

ous sight prepared for him. He looked all over the land which Israel was to possess (vv. 1-4). But these were only earthly things. Their glory and beauty have to a great extent passed away; travellers tell us that the trees are gone, brooks dried up, soil barren. God gave Moses something better than this land, something to last. He had

2. Eternal things. When he had seen all the beautiful prospect, his eyes closed, not from weakness (v. 7), but at the word of the Lord he died (v. 5). God called his spirit home to be with him, and his body was buried there on the mount. What a wonderful funeral! How precious in God's sight "the death of his saints" (Ps. cxvi. 15). Long years afterward we meet with Moses again (St. Matt. xvii. 1-4): he stands on the height of that snow-crowned mountain, Hermon, not as he stood on Pisgah, but in glory, talking with Jesus. All through these long years he has been with God enjoying His presence, having much better things than he saw at Pisgah, and these will never pass away (1 St. Peter i. 4). Canaan was but a picture of this.

Which would you rather have—the things Moses saw with his bodily eyes, or the things that he could not see but with the eye of faith (2 Cor. iv. 18)? Christ has these lasting things to give to those who come to Him. He died to win us everlasting joy. We have heard this year much of what He did for us; we have seen wonderful pictures of it. Have we come nearer to Christ? Have you chosen Him? Many months ago we heard of "Moses' choice." He saw all the glory of the world before him, but by faith he grasped the things unseen and chose "The reproach of Christ" (Heb. xi. 24-27). Here we see his reward with Christ (St. Matt. xvii. 1-4).

Family Reading.

THOROUGHNESS.

One of the great dangers, says an exchange, which seem to threaten the rising generation, is the lack of that very necessary quality, thoroughness. In the education of the present day there are so many different things which must be studied that sometimes not one of them will be really well learned. How many boys and girls leave school or college with a general smattering which enables them to make a good appearance of culture, but without the thorough knowledge of some subject which is needed to command success!

And yet thorough knowledge is the only truly useful knowledge; a slight acquaintance with many different branches has indeed its value, but a comparatively small value. To do one thing well is worth far more than doing a number of things indifferently.

The great musician Haydn truly said: "Success consists in taking up a subject and pursuing it to the end." Here is a motto which we would recommend to every young reader.

COMPANIONSHIP WITH CHRIST.

We all, with face unveiled, beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.—II. Cor. iii., 18.

Observe: "We are changed." The mistake we have been making is that we have been trying to change ourselves. That is not possible. We are changed into the same image. Stand in Christ's presence and mirror His character, and you will be changed in spite of yourself, and unknown to yourself, into the same image.

Make Christ your most constant companion. Be more under His influence than under any other influence. The secret of a sanctified nature and a Christ-like character and life, is to be ever with Christ, and reflecting Him, catching His nature, His mind and Spirit, insensibly and unconsciously, by mere proximity and contagion.

You say "How can a man make Christ, the absent Christ, his most constant companion?" Why, friendship is a spiritual thing. Think over it for a moment, and you will find that your friend influences you just about as much in his absence as when he is with you. And so our communion with Him is a spiritual companionship; but not different from most companionships, which, when you press them down to the roots, you will find to be essentially spiritual. All friendship, all love,

human and Divine, are spiritual. So that it is no difficulty in reflecting the character of Christ that we have never been in visible contact with Him; He does not appeal to the eye; He appeals to the soul, and is reflected not from the body but from the soul.

The thing you love in a friend is not the thing you see. I know of a very beautiful character—one of the loveliest characters which had ever bloomed on this earth. It was the character of a young girl. She always wore about her neck a little locket, but nobody was allowed to open it. None of her companions ever knew what it contained, until one day she was laid down with a dangerous illness, when one of them was granted permission to look into the locket; and she saw written there "Whom having not seen I love." That was the secret of her beautiful life. She had been changed into the same image.—*Extracts from an address by Prof. Henry Drummond.*

TAKE LIFE IN EARNEST.

I meet with a great many persons in the course of the year, and with many whom I admire and like; but what I feel daily more and more to need, as life every year rises more and more before me in its true reality, is to have intercourse with those who take life in earnest. It is very painful to me to be always on the surface of things, and I feel that literature, science, politics, many topics of far greater interest than mere gossip or talking about the weather, are yet, as they are generally talked about, still upon the surface—they do not touch the real depth of life. It is not that I want much of what is called religious conversation—that, I believe, is often on the surface, like other conversation—but I want a sign, which one catches as by a sort of masonry, that a man knows what he is about in life, whither tending, in what cause engaged; and when I find this it seems to open my heart as thoroughly, and with as fresh a sympathy as when I was twenty years younger.—*Dr. Arnold.*

"SO MUCH TROUBLE."

"We have had so much trouble that we are losing all faith—we feel that God has forsaken us."

After a time the cloud lifted and prosperity smiled upon that household. The church door stood open the very day the good news came—but none of the family entered to thank God for the relief that had come. The next Sunday found one of them spending the day saying good-bye to friends, previous to a journey to accept the desired occupation—with no thought of religious duties. And we are inclined to think that instead of God forsaking that household the fact was they had forsaken God.

This is but a single instance, similar to which every pastor could cite numbers, where people are apt to lay all their misfortunes to God, and attribute all their successes to themselves. If in our troubles we would only draw nearer to God, when the trial is past we should find more gratitude and a deeper love.

WINTER EVENINGS.

We are now enjoying the season of short days and long nights, the best time in all the year for study and improvement. It is wonderful how much may be gained by devoting to this object part of each evening throughout the winter, and in how many ways an advance can be made.

If you are looking forward to employment in business, remember that there is nothing, after a good character, so important to you as good handwriting. You can write, of course, but perhaps, like most people, you have never strained yourself to write well. No lawyer, no merchant, wants a clerk whose penmanship would disfigure his books. While this paper receives many beautifully written letters from its subscribers, yet we are sorry to say that the great majority of them do not come up to the standard which we should require for employment in our office.

We would suggest that persevering efforts at self-improvement during the present winter will give you a valuable acquisition—good penmanship.

Nor is this the only line along which you can progress. You cannot become a skillful stenographer in one winter, nor is that accomplishment so lucrative now as formerly; yet time devoted to learning the art is far better spent than when idled away over cards, smoking and gossiping.

Typewriting, French, German, or Spanish, mechanical drawing, and many other subjects, may be mastered, without teachers, by persevering study, and prove important aids in after time. You cannot tell just what accomplishments will help you most in your career, and it is well to be armed at as many points as possible. Do not allow summer to come again and find you no further advanced in the path of progress than you were last year.

Life is a keen race; we must advance, or we shall be left behind.

CREATURES OF HABIT.

We are creatures of habit very much. It is easy to fall into the habit of not going to church; it is not difficult to form the habit of going to church regularly. What we do constantly we do easily; what we do very rarely, even to writing a letter, we do with difficulty. The plea of not having time—Sunday dinners—family cares—exhaustion from the labors of the week, all these are excuses. If we want to, we can go to church, and make going to church fit in with all our week's arrangement. Many people do not go to church because they have never made church-going fit in with their week's plan of life. It is a matter of habit. Of course if a man does not go to church for fear of being hit by the sermon, or because he does not believe in the church, here is something like an excuse to fall back upon; but not to go to church for lack of time, or because household or family cares prevent—there is no excuse here worth considering.

THE TONGUE.

"If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body."—James iii. 2.

Mr. and Mrs. Caxthorp agreed that when either of them said anything ugly about their neighbors they should put a penny in the mite box. Coming home unexpectedly he slipped into the parlor and began to read, seated behind a curtain in a bay window. Very soon a friend called, and she and Mrs. C. began a gossip conversation, and in the course of half an hour's talk he had scored against his wife nearly ten shillings. I am afraid if we all observed this rule there would be no lack of money in the mite boxes of many a home. We are all too fond of speaking unkindly of our neighbors. If a man offend not in word, he will offend in no way; if he gets the mastery of that "unruly member," you may rely on it he is able to control all the rest of his powers. The doctor when called in to see a patient asks at once, "Let me see your tongue." The man's physical condition is indicated by the state of his tongue; and if James is to be believed the moral condition of every one is to be determined by the state of the tongue. What is the state of your tongue?

BEFORE AND AFTER.

The following forms of "Grace at table" are suggested as being more suitable than those old-fashioned forms which were once so common. We were recently guests in a household where these forms were used, and as we observed the quiet reverent demeanour of all standing in their places round the table, and then listened to each *Versicle* pronounced by the master of the house, and the chorus of *Response* by the members of the family, we felt that the very meals in that household were a lesson in christian living. The adoption of these or some other similar forms which would give the family an opportunity of joining in "the grace" would be in harmony with the responsive character of the public services which churchmen love so well, and would tend to promote a spirit of thoughtfulness and reverence.