

TO-DAY IF YE WILL HEAR HIS VOICE

The Holy Ghost saith, To-day if ye will hear His Voice, harden not your hearts. Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the Living God. But exhort one another daily, while it is called to-day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. Heb. iii. 7-13.

"A Reader" in the letter given below has drawn attention to the fact that carelessness about sacred things can do deadly work in the soul of man. It seems such a little sin to neglect God's offered gifts of forgiveness for "confessed" sins, power gained through conscious fellowship with Him, spiritual food to be obtained from prayer, Bible-reading, sacraments, and other means of grace. It is such a common sin, and men are apt to shelter themselves by the excuse that nearly everybody is more enthusiastic and energetic in his pursuit of worldly advantages than of spiritual. But is it any real satisfaction to one who is in a slow "decline" to know that there are other sick people in the world? It is

a matter of tremendous importance to me to have my soul, even more than my body, strong and vigorous. The most disastrous failure would be to gain the whole world and lose one's own soul. It would be as terrible a mockery as to be dying of starvation and thirst in a desert, surrounded by piles of gold and diamonds. The body can't be nourished by money. Misers sometimes die of starvation, clutching useless gold. And as our correspondent points out, many people are allowing their highest selves to be slowly starved.

The prophet Amos sounds a note of warning: "Behold, the day come, saith the Lord God, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord; and they shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east, they shall run to and fro to seek the word of the Lord, and shall not find it." He says, "and let us heed the warning—they shall seek all over the world that they may hear the word of the Lord and 'Shall Not Find It!'"

One reason people are so careless about spiritual privileges is because they fancy they can put out a hand to grasp them at any moment. They intend to climb nearer to God some day—but "there is no particular hurry!" So many things are pressing, and God is kind and forgiving. He will accept them any moment when they can find time to go and claim His help. That is the way many people act when an insidious disease is slowly taking hold of their bodies. Treatment by a skillful doctor can set the matter right—but "there is no hurry!" How often a doctor will say: "If you had only come to me before! Now it is too late—the disease has been neglected until there is no chance of a cure."

Are you listening for God's Voice to-day? If not, then you are slowly but surely hardening your heart. You are not a easy a case for the Good Physician as you were a year ago. In a year more—if you pay no attention to His advice—a complete cure will be still more difficult. Indifferences about inviolable realities—which seems such a trivial neglect—is a slow soul paralysis. Perhaps one who is too indifferent, or

too busy with work or pleasure, to lift up his eyes to seek the Face of God, may find that his unused power of vision has died from lack of exercise. He may seek God and not be able to see Him; may listen for His Voice and find that his spiritual hearing has gone. Or worse condition still he may find that his spiritual hunger has completely died out. He cares only about earthly things. He gains no forgiveness and no help, because he does not want them.

There is a legion of a saint who had a vision in which he saw Satan standing before the Throne. The evil spirit said to God: "Why hast Thou condemned me, who have offended Thee but once, whilst Thou savest thousands of men who have offended Thee many times?"

The stern, unanswerable reply he received was:

"Hast thou once asked pardon of me?"

Hope's Quiet Hour

something else, or some other work takes up his time. It's only one of his excuses. That man is starving his soul; some day he will wake up and be hungry for his old love for God; he will wonder where it has gone. He is quenching the Spirit. God says: "My Spirit will not always strive with man." Not long ago, I heard of a man who, in a series of special services, night after night, was almost persuaded to make a stand for Christ; but the night he had the hardest struggle, he refused again. The following night, on invitation to try again, he said, "I don't want to go now. Nothing within me says 'Go!'" When we work six days in the week, surely we can take one day for Christ.

"But," you say, "we don't have time on week days for picnics and sports or pleasure of any kind; we are so tired on Saturday night we don't feel like going to church on Sunday." How much

Till you reach the Tavern of All Men.

"And now many roads shall I have to pass."

But one that He clearest marked with His feet.

"And whether there be at the dawn of day."

The Host, when He wakes you, will point the way.

TEN DAYS FOR TWO DOLLARS

The Fresh Air Camp provides a chance for the kind-hearted people of Manitoba to give an outing to children in the city who need what the camp has to give, if they are to grow into good citizens of Manitoba. Ten days of pure air, good food, clean bedding and clean bodies will be an influence in the lives of those children for more years than there are days in their camp stay. The Deaconess' Fresh Air work began in 1905, and that year 102 children were given an outing for a week. Two years later the camp was moved to more suitable quarters, and last year 323 children and eleven mothers were given a week's holiday. But there are far more deserving applicants than there is accommodation,

for the need of the child is the only condition in choosing who is to go. Color, religion or nationality have no voice in the choice. The cost is really not great considering what is accomplished. Two dollars will keep a child out in the camp for ten days, and fifty dollars will furnish a dormitory of ten beds. If you feel that you can help to make a child happy in a child's way, send your offering to Miss Priscilla Smith, 85 George St., Winnipeg.

"On behalf of the sewing circle of this church," said the pastor at the conclusion of the morning service, "I desire to thank the congregation for 57 buttons placed in the contribution box during the past month. If now the philanthropically inclined donors of these

undershirts and three pairs of other strictly secular garments on the plate next Sunday morning, so that we may have something to sew these buttons on, we shall be additionally grateful."—Harper's Weekly

One day last July a Presbyterian clergyman in the city of Armagh persuaded twelve hard drinkers to sign the pledge. Before parting with them he said:

"Now perhaps each of you could bring a pal to my house to-morrow and induce him to sign."

"I think I can catch my pal," said one of the men, and that was the origin of the "Catch My Pal" movement now sweeping over the north of Ireland.

Scarcely a town or village in Ulster is without an enthusiastic band of members, each of whom wears an enamelled brass button bearing the words "Protestant Catch My Pal Union." The public houses in many of the provincial manufacturing towns have lost fully 50 per cent of their trade. On the 3,000 inhabitants of Cookstown, County Tyrone, over 700 men joined the union in November and December, and the percentage is equally great in other towns.

Mr. Morris has been sent already to the west of Scotland, and the movement is said to have taken root even in Glasgow.



WHEN THE LONG WARM DAY'S WORK IS O'ER

God is pledged to forgive to the utmost all sinners who plead the merits of the Great Sacrifice offered for the sins of the whole world—penitent sinners who hate their sins and are struggling after holiness. Do you care? Are you honestly looking for help?

Let us listen for His Voice "while it is called to-day"; lest we be slowly hardened by the deceitfulness of sinful lukewarmness, until we do not even wish to hear, but try—like Adam—to hide from our Father among the trees of the garden in which He has placed us—the work or pleasure of everyday life.

Remember that it is utter folly to say, "I want my wife and children to go to church"; and then stay at home yourself. Indifference is not only a slow poison it is very contagious. The influence of personality is bound to tell. People are always influenced by character rather than by words. As Emerson forcibly remarks: "How can I hear what you say when what you are is thundering in my ears?"

DORA FARNCOMB.

WHY PEOPLE DO NOT ATTEND

Dear Hope, I have read the letters concerning the above, and have been very much interested in the topic. People say, "Well, I think I can stay at home and read the Bible, and be just as good as the man that goes to church." Nine times out of ten, the man that says that doesn't read the Bible, he reads

more rested will you feel on Sunday night with all the pleasure you had during the day? Did it renew your strength for work on Monday morning? If it did, keep right on; no one will try to hinder you. If anything would be a pleasure, I think it would be to go to church and get something from God that would renew our strength, both bodily and spiritually, for the coming week's work. It would help us on our way; we could think about it during the week.

Life is too short to go through carelessly, for eternity comes after; do we wish to have life eternal or death eternal?

A READER.

THE WAY

"How far must I follow this dusty way?"

Till the hills grow faint in the twilight gray.

"Must I keep the road till it drops from sight?"

At the line of the sky is a path to the right.

"And what is the name of the cross-road there?"

The name on the finger post is Care.

"And must I travel that new path far?"

Till the West is bright with the Evening Star.

"And how many miles must I journey then?"