

"NEGLECT NOT THE GIFT THAT IS IN THEE."

NOBLESSE OBLIGE.

I hold it the duty of one who is gifted, And royally dowered in all men's sight, To know no rest till his life is lifted

Fully up to his great gift's height.

He must hold the man into rare completeness, For gems are set only in gold refined ;

He must fashion his thoughts into perfect sweetness

And cast out folly and pride from his mind.

For he who drinks from a god's gold chalice Of art, or music, or rhythmic song,

Must sift from his soul the chaff of malice,

And weed from his heart the roots of wrong.

Great gifts should be worn like a crown befitting,

And not like gems on a beggar's hands;

And the toil must be constant and unremitting, That lifts up the king to the crown's demands.

-[Selected.

SERMON*

"And when Jesus saw the multitude He went up into a mountain; and when He was det, His disciples came unto Him; and He opened His mouth and taught them, saying:" You have all read those sayings and teachings as well as myself, no doubt, and have come to the one conclusion and opinion in reference to them, that they are the teachings of God to the children of men—the very words of God spoken to the human family through His Son Jesus Christ. Among these many sayings there is one that comes forcibly to my mind at this time for especial consideration : "Blessed are the peacemakers; for they shall be called the children of God." It seems to me that there is sufficient gospel truth in this memorable sermon, if only believed in and lived up to, to redeem and save the whole human family.

Jesus Himself lived and practised it in every respect, and His many other sayings go to corroborate the truth of those uttered here, all tending in their practice to establish the entire peace of the Son with His Maker. This necessitates an ever-watchfulness over our dispositions and propensities that they may be kept in due subjection, never allowing anything of a warlike or rebellious nature to arise within us and disturb this perfect peace. A high attainment and humanity says beyond the reach of man. But, my dear friends, it is when these propensities, good in themselves, are allowed to usurp authority and gain undue dominion over us that we are led astray. Humanity has also taught us that we sin every day of our lives. Not only humanity but theology has taught it. We hear it from the pulpit that we are sinners continually. If this be so, my friends, we are not peacemakers. Peace does not dwell where there is war. The Kingdom of God is not established where Satan is ruling as king. Love is not an occupant where jealousy and envy harbor. Yet we may, all men do possess propensities that will lead to these sad results if they are not controlled. But being controlled by the spirit of Christ within us that makes for eternal harmony, we may be at peace with our God. Then this peace is established. Not that once in grace always in grace, for it needs still a persistent and continued watchfulness to keep all these active propensities in their proper places. Then, indeed is the Kingdom of God come in earth and His will done here as in Heaven and that soul has become the child of God.

Here then is the first field of labor for the peacemaker to so control his