

Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.—Matthew v. 16.

I do with 'em?' he said, as he quickly transferred the coins to his own pocket.

"Go round this corner into the middle of the road, shout with all your might, *Herrings for nothing!* and give three to every man, woman, and child that comes to you, till the basket is emptied."

"Accordingly he proceeded into the middle of the adjoining street, and went along shouting aloud, "*Herrings for nothing!* real good herrings for nothing!"

"Here you are, misses," he bawled, 'herrings for nothing! a fine chance for yer; come an' take 'em!"

"The woman addressed shook her head unbelievably, and left the window.

"'Vot a fool!' said he; 'but they won't be all so. *Herrings for nothing!*' A little child came out to look at him, and he called to her, 'Yer, my dear, take these in to your mother; tell her how cheap they are—*herrings for nothing.*' But the child was afraid of him and them, and ran indoors. So down the street, in the snowy slush and mud, went the cheap fish vender crying loudly as he went, '*Herrings for nothing!*'

"Well!" I said to him calmly, as he reached me at the corner.

"Well!" he repeated, what'll I do with the herrings, if yer don't want 'em and they won't have 'em?"

"We'll try again together," I replied.

Into the road we both went; and he shouted once more and for the last time, '*Herrings for nothing!*'

"Then I called out loudly also, 'Will any one have some herrings for tea!'

"They heard the voice, and they knew it well; and they came out at once, in twos and threes and sixes, men and women and children; all striving to reach the welcome food. As fast as I could take them from the basket, I handed three to each eager applicant, until all was speedily disposed of. When the basket was empty, the hungry crowd who had none was far greater than those that had been supplied; but they were too late; there were no more '*Herrings for nothing!*'

"Foremost among the disappointed was a tall woman who began vehemently, 'Why haven't I got any? ain't I as good as they? ain't my children as hungry as theirs? Why haven't I got any?'

"Before I had time to reply, the vendor stretched out his arm toward her, saying, 'Why, governor, that's the very woman as I offered 'em to first, and she turned up her nose at 'em.'

"I didn't," she rejoined passionately; 'I didn't believe you meant it!'

"Yer goes without for yer unbelief!" he replied; 'Good night! and thank'ee, governor!'"

Perhaps you cannot help laughing at this quaint story, which is strictly true. But are you sure you would not have done as they did; been as unbelieving as they? Nay! are you sure you are not ten thousand times worse than they? Their unbelief only cost them a hungry stomach a little longer; but what may your unbelief cost you?—God—not man—God has sent *His* messengers to you repeatedly for many years, to offer pardon for *nothing!* peace for *nothing!* salvation for *nothing!* He has sent to your house, your homes, your hearts, the most loving and tender offers that even an Almighty God could frame; and what have you replied? Have you taken the trouble to reply at all? Have you not turned away in utter scornful unbelief, like the woman? or ran away in fear like the little child? Many have heard a voice they believed; and they have received the gift of God: but you are still without a hope on earth, or a hope in heaven, because you will not believe God's messengers when they offer you, by His commandment, all that you need for time and eternity—*for nothing!*

"Take warning by that disappointed crowd of hungry applicants. When they were convinced the offer was in good faith, and would gladly have shared with their fellows, they were *too late!* They were thoroughly convinced; they were quite willing then to participate;

Peace I leave with you, **MY PEACE I GIVE UNTO YOU:** not as the world giveth, give I unto you.—John xiv. 27.