

Let us search and try our ways, and turn again to the Lord.

Lam. iii. 40.

TALKS TO YOUNG MEN.

DO NOT BE A TOOL.

ALL workmen need tools; and "the use of tools" is the first thing to be learned in all mechanical employments. And there are persons who work, not on wood and stone, but on men and minds, who also use tools made of flesh and blood, and formed for nobler ends.

Some men wish a great deal of work done which they cannot or will not do themselves. Hence they require tools.

Politicians want tools,—men that browbeat, and cheat, and lie and swagger. Demagogues and office-seekers want tools,—men who will help them to gain the longed-for loaves and fishes, and take their reward in crusts to gnaw and bones to pick. Sectarians want tools,—men who will do the dirty work of party-striving, and unholy wrangling. Chief priests and scribes want tools,—who for a shekel apiece, will cry "Crucify," as loud as they ever cried, "Hosanna." Ecclesiastical rulers want tools,—men who will caucus for them, vote for them, and quarrel for them; men who will put them into offices and keep them there, and justify their doings, whether right or wrong. Aspirants for greatness want tools,—editors who puff them by publishing what they have paid for, societies to honor them by passing spontaneous resolutions of approval which they have written themselves; committees to whitewash them when their affairs are investigated; respectable men to lend them their names and influence with out inspecting their proceedings.

Young man, do not be a tool! Know what you are about. Keep out of the toils of schemers and intriguers. Understand *what* you do and *why* you do it. Examine before you approve. Look before you leap. Beware of the wiles of demagogues and wire-pullers. Shun the flatteries of the crafty. "Beware

of the Greeks bringing presents." Be the Lord's man,—not for sale to anybody nor at any price.

Pleanty of leaders will allow you to be the *next* greatest man in the crowd, provided you will help them to be the greatest. Place them at the head, and you may stand next. Give them the throne, and you may occupy the footstool. But unless you make them greatest you are nowhere and nobody. Do not do it. They are *not* the greatest men in creation, nor are you the next greatest. Great men do not need to be exalted. Gold requires no gilding; it is this brass and bogus stuff which requires so much galvanizing and burnishing. A man who *wants* praise, usually *needs* it. Let him blow his own trumpet and be his own tool.

Do not be a tool. Your influence is not yours, it is the Lord's. Beware how you squander it for the advantage of the designing. Do your own work, and stand on your own foundation. Be upright before God, and downright before men. True, if you do thus, you will have many severe trials. You will find yourself pushed aside and set in a corner; but be patient; a stone fit for a wall will not lie long by the wayside. You will perhaps, miss a fat salary, but you will also avoid a lean soul. You may lose in money, but you will gain in *man!* and man is more than money.

Young man, remember these things. Do not be a fool. Follow Christ. Neither strive to lead, nor be blindly led by men. Be a man, a Christian, an honest, faithful worker with your God, and do not be a tool!

H. L. HASTINGS.

THE LOVE OF GOD.

Infinite in its measure—*everlasting* in its duration—*omnipotent* in its power—*unchangeable* in its character—*all-prevailing* in its presence for all. It passeth knowledge. Jesus Christ alone is its fullest manifestation.

It is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the Lord.—Lam. iii. 26.