

[May the God of peace enable me to live peaceably with all mankind  
 May I rather suffer wrong than be over-righteous in exacting what mere  
 justice awards me, and by civility, courtesy, and all manner of kindness  
 rather propitiate than irritate the evil tempers and dispositions of men.]

“Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather give place to wrath:  
 for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. There-  
 fore, if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for  
 in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire upon his head. Be not overcome  
 of evil, but overcome evil with good.” [O Lord! this is a lesson not easily  
 learned. May I in spirit and in truth cultivate this temper; and when I  
 am injured by my fellow-man, may I not take thy weapons into my hand,  
 nor assume what belongs to thee, the avenger of them who suffer righte-  
 ously. May the example of thy martyr Stephen, and of my Saviour, be  
 ever before me in such times of trial. And when I have an opportunity of  
 requiting good to them who have injured me, may I do it not in appear-  
 ance only, but in reality and with all my heart! Lord Jesus, may these  
 excellent precepts, all of which my soul approves, be written on my  
 heart, that I may from the heart yield obedience to them all!”]

This is a pretty fair specimen of that communion with God, and with  
 his Son Jesus Christ, enjoyed in reading his word and in calling upon his  
 name. This is a way of reading the holy oracles which commends itself  
 to all; and incomparably transcends all commentators in giving to the  
 mind the true meaning of the word, and in confirming it in the faith of all  
 its exceeding great and precious promises. Prayer without the use of  
 means necessary to the object desired, and the use of means without  
 prayer, must be equally unsuccessful to the attainment of christian ex-  
 cellence.

A. C.

## HOW SHALL I ACT MY PART?

BY D. AMBROSE DAVIS.

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| • Shall I be foremost on the field,<br>The warrior's part to play,<br>And there the gleaming falchion wield,<br>My brother man to slay?<br>And thus a reinforcement send<br>The mourner's ranks to fill,<br>Then ask my God to be my friend,<br>And send me blessings still? | Or with the proud physician's part<br>I boast of matchless skill,<br>Professing super-human art<br>In serving whom I will;<br>While holding thus the mystic charm<br>To make the wounded whole,<br>Oh! shall I find the healing balm<br>'To soothe my wounded soul? |
| Or if I at God's altar stand<br>To breathe a faithless prayer,<br>And claim that by Divine command<br>I take my station there,<br>And fan the Bible with my breath,<br>To prove my doctrines true,—<br>What will be due me after death,<br>For work I thus may do?           | Though I am lord of boundless lands,<br>And countless golden ore,<br>And grasp in my unworthy hands<br>The titles of the poor,<br>And thus I send my name abroad<br>O'er all the land and sea,<br>How will it plead my cause with God?<br>How will it answer me?    |
| If I do stand in lordly state<br>Professor of the laws,<br>And lift my voice in high debate<br>To gain the world's applause,<br>Shall I be able thus to prove<br>That I am just and true?<br>Will God look down in kindest love<br>To witness what I do?                     | O, let me stand as Jesus stood<br>To act that faithful part?<br>Let me go out to fight for God,<br>With pure and perfect heart!<br>O, let me fight as Jesus fought,<br>Unyielding 'till I die!<br>Yes, let me act as Jesus taught,<br>'Till down in death I lie'    |