

THE TEST.

It is easy to be good
When life's skies are clear and calm,
When the voice for gladness drifts
Unaware into a psalm;
When, full fed, we sit content
In our garden fair and sweet,
When temptations pass us by,
And our lives grow full, complete.

When the harp of life is set
To rare strains of melody,
Pleasant now, and full of hope
For the time that is to be;
When our lessons are each day
Easy to be understood,
When life's skies are calm and clear,
Then 'tis easy to be good.

But the real test is when
Close we hear the battle blare,
When we wrestle face to face
With our foemen, want and care;
When our happy gardens lie
Waste beneath the spoiler's tread,
When our toil has seemed for naught,
And our fairest hopes are dead.

When we feel within us rise
Passions that we thought were slain,
When we find the stalwart tares
Growing in our fields of grain;
Then, if patiently we toil,
If temptations be withstood,
If we stand and overcome,
Then may we be counted good.
—Lillian Gray, in *Christian Advocate*.

"I USED MY TWO KNEES."

A POOR Chinaman had been the slave of opium smoking for thirty-nine years. Those familiar with this curse know that the opium appetite becomes a deeply-seated disease, and few who are once entangled in this snare of Satan ever escape. Opium smokers who profess faith in Christ are looked upon with great distrust, and dealt with with the utmost caution, for they are almost sure to relapse into their former evil ways. But this man was rescued from opium smoking; he was cured, and he stayed cured. One day some one asked him how it was that he had broken off the terrible habit; he answered:

"I used my two knees."

How many people there are to-day who are caught in Satan's snares, who struggle to escape, and sink despondent and despairing, who might find deliverance as this Chinaman found it. They use their tongues, they use their wills, they use their minds, they make vows, and promises, and resolutions, but they do not use their two knees.

No man was ever overcome by temptation while calling on the mighty God to help him; no man need despond, though billows and waves go over him; if a man will only pour

out his heart to the Lord, he may go down like Jonah to the bottoms of the mountains, and the earth with her bars may be about him; but if out of the belly of hell he will only cry to God, the Lord will hear and save him.

Tempted one, discouraged one, struggling one, fallen one, use your two knees; you will climb out of horrible pits, and mire, and clay on your knees sooner than in any other way.—*Selected*.

UNKNOWN MINISTERS.

THERE are ministers in humble places where they are scarcely heard of from year to year. Yet in lowly homes and simple churches they meet the people and do a work without which the earth would be poor indeed. They will not be known as great preachers. They will not be spoken of as having achieved notable success. They will not be pointed out as men of commanding influence. They will be unheralded and not widely known. But what would the world and the Church be without these earnest, faithful heroes, who work for Christ and for eternity? In the light of "that great day for which all other days were made," when every secret thing shall be brought to light, it will be seen that no place was humble where there was the opportunity to lead a single soul to Christ. To be unheralded here does not mean that one shall be unknown forever. Usefulness is greatness, and to do one's duty in love to God and man, in one's own place, is to make life a success, so that at last, in the presence of angels and men, all shall see that it was successful and beautiful.—*Selected*.

"It is very strange," says a Chinese scholar who believes in Christ; "foreign ships came here; everybody said they are better than ours. Foreign steamships came; all are glad to travel in them. Fire-oil (kerosene) came; everybody said 'This light is better.' Foreign cotton came; people everywhere began to use it for clothing; not much market now for native white cloth. Foreign needles came; everybody agrees they surpass our own. But the foreign doctrine came and nobody wants it. Very strange! Men admit this teaching of our God and a Saviour is good; the moral precepts are fine; but they won't accept it. Queer state of things, yet here it is. If you pray to God in Christ's name, you must repent, be humble, ask forgiveness. A Chinaman goes to his god and says, 'Venerable ruler, protect and prosper me, but don't control my heart; only make me rich and honored.'"