

working spirit. Men must feel the power of divine grace in their own souls before they bring others to enjoy like precious faith.

A working church is a growing church. Even though the increase in its membership may not be large, its members will be growing in grace, in knowledge, in their conformity to Christ, and in all those virtues which adorn the Christian character. In helping others they help themselves. Bringing joy to other hearts they increase their own joy. "No man liveth to himself." "The liberal soul shall be made fat : and he that watereth shall be watered also himself."

A working church is a harmonious church. When all the members of the church are diligently engaged in appropriate Christian work they will not think of "coming down" to engage in unseemly strife with one another. The member of the body that is in good condition for performing its appropriate functions gives no distress to the other members of the body ; so the member of Christ's mystical body in healthy condition will afford help and comfort to the whole body of believers, the church.

A working church is a happy church. No Christian can attain to even a reasonable degree of peace and joy who is standing all the day idle. Paul was never so happy as when working with all his might for the Master he loved. The church was never more happy, then when she "continued steadfastly in the Apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread and prayers. Then did these early Christians "eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart."—*United Presbyterian*.

HOW TO MAKE LIFE HAPPY.

Take time ; it is no use to foam or fret, or do as the angry housekeeper who has got hold of the wrong key and pushes, shakes and rattles it about the lock until both are broken and the door remains unopened.

The chief secret of comfort lies in not suffering trifles to vex us, and in cultivating our undergrowth of small pleasures.

Try to regard present vexations as you will a month hence.

Since we cannot get what we like, let us like what we can get.

It is not riches, it is not poverty, it is human nature that is the trouble.

The world is like a looking glass. Laugh at it and it laughs back ; frown at it and it frowns back.

An angry thought canker the mind and dis- it to the worst temper in the world—that of fixed malice and revenge. It is while in this temper that most men become criminals

THOUGHTLESS SPEAKING.

We do not stop to consider the evil results of thoughtless speaking before children. The discussions of our neighbors' faults, the little drifts of gossip that come to us, and which we repeat, make deep and lasting impressions on the minds of young people. Life long prejudices are caused by such criticisms of the sayings and doings of those who form our circle of acquaintances, and sometimes our valued friends.

If the history of a piece of gossip, or a slander, could be traced from its beginning to its ending, there would be many a pitiful, unjust revelation disclosed. Why is it that human nature loves to hear discreditable things of its kin, and to tell it over to other itching ears, making as much as possible of the story, and, oftentimes more than is warranted ? It would be a grand reform in our household, if we could establish the fact that no unkind thing should be said of any one ; no uncharitable news expressed of the weaknesses of others, remembering that more or less frailties belong to the whole human family.

Sitting at a friend's table not long since, I heard a guest who was present indulge in severe criticism of the minister, whom the children of the family were taught to reverence and to love. The father aloofly tried to turn the conversation into another channel, but he did not succeed, until a story of the minister's shortcomings in some former parish had been well talked over. After the meal had been finished, the head of the house said to the guest "You evidently noticed that I did not take much interest in your story of Mr. C—— ; but the fact is, we never allow ourselves to speak anything but good of anybody before our children ; and we never criticise our minister, of all persons, as you know it might hinder his usefulness with them." It is to be hoped that this way of admonishing was not lost upon the talkative guest.

Not only are pieces of gossip retailed often times in our families, but old scores, mistakes made by our friends years ago, and which by "patient continuance in well doing" they have succeeded in living down, are brought out of their hidden places, and started on their mission of uncharitableness and injustice. We who have lived past the half century corner, and have learned by our own sins and mistakes how weak even the strongest of us are, know how, or ought to know how, to look upon the erring ways of others with great charity. It is to be hoped that we do, and that we ever keep in mind

"To think gently of the erring ;
We may not know the power