

For PARISH AND HOME.
WOMEN'S WORK.

A WOMAN'S view of life is necessarily quite different from that of a man. From childhood the vast majority of men understand that they must become bread-winners. The more fortunate can hope to live for only a few years at the expense of others while qualifying themselves for earning a livelihood. Then they, in common with those who have begun the struggle earlier, face a life of toil, knowing that their future depends upon their own efforts. Each man usually becomes in time the master of a home, whether lowly or rich, for which he is the fountain of supply.

Woman's outlook is vastly different. An increasing number do in our days, it is true, face the problem of earning a livelihood for themselves, but this is not with woman as it is with man the inevitable, and indeed the best that can be looked for. The truest mission of woman is to be mistress of a home, the mother of a family. The best women look forward to this, and only in default of this highest sphere of life does woman think of and prepare for some other future. No woman, however, is more contemptible than the one who seeks a husband, instead of waiting herself to be won. Those who are most truly womanly believe that their best future will come to them as they are discharging the duties of the hour.

It is, however, the very indefiniteness of her sphere that causes many a woman to lead a useless life. It is difficult to prepare for what is itself uncertain. It is easy to idle and drift, and so to waste the precious days and years. The number of women who are simply wasting their lives is truly appalling. In all our cities and towns there are dozens and even hundreds of young women whose only thought is about dressing and amusing themselves, and who do scarcely one useful, unselfish thing from one week's end to another. They are so situated that they need not work for a living. Their home duties are almost nothing. They have abundant leisure, and could do much good. As a matter of fact, they do no good and much harm by ensnaring both themselves and others in idle gossip and frivolous amusements. In rural districts the evil is not so great. The farmer's daughter has her own domestic duties, which are not light, while the spoiled children of the cities have often

nothing to keep them busy in their homes.

What are they to do? To tell what one has done may perhaps suggest the answer. Some years ago a missionary visited one of our cities. The daughter of a wealthy man was greatly influenced by what she heard, and resolved to lead a useful Christian life. The family were about to visit Europe for a prolonged stay, and she went with them, but instead of spending all her time in travel and perhaps idleness, she went into a hospital at Dresden, in Germany, and studied nursing for six months. When the family returned from the European trip it was her desire to give up her life wholly to the work of a nurse. But her mother objected, and claimed the daughter for the home life. A compromise was adopted, and now every morning, even before business men are going to their offices, this noble girl is on her way to the poorest districts of the city carrying her basket, stored with medicines or dainties for the poor whom she is going to nurse and help. The morning and often the afternoon, if the occasion demands it, are spent among those who are in sad need of such ministrations. The rest of the day she gives to her family, and no sweeter, brighter life, no more refined spirit is to be found than that of this Christian girl who spends half her time in the poorest hovels of the city.

There is much need for others to do as she is doing. Yet, while this is true, hundreds of young ladies are spending their mornings upon the sofa reading the latest and most trashy novels, and their afternoons and evenings in frivolous social engagements. They are not happy. Their lives are full of ennui. Their nobler instincts impel them to something better. But they lack the decision to make a new start and break from the traditions of a wasted past. "I never could see why girls should be idle any more than boys, and so as soon as I was old enough I began hospital visiting and other Christian work," said a happy, bright worker lately. This is the Christian view and the Christian pathway. In it is to be found a joy that a worldly life cannot give. Those who are living only for themselves little realize how much they are to be pitied.

When you are slandered, keep still and let the mud settle to the bottom, and there'll be but clear water left.

NOT FAR.

Not far, not far from the kingdom,
Yet in the shadow of sin,
How many are coming and going,
How few are entering in!

Not far from the golden gateway,
Where voices whisper and wait,
Fearing to enter in boldly,
So lingering still at the gate:

Catching the strains of the music
Floating so sweetly along,
Knowing the songs they are singing
Yet joining not in the song:

Seeing the warmth and the beauty,
The infinite love and the light,
Yet weary and lonely, and waiting,
Out in the desolate night!

Out in the dark and the danger,
Out in the night and the cold,
Though He is longing to lead them
Tenderly in the fold.

Not far, not far from the kingdom,
'Tis only a little space;
But it may be the last, and forever,
Out of the resting place.

—Selected.

ST. PETER'S DAY.
(JUNE 20TH.)

"O ALMIGHTY God, who by Thy Son Jesus Christ didst give to Thy Apostle Saint Peter many excellent gifts, and commandedst him earnestly to feed Thy flock; Make, we beseech Thee, all Bishops and Pastors diligently to preach Thy holy Word, and the people obediently to follow the same; that they may receive the crown of everlasting glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen"

In the earlier Service books, Peter and Paul were linked together for one Commemoration and in one Collect. Nor was this without some ground of fitness. For they were the two greatest Apostles, to one of whom was committed the Gospel for the Jew, and to the other that for the Gentile. To this might be added the fact that both of them in a very special way were monuments of Divine grace. Peter was restored to his Apostleship after his terrible fall, denying with oaths and cursing the Lord whom he loved. Paul was changed from a persecutor of the faith to become its noblest and most successful champion, never forgetting to the very end that he was "the chief of sinners," and thus he became "a pattern of grace and mercy to all who should hereafter believe."

Yet our Reformers did well in giving a separate day and a separate Collect to each of the two, thus enabling us the