

AMEN?

I can not say,
Beneath the pressure of life's cares to-day,
I joy in these;
But I can say
That I had rather walk this rugged way,
If Him it please.

I can not feel
That all is well when dark'ning clouds conceal
The shining sun;
But then I know
God lives and loves; and say, since it so,
Thy will be done.

I can not speak
In happy tones; the tear-drops on my cheek
Show I am sad;
But I can speak
Of grace to suffer with submission meek,
Until made glad.

I do not see
Why God should e'en permit some things
to be,
When he is love;
But I can see,
Though often dimly, through the mystery,
His hand above.

I do not know
Where falls the seed that I have tried to sow
With greatest care;
But I shall know
The meaning of each waiting hour below
Sometime, somewhere!

I do not look
Upon the present, nor in nature's book,
To read my fate;
But I do look
For promised blessings in God's Holy Book;
And I can wait.

I may not try
To keep the hot tears back—but hush that
sigh,
“It might have been,”
And try to still
Each rising murmur, and to God's sweet
will

Respond “Amen!”

—F. G. Browning.

The true Christian is like the sun which pursues his noiseless track and everywhere leaves the effect of his beams in a blessing upon the world around him.—*Luther.*

BEGIN AT ONCE.

Begin at once to do whatever your Master commands. Begin to practice religion. A child would never learn to walk by a hundred talks about the law of gravitation; it must use its own feet, even at the risk of many a tumble. Wait not for more feeling, or more pungent convictions, or for anything that you read of in other people's experiences. These are all snares and hindrances, if they keep you from doing at once the very first act that will please Christ. Have you never opened your lips to an unconverted friend, either to avow your own feeling or to do that friend some good? Then try it; you will strengthen yourself, and may bring an unexpected blessing to him or her. In short, you must begin to obey a new Master; to serve a new Saviour; to strike out a new line of living, and rely on God's almighty help to do it. When you give yourself to Christ in this whole-hearted and practical fashion, he will give you a thousand-fold richer gift in return. Yes, he will give you himself! When you possess Christ you have everything.—*Dr. T. L. Cuyler.*

HOME FIRST.

Let home stand first before all other things! No matter how high your ambition may transcend its duties, no matter how far your talents or your influence may reach beyond its door, build up a true home before every thing else! Be not its slave; be its master! Let it not be enough that it is swept and garnished, that its silver is brilliant, that its food is delicious, but feed the love in it, feed the truth in it, feed thought and aspiration, feed all charity and gentleness in it. Then from its walls shall come forth the true woman and the true man, who shall together rule and bless the land. Is this an overwrought picture? We think not. What honor can be greater than to found such a home, what dignity higher than to reign its undisputed, honored mistress? What is the ability to speak from a public platform to large, intelligent audiences, or the wisdom that may command a seat on the judge's bench, compared to that which can insure and so preside over a true home that husband and children may “rise and call her blessed?” To be the guiding star, the ruling spirit, in such a position, is higher honor than to rule an empire.—*Sel.*