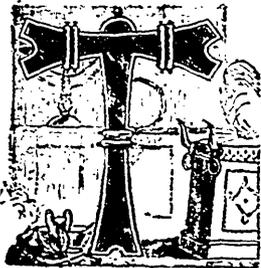


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### Lofty Service in a Lowly Sphere.



HERE are few counsels of the Word less heeded than that given by the prophet, "Seekest thou great things for thyself? seek them not." Instead of not seeking such things, *greatness* in one or other of its forms, a great name, a great position, a great sphere, seems with many to be their all in all.

Yet neither peace nor usefulness is in any way dependent on it. Indeed, for choosing his instrumentality for carrying out His grand and saving designs, it is the feeble rather than the strong, the mean rather than the mighty, that the Lord selects.

"God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise: and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; and base things of the world and things which are despised hath God chosen: yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are, that no flesh should glory in His presence."

Besides, it frequently happens that the Lord is more glorified in humble positions than in elevated ones. The greatness of the sphere may be a main thing with us, but *faithfulness* in it is the main thing with the Lord. Accordingly, it is not the great servant in the great sphere that is specially commended at the last, but the faithful one in any sphere—even the lowliest. "Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."

With the sphere of our work we have nothing to do.

Our only business is to shine where we are. And he whose consistent holy life and simple loving words make him the light of his own family, of his own village, of his fellow-workmen, of his fellow-servants, is doing work for Christ in which Gabriel himself would consider it an honour to be employed.

### Serious Questions.

THERE is a God. He preserves, and He can damn you. Do you daily think of Him?

You have a soul. Do you care for it? You care for your body, but do you properly care for your soul?

You are a sinner. Do you know how a sinner can be saved?

There is a Saviour. Are you anxious that He may save you?

There is an awful hell. Are you seeking to escape it?

There is a glorious heaven. Are you in the way of it?

You must appear in judgment before Christ. What will then be your lot?

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