

## SMALL STONES AND CHIPPINGS.

There are persons who settle down into a state of quiet indifference as to church work, because they feel that they are incompetent or not suited to engage in the active work of their church. This is not only wrong, but tends to injure the church, both by the loss of the labour of the individual and his or her influence on others. There is a place in the church for every one, that may be filled acceptably by each, and that diligent inquiry and prayer will enable each to find. All cannot be office-holders, nor are all qualified. It may be that few are gifted in profitable exhortation. We have known persons who would be frightened almost to the danger point by being called on to pray in the prayer meeting. Some are qualified to teach, while others may fail. Surely, all can pray for the growth of Zion, and for the outpouring of God's spirit, and prayer is the lever that lifts the soul upon that plane where blessings are dispensed, and draws from heaven blessings for others.

A poor but pious man, with few gifts, once said to a friend visiting him, that for a long time he had been accustomed to repine because he could "do nothing for God's true church, until he remembered that in building even the greatest house the heart of the walls was filled with small stones and chippings, which were necessary to their strength and safety. He had ever since been contented; for, though not an outside stone, whose use was evident to all, he might, nevertheless, be one of the fillings, known and acknowledged by the Master Builder, who has been pleased to put him to this use."

How few are contented to take the place assigned them in the great temple of the church and fill it acceptably. How many are in the place assigned to them at all times and under all circumstances? There are many small stones and fillings absent from the prayer meeting, the Sabbath school, and other services of the sanctuary. There are many chippings and small stones out of their places in the great structure, which weakens the walls, and whose presence is necessary to its beauty and strength.—*Herald and Presbyterian.*

## THE GOSPEL OF LOVE.

An eminent minister of the Gospel was criticised because he did not preach the law of God, but only and always the love of Christ. It was said that persons awakened by such preaching would not truly repent of sin. But on the contrary, it was found that the more sinners realized the love of Christ in dying for them the deeper and more intense was their hatred of sin. Sin was to them not simply the violation of law, but that abominable thing which nailed their Saviour to the accursed tree. It is well, of course, to present all the doctrines of the Bible in due order and proportion. The old preachers were very systematic. They presented in their sermons, at least once a year, the "whole body of divinity." Their theory was that the people must be indoctrinated in order to be saved. But the great truths of the evangelical system are so vitally connected with each other that if one is received, it will bring all the rest; if one is stimulated it will quicken all the rest. Hence many a preacher who has little logic or learning, by simply telling the story of the Cross, has brought men to repentance and built them up in the faith. That is not always one-sided which seems so. There is a difference between pulling the oar on one side of a boat and spurring one side of a horse. *Interior.*

## SWEETNESS OF SPIRIT.

There are some Christian men who somehow carry the charm of an attractive atmosphere with them. It is a pleasure just to look at them. Even when one differs in judgment with them as far as the poles are asunder, one is none the less drawn and fascinated by them. There is such sweetness in their spirit, such gracious gentleness in their manner, such kind catholicity, such manly frankness, such thorough self-respect on one hand, and on the other hand such perfect regard for the judgment of others, that one cannot help loving them, however conscience may compel conclusions, on matters of mutual consequence, unlike those which they have reached.

Those are not weak men, either. What people like in them is not that, with the everlasting unvaryingness of a mirror, they reflect back the thought which is presented to them, and so are always at an agreement with others. Sometimes one is even more drawn to them when they are in opposition, because they are so true and just that their respect carries with it all the refreshment of variety with none of the friction of hostility.

Natural temper has something to do with this. God gives a great gift to a man when he gives him a sunny disposition, a candid spirit, and the instinct of fairness in a controversy. It is exceedingly hard for some men to be just. They are jealous, suspicious and morose in their natural bent. It is hard for them to believe good of others. It is easy for them always to put the worst construction upon matters. It sometimes seems as if it were almost more than grace can

do to transform their tempers so that they will be just toward any man against whom they have been led to have a prejudice.

## THE HEAVENS ARE TELLING.

Lord of all being, throned afar,  
Thy glory flames from sun and star;  
Centre and soul of every sphere,  
Vex to each loving heart how near!

Sun of our life, Thy quickening ray  
Sheds on our path the glow of day;  
Star of our hope, Thy softened light  
Cheers the long watches of the night.

Our midnight is Thy smile withdrawn,  
Our noonday is Thy gracious dawn,  
Our rainbow arch Thy mercy's sign,  
All, save the clouds of sin, are Thine.

Lord of all life, below, above,  
Whose light is truth, whose warmth is love,  
Before thy ever-blazing throne  
We ask no lustre of our own.

Grant us Thy truth to make us free,  
And kindling hearts that burn for Thee,  
Till all thy living altars claim  
One holy light, one heavenly flame,  
*Oliver Wendell Holmes.*

## THE USES OF SUFFERING.

We remember a parable in which a preacher says: "Look at that flute; it was a piece of wood; what has made it in a flute? The rifts, the holes in it. What life is there through which affliction does not make some rift? All went well until then, but through that rift in the life came thought and feeling. Doubt in us is created by some rift in our life, some loss creating a sense of grief, some question of despair. So," said the preacher we heard, "I listened to a flute one day, complaining that it was spoiled by having a number of holes bored in it. 'Once,' it said, 'I was a piece of wood, very beautiful to look upon; now I am spoiled by these rifts and holes,' and it said all this mournfully and musically. 'Oh, thou foolish flute,' I said, 'without these rifts and holes thou wouldst only be a mere bit of stick, a bit of mere hard, black ebony, soon to be thrown away. Those rifts and holes have been the making of thee; they have made thee into a flute; they are thy life, thy character, thy music and melody, and thou wilt not now be cast aside with contempt, but touched by even the fingers of future generations.' Thus sorrow in man should reveal to him his capacity for supernatural refreshment; his hard and sterile being is made to receive divine airs which make it musical in its sorrows."—*Sunday at Home.*

## "KEEP UP, CHRISTIANS."

As I was riding along in the south of France, one day, I saw a pair of fine birds overhead. The driver called out in a French tongue, "Eagles!" Yes; and there was a man below with a gun who was wishful to get a nearer acquaintance with the eagles; but they did not come down to oblige him. He pointed his rifle at them, but his shots did not reach half way, for the royal birds kept above. The higher air is the fit domain for eagles. Up there is the eagle's playground, where he plays with the callow lightnings. Up above the smoke and clouds he dwells. Keep there eagles! keep there! If men get you within range they mean no good to you. Keep up, Christians! Keep us in the higher element, resting in Jesus Christ, and do not come down to find a perch for yourself among the trees of philosophy.—*Rev. C. H. Spurgeon.*

THE May of life blooms but once. *Schiller.*

SCIENCE in her own province, is a glorious and welcome revealer of God's truths. Let her only be rightly, cautiously, and reverently interpreted.—*Roden Noel.*

FALSEHOOD is in a hurry; it may be at any moment detected and punished. Truth is calm, serene, its judgment is on high; its king cometh out of the chambers of eternity.—*Dr. Joseph Parker.*

THE history of the world teaches no lesson with more impressive solemnity than this: That the only safeguard to a great intellect is a pure heart; that evil no sooner takes possession of the heart, than folly commences the conquest of the mind.—*C. C. Bonney.*

OPPORTUNITY is a rare and sacred thing. God seldom offers it twice. In the English fields the little drosers, or sundew, lifts its tiny, crimson heads. The delicate buds are clustered in a raceme, to the summit of which they climb one by one. The topmost bud waits only through the twelve hours of a single day to open. If the sun does not shine, it withers and drops, and gives way to the next aspirant. So is it with the human heart and its purposes. One by one they come to the point of blossoming. If the sunshine of faith and the serene heaven of resolution meet the ripe hour, all is well; but if you faint, repel, delay, they wither at the core, and your crown is stolen from you—your privilege set aside.—*Caroline H. Dall.*

## Mission Notes.

THE Bishop of Durham said in a recent address that the drink bill of England last year was greater than the entire income of the Church of England Missionary Society during its history of eighty-four years.

TRUTH is said to be a revival of Hindooism among the educated Bengalis of India. This is traced in part to the exertions of the Theosophists, and in part to such writings as those of Comte and Herbert Spencer.

ACCORDING to the London *Christian World*, the present year forms the jubilee of woman's work for women. "The Society for Promoting Female Education in the East" was formed in London in 1834, at the solicitation of Rev. David Abeel, a missionary returned from China.

THE contributions to the Presbyterian Board of Missions were \$626,128, or \$26,000 more than recommended by the General Assembly, and \$80,000 more than last year. The contributions to the Foreign Board were \$691,388, falling a little behind the \$700,000 recommended.

AMONG the stockholders of the new missionary ship, the "Morning Star," are one in Maine, eighty-five years old, one in New Hampshire ninety-one, one in Massachusetts ninety-three, and his wife eighty-eight; one in Connecticut ninety-nine, and one lady in Vermont 100 years and six months old.

DR. LAWS, for eight years a medical missionary on Lake Nyassa, Central Africa, has completed the first draft of the translation of the New Testament into the Chinyanga and Chitonga dialects. The Gospel of Mark has been printed, and that of John is passing through the press in Edinburgh.

THE Girls' school started by the Presbyterian Mission in the Capital of Guatemala has more applicants than it can accommodate, and will probably be self-supporting. Five daughters of President Barrios are in the school. It is but a short time since there was no Protestant service in the whole Republic.

ACCORDING to a careful statement sent to the *Missionary Review* by Rev. W. A. Robertson, Hon. Canon of Canterbury, British Christians have contributed to foreign missions in the twelve years ending with 1882 the noble sum of £12,529,995, or \$62,659,975. In 1871 these contributions were £855,742; in 1882 they were £1,191,175, an advance of \$1,677,165.

ONE marked characteristic of the advance Christianity is making in Japan is the fact that in various sections of the empire, Christian communities, and even churches, are organized and maintained which are unconnected with any foreign missionary organization. Indeed, it is often impossible to tell who planted the seed from which these communities have sprung. Already there are several independent churches, which are now doing a good work, and give much promise for the future.

THE Rev. Mr. Goldsmith, an Indian missionary, tells an interesting story of a young telegraph clerk. A collection was being made at a church in Madras for the Bible Society, the immediate purpose of it being to send Bibles to the Telugu country. After the service, a youth of sixteen years of age came into the vestry and offered the clergyman ten rupees for the object. Naturally surprised at the lad giving so much, Mr. Goldsmith questioned him, and then it appeared that this sum of ten rupees was the first payment of salary he received as a telegraph clerk, and he had resolved to devote it all as a thank-offering to his Heavenly Father.

THE *Missionary Record* of the United Presbyterian Church in its last number says. In response to the appeal made, the Rev. Dr. James, of Hamilton, Ontario, has sent to the Synod Treasurer a contribution towards the erection of a memorial on the grave of Tiyo Soga. He says, "We were fellow-students. I heard him preach his first sermon in the Junior Hall, Queen Street, before the Rev. Dr. Eadie, just thirty years ago, and I cherish his memory with sincere affection and esteem." Dr. James hopes that "the hint in the *Record* will be followed by a liberal offering." Though Tiyo Soga's grave is unmarked, his service is not uncommemorated in the scene of his labours. A neat Gothic tablet was many years ago placed on the wall of Emgwali Church. The inscription was written by the late Dr. William Anderson, and translated into Kafir. It is to the following effect: "This stone is to keep us in remembrance of the Rev. Tiyo Soga, the first ordained preacher of the Kafir race. He was a friend of God, a lover of His Son, inspired by His spirit, a disciple of His Holy Word, and ardent patriot, a large-hearted philanthropist, a dutiful son, an affectionate brother, a tender husband, a loving father, a faithful friend, a learned scholar, and eloquent orator, and in manners a gentleman, a devoted missionary, who spent himself in his Master's service; a model Kafir, for the imitation and inspiration of his countrymen."