

7. The Despair of Unbelief. ("What is truth?" John xviii: 38.)
8. A Short Way to Settle Questions of Casuistry. ("Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?"—Acts ix: 6.)
9. Spiritual Heroism. ("Men that have hazarded their lives for the name of our Lord Jesus Christ."—Acts xv: 26.)
10. Reasonable and Unreasonable Burdens. ("To lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things."—Acts xv: 28.)
11. Christian Calmness. ("Paul was now about to open his mouth."—Acts xviii: 14.)
12. Premature Judgments. ("Judge nothing before the time."—1 Cor. iv: 5.)
13. The Urgency of the Gospel's Call. ("And while he [Lot] lingered the men laid hold upon his hand * * * and they brought him forth."—Gen. xix: 16 "And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire."—Jude, verse 23.)

GERMS OF ILLUSTRATION.

By EDWARD JEWETT WHEELER, A. M.

Everywhere I see the inevitable expression of the Infinite in the world. By it the supernatural is seen in the depths of every heart.—PASTEUR.

Difficulties often dwindle from mountains to mole-holes when one firmly grapples with them. Everybody has noticed that a hill, just before we reach it, appears much steeper than it does after the ascent is begun—the effect of what artists call *fore-shortening*.

Suffering imparts to a Christian character a beauty that seems otherwise unattainable. Pearls are said to be a secretion effused from the pearl-oyster round a piece of grit or thorn inserted between its flesh and the shell in which it lives. Paul's "thorn in the flesh" (2 Cor. xii: 7) comes to mind.

Virtue differs from innocence in being the fruit of resistance to temptation; not merely a passive quality, but an active one, which overcomes evil. A flower has just been discovered in South America, which is visible only when the wind blows strongly. At other times nothing but the leaves and stem appear.

Burning love for Christ will find vent in gospel work of some kind, somewhere. It does not sit around with folded hands, waiting to be told what to do or how to begin. A boy once came to Mozart, wishing to compose something and inquiring the way to begin. Mozart told him to wait. "You composed at a much earlier age," said the boy. "But asked nothing about it," replied the great musician.

Refuge in Christ is touchingly illustrated in a painting by the celebrated artist, F. S. Church, of New York. It represents the figure of Christ extended on a cross by the wayside. The sky is dark overhead, and a blinding rain-storm is beating down. Beneath one of the outstretched arms a half dozen little tempest-tossed birds have found foothold, and there they huddle

together, securely sheltered from the rain and wind. "Ye are of more value than many sparrows." (Matt. x: 31.)

The hour of meditation does more to determine the Christian's character than all the rest of the bustling, busy day. As President Garfield said in the Chicago Convention of 1880, "it is not when a storm is on the sea and the billows are lashing the shore in wild fury, that the water's depth is measured; but when the waves subside, and peace smiles upon the surface, then the plummet is dropped and the measurements are taken."

Enthusiasm, in the tremendous power it bestows upon its possessor, is well illustrated by an Alpine avalanche. Speaking of masses of ice and snow hanging on the edge of a glacier, J. A. Symonds says: "We have seen such avalanches brooding upon Monte Rosa or the Jungfrau, beaten by storms, loosened perchance by summer sun, but motionless. In a moment a lightning flash strikes the mass, and it roars crumbling to the deep."

Remorse is none the less sharp that its causes lie hidden from the eyes of others. At a certain exhibition of wax figures in New York, one sees, on entering, figures of crowned heads, statesmen, poets, famous men of all sorts, in fine apparel and imposing pomp. But down a winding stairway, beneath the ground floor, is the Chamber of Horrors, in which are represented men just beheaded, punished by the knout, hung by lynchers, guillotined, burned at the stake, etc. It is indeed a chamber of horrors, but not more so than that which some souls have in the secret recesses of memory, and to which conscience is ever conducting them in the still, quiet hours of life.

HELPFUL DATA IN CURRENT LITERATURE.

By J. M. SHERWOOD, D. D.

Books of the Month.

Macmillan & Co. "Sermons preached in Manchester. Third Series." "The Secret of Power, and Other Sermons: Fourth Series." "The Life of David, as Reflected in his Psalms." By Alexander Maclaren, D. D. We have heretofore expressed our high estimate of the value to Bible preachers and teachers of the pre-

vious volumes of the now noted Manchester pastor. And we would heartily renew our strong commendation in connection with these later sermons and studies. There is the same freshness and breadth of thought, the same simplicity, refinement and richness of expression, the same wondrous insight of valuable suggestion underlying alike the historic inci-