

it is not there. Others may or may not recognize it in the distinctness of its malicious self, but they must feel the chilling influence of its presence. It works harm none the less surely because covertly and indirectly. The evil it does accomplish is doubly pernicious because concealed in intended good. Many a one wonders why his earnest efforts for good are unproductive. It may be that this insidious foe lurks within, and has thrown a dart into the purpose of love.

There is ample scope for the exercise of this selfishness in all phases of activity. It often manifests itself in religious controversy. Words then spoken in defence of truth which one thinks assailed, will sometimes carry with them an unperceived flavor of ill-will, of discourtesy, of unjust imputation. Accused of displaying an unchristian spirit, the champion of truth, in surprise, warmly repels the charge, and affirms an untainted motive; while possibly the self-justification itself does not end without an ungenerous fling at the opponent, so stealthily has the film of selfishness been spread over his eyes. The signally harmful effects of religious discussion, conducted on either side in such spirit, are too palpable to need remark. Jeremiah cries that the heart is deceitful above all things. The general experience of men attests the justice of the statement. Yet one cannot but wish that an exception might obtain in the instance of those who, by pen or voice, take conspicuous place as contestants for God's eternal truth.—*Sunday School Times*.

WAIT UPON THE LORD.

Some people have to wait a long time for their blessing. Sarah was ninety years old when Isaac was born. This thing itself is merely accidental, but the principle which is under it is living and beneficent. If we have the true life in our hearts, not one of us has yet seen his best days. Physically we may be on the wane, but spiritually we may win our greatest victories actually on the day of death. You have not yet got the best your brain can give. There is a finer wine in your heart than has yet been crushed out. Do not close the shutter, rather break out another window, for the light of the sun is yet plentiful. You may bring forth fruit in old age and be fat and flourishing until the last. You have not gotten God's best. He keeps the good wine for by and by. I hear your sigh and your groan, and for every one of them you shall yet have a hymn or a loud psalm. Your great prayer shall be answered: the prayer that drags your heart out in passionate entreaty for the runaway boy, for the lost girl, for the healing the wound in the spirit never told of to mortal! Live in this hope, and this hope will keep you young. Sarah laughed at ninety, and made all her friends laugh in her late-come joy.—*Rev. Joseph Parker, D.D.*