangerous gift. We should be like spoiled children if everything we asked for were instantly put into our hands. That is not the way a wise parent would train children to be unselfish, brave and patient.

Then, as to the vexed question of the "unpardonable sin," I would simply refer my correspondent to God's own words on that subject: S. Matt., xii.: 31, 32; Heb. vi.: 4-6; x.: 26-31; 1 S. John, v.: 16. I don't profess to be able to explain the mystery of evil, but the whole Bible repeats the glorious refrain, "GOD IS LOVE," and no repentant prodigal can fail to find a Father's heart. One who in sinning against the Holy Ghost must be deliberately and wilfully unpenitent; for penitence is a proof that the Voice of the Divine Spirit within the soul is not finally silenced. God is our Father, and we are his loved children. We can be content with mysteries which are no mysteries to Him. We can walk safely over the most dangerous road if His hand is holding us up.

Then there is the question about Sunday amusements for children. The old law of the Sabbath was one of strict rules—though even that prohibited work, not play—but the Christian's holy day is not guarded

with an iron wall, bristling with "Thou Shalt Not"! No, it is guarded far more securely by an invisible law of love. Children are naturally religious; and, if Sunday is the day when the near presence of the invisible King is particularly impressed upon them, they will soon love to hear about Him and speak to Him as a great privilege. The day will gradually have an atmosphere of its own, if it is not artificially forced into a painful mould. One who makes Sunday a day of galling restraint is apt to drive young people into rebellious opposition. God loves to see the children happy, I am very certain of that; but they are never so happy as when they are hearing about Him and trying to serve Him in little ways which are within their reach. Leading is better than driving; principles are far more satisfactory than iron rules. Impress on their susceptible subconscious minds the reality of Christ's presence, and the glad truth that Sunday is the day when His people are especially allowed to meet Him in His Own House, and I don't think a little innocent play will hide Him from their clear eyes. If His Face is not very visible to yourself, ask Him trustfully to reveal Himself more fully to you, and to help you to lead others to



CROSSING THE STREAM.

Him. The surest way of being certain of Him yourself is to do your best for the spiritual growth of your fellows. No disciple can keep his spiritual vision keen if his religion is selfish. We must "give out" or we shall soon cease to "take in"; and we must "take in" more and more of God's Spirit, or we shall find that our efforts for other people are useless and we cannot give them any spiritual help. Prayer and service go together. Prayers which never blossom out into service will soon grow formal and lifeless. Service, which does not draw its very life and breath from God, is like a perfectly-appointed electric car without any live wire to supply invisible power.

You "feel unequal to the task of bringing up children to be pure and good." Of course you do! If the wisdom of all mankind were concentrated on the effort to make one seed spring up and bear flowers and fruit, it would fail. Man can plant the seed—any child can do that—and then he must stand aside and wait patiently while God does the rest. If we are so helpless in the physical world, it is not strange that we are incapable of making spiritual seeds spring up and bear fruit. But that is just why we can plant the seeds in joyful hope of a harvest. We are fellow-workers with Almighty Wisdom and Power. If we put in the seeds, looking to Him for increase, he is pledged to do His part. Why should we be faint-hearted because the result of our prayerful sowing is not im-

mediately visible? Let us use common sense in soul-gardening, and not show distrust of our Master by constantly trying to see whether the seeds we have tried to plant under His direction have begun to sprout. He can see into the hearts which are hidden from us. The business of training souls is really His—though He has allowed us to have some small share in it—and surely He knows the special training each soul needs.

So I would say, give up being an "anxious" mother; trust your dear children in their Father's hands. He knows what things they and you have need of. Ask Him simply for wisdom to do your part, and never be anxious for fear He may fail to do His—that part which is so far beyond your power. Your Father knows what is needed, is not that assurance enough.

I am always glad to know something of the difficulties of our readers, and will always try to help them to the best of my ability. The other question asked by "Anxious Mother" must be left for another time. I can't dispose of a question about "Heaven" in a word or two, and space is limited.

DORA FARNCOMB ("HOPE").

The following is written by one of our readers, in reply to a question by "Enquirer":

"WHAT IS A SAINT?"

A "Saint" is a disciple, a friend

alone enough to encourage the faint and weary. "Ask and ye shall receive, knock and it shall be opened unto you, seek and ye shall find." There are no "ifs" or "mays" or "perhaps," for the apostle said Christ cannot lie. But, before we can become a saint, disciple, or friend, we must give up all and follow and obey our Lord. What must we give up? Everything and everybody that will hinder us from obeying His Holy Will, for when our Lord commanded a man to follow Him, the man replied, "Let me go bury my father," but Christ, knowing all men's hearts, replied: "Let the dead bury their dead." Christ is our pattern. He came on earth and took upon Himself the form of a man, showing us by His life what was possible for all men, and further, He said, "Be ye perfect even as your Father which is in Heaven." Christ, and Christ alone, is our only Mediator and Advocate, by Him, and through Him only, can we reach the Father. Christ is not a hard Master, for whatever He asks us to forsake or give up that will be a stumbling-block to our spiritual growth, you may be sure He will give in return much more than we gave Him. The Christian traveller, whose eye is turned towards Calvary, will have many spiritual and carnal battles to encounter, but if he steps carefully and slowly, with his eye always on his true Leader, he will reach his journey's end rejoicing. And, in conclusion, I should like to draw the reader's attention and solemn consideration to what our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, when personally on earth, taught the woman of Samaria. "God is a Spirit, and they that worship Him must worship Him in Spirit and in Truth." In other words, because He is Spirit, we must find Him in our Spirit, that is to say, in our deeper consciousness, where "Spirit with spirit may meet."

There He must be sought after "in Truth"; which means, in sincerity and reality, in accordance with His real nature, not with images or human intermediaries, but sincerely and directly as children seek their father. I was deeply touched when I read an article in this paper some time ago on "The Things that Jesus Would Not Do." I could truly sympathize with those 1,500 young people, battling to do as Christ would have them do. I gave up my former trade for conscience' sake. It seemed hard at first, but oh! the joy after yielding to the command. I am afraid I have taken up too much space, and thought only to write a few lines. How I should like to plead and encourage those young people in their trying situations. It is astonishing how frequently untruths are told in all trades; they seem part of the business. "But anything that is not of Truth is sin, and must leave an awful impression, for we read in II. Cor., xiii.: 5, "Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the Faith; prove yourselves; know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates." Then again there is much encouragement in I. John, ii.: 27. "But the anointing which ye have received by Him abideth in you; and ye need not that any man teach you, but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is Truth, and is no lie: and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in Him."

Sask.

LIVLANENG.

I am sure all our readers will be interested and pleased as they read the earnest words of our correspondent. It is always especially inspiring to have a man come out boldly and declare himself a whole-hearted Christian—perhaps because it is in some ways much harder for men than for women. D. F.

SAINTS.

It is usual for artists to give to their representation of so-called "Saints" a ring of light around the head. My idea of a saint is one whose life and actions diffuse such light that one cannot but "take knowledge of them, that they are constantly with Jesus." There are

those who are born, their lives to be, fault, and are hur pure-lived beings; but thinking, these dear s help to their fellow- men or women are w ly fighting against s their own lives; fight fearful odds; knocked vet again, and rising Hand of the Mas strength, given by H ing, to renew the fig this is the case in qu or woman—really or and the victory is w age. And again it victory, all along the do not think such pe that they are at all: saint, is a very hu dividual. Are ther God be thanked! ma Overcoming evil temp during trials and te would be no trials, to another. Fightin bearing bodily pain, stive feelings, cont derstanding, perhaps could tell you of sain and know now. Of ting aside the things life pleasant and cheerfully take up th ful duties which lie t do them perfectly— those around them

TWO LITTLE

The Queen of Hollan Was hailed with lo From all the land ri The nation's gladn The finest linen wra And dainty silks a The cradles sent by Are fitted for her

I know another lit Whose coming was We would not cha

That princess for (Her cradle is a hor Her dress is cotton But she's the prince And oh, we love h

REPAIRS FOR MA

Dear Dame Dur been a silent admi and have derived a s fit from it. Now, help in a difficulty.

Could you or any Ingle Nook tell me repairs for a Wanzer i believe the compa got our machine business as we can of them.

I have a receipt some of the mem Two cups of granu cup corn syrup, ha Boil till brittle. and whites of three stiff froth. Beat ti add walnuts and d wishes for the Ingle

(You will find it I to get repairs for if you would writ Stove Co., 181 Ban nipeg, they might b I had to change yc Come again.—D. D.

An order from Ba has been received fo years, but no name surprising how ma ders for patterns ar times the number i size. The name a off quite frequentl else is given, som forgets to enclose consequence of thes