

The Pastor and People.

Profane Words.

As polished steel receives a stain From drops of random slung, So does the child, when words profane Drop from a parent's tongue.

Jesus! Shepherd.

Tune.—'Scots wha hae.'

"Jesus! Shepherd of the sheep, Who Thy Father's flock dost keep, Safe we walk and safe we sleep, Guarded still by Thee.

Living by Rule.

A great man of the last century said: "He who lives not by rule, lives not at all."

Living by rule does not consist in gathering and remembering many notions, though it does presuppose some acquaintance with good maxims.

1. Set the Lord always before you. Live as seeing Him, who is invisible.

2. Know, believe, and practice the whole Word of God. Indulge no prejudices against any portion of the Bible.

3. Adopt the pure Gospel scheme of doctrine. Begin not in the spirit, and then hope to be made perfect by the flesh.

4. Put a just estimate on time and eternity: on time, because it is so short, because its pursuits are so vain, because on the right use of it depend everlasting consequences.

5. Do whatever is incumbent each moment as it passes. Gaze and gaze not after the duties of a future which may never arrive.

6. Do good to all men, as you have opportunity. Deal out kindness and favour with an unsparring hand.

little child asked to share its apple with its playmate. It refused, and at once frowned and looked miserably.

7. Another good rule to live by, is this: Never make a mock at sin, and never jest with sacred things.

8. Never attempt to find out how near you can come to sin without sinning. Ho that loveth danger shall perish therein.

9. Never expect great things from sloth, nor regard carelessness as the parent of any good.

10. Steadfastly set your face against needless delays in doing any work for the honour of your Master, for the good of your fellow-men, or for your own edification.

A Liberal Spirit.

Richard Baxter has given this striking personal testimony to the blessing of a liberal spirit. "I never prospered more in my small estate than when I gave most and needed least.

Women's Influence.

In preaching on Sunday afternoon on the temptation and fall of Solomon, the subject of one of the lessons for the day, Canon Liddon spoke strongly of woman's power over man, and reminded his hearers that, although the king had 700 wives and 800 concubines, what happened to him might just as easily happen to a man with one wife.

A petition is in course of signature among clergy belonging to the Extreme High Church party in England, praying that the Archbishops may be relieved from their duties in the House of Lords.

Practical Equality of the Sexes.

The main factors of the relation between the sexes have hitherto been, and probably still are, natural affection—the man's need of a helpmate, the woman's need of a protector and provider, especially when she becomes a mother, and the common interest of parents in their children.

It has no doubt been far from a satisfactory world to either sex; but unless we attach a factitious value to public life and to the exercise of public professions, it will be very difficult to prove that it has been more unsatisfactory for one sex than the other.

The Upright Man.

How hard is it in this world of sin, for man to be truly just; just before God, before men, and to himself. From the cradle to the tomb, at every step, man has to meet and overcome temptation and inclination to wrong-doing.

The Golden Opportunity.

Jean Ingelow has a sweet little story about opportunity—the golden, the silver, and the copper—as they came to a child. I have a few words to say about the golden opportunities that come to us all.

"I want to speak to you about your soul," said a student to his classmate, putting his arm through his, as they sauntered over the campus.

Here was a golden opportunity, that had not even been suspected. Servant of Christ, there may be some one near you in trouble, longing for you to say a word, amazed that you are silent.

"Won't you say a word to my husband about Jesus?" said a wife to a lady who had come in a friendly way to look after the little son, a Sunday-school boy.

Friends, we are not doing all we might for Christ. The harvest is plenteous. The labourers are few. Opportunities are around us all the time.

Remarkable Communion Service.

Sir Bartle Frere, soon after returning from Zanzibar, called at the office of the London Missionary Society, and made the following statement, which has since been published in their Chronicle.

When sailing along the northern coast of Madagascar on a Sunday morning, he saw a native town. He went on shore in a boat, feeling an anxiety to see what a native Matagasy town was like.

How Much was he Worth.

There is a terrible significance in the questions we sometimes ask upon the death of a wealthy man, if we only understood the real significance of the question. "How much was he worth?" we ask.

Giving in Secret.

When thine alms must be public, let thy intention be secret. Take no delight in having the eyes of men on thee, rather count it a pain, and still eye God alone, for he eyes thee.

Grace for Grace.

The expression "grace for grace" may mean grace answering to grace, grace which was in accordance with grace already given; grace preparatory to what is yet to come.

Random Readings.

Man judges of our motives by our actions; God judges of our actions by our motives.

The soul is a soil which requires to be dug and stirred deeply, otherwise nothing will grow in it but weeds.

Some men's religion and holiness is all in their titles of God's children, and in naked names of Christians, which only they hold, when indeed all Christianity is banished from them.

Nothing is more plain than that the happiness and prosperity of God's people lie in whole-hearted obedience and devotion to him; yet nothing is so difficult for them to learn.

As in a distempered and corrupt air it is hard for him that hath a strong constitution to avoid sickness, so it is in evil company, in corrupt ages and places, very hard to live unspotted from the world.

He who can look up to his God with the most believing confidence is sure to look most gently on his fellow-men; while he who shudders to lift his eye to heaven often casts the hughtest glances on the things of earth.

Every other faith but that which apprehends Christ as a purifier, as well as our atonement and righteousness, is false and hypocritical. He can only be received into the soul, when he is desired for his goodness; and when he is there, he will not sit down idle.—Rev. T. Adams.

The religion of Jesus Christ is altogether a practical thing. Just consider how we are taught any thing else that is practical. It is not by hearing or reading about making shoes that a man becomes a shoemaker, but by trying to make them.—Augustus Hare.

Good, kind, true, holy words dropped in conversation may be little thought of, but they are like seeds of flowers of fruitful trees falling by the wayside, borne by some birds afar, haply hereafter to fringe with beauty some barren mountain-side, or to make glad some wilderness.

It is by sympathy we enter into the concerns of others, that we are moved as they are moved, and never suffered to be indifferent spectators of almost anything which men can do or suffer. For sympathy may be considered as a sort of substitution by which we are put into the place of another man, and affected as he is affected.

The man who goes about to humble himself, and to amend, after a fall into sin, before he looks to Christ, only gets hardness into the heart, and attempts to purge away sin by sin. Nothing must stand between the sinner and the Saviour. It is the believer's privilege and duty at all times to behold the Lamb of God as having put away his sin; and thus looking to Him, the heart will be melted into sweet contrition.—Sir Richard Hill.

A man may preach from false motives. A man may write books, and make fine speeches, and seem diligent in good works, and yet be a Judas Iscariot. But a man seldom goes into his closet, and pours out his soul before God in secret, unless he is in earnest. The Lord Himself has set His stamp on prayer as the best proof of a true conversion.

The Epistle to the Romans was written to a Church who had believed, and who really knew the truth. Yet how the Apostle goes over the whole ground from the beginning, thus showing us that those who have believed must be continually occupied with all the truths of the Gospel—doctrinal, dispensational, and practical.

"Him that cometh unto me I will in no wise cast out," were the words which proved a refuge to Mr. Brownlow North. They have proved a refuge to many in all ages. An eminent divine, upon his death bed, said to a brother clergyman who was with him: "In spite of all I have written and all I have preached"—preachings and writings for which hundreds would bless God to all eternity—"there is but one thing which gives me comfort now, and it is this word: 'Him that cometh unto me, I will in no wise cast out.' Do you think I may venture my soul upon that promise?"

In the declaration, "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints," surely we have a most blessed announcement of a crisis in the work of redeeming love, very near the heart of Jesus. The period of discipline and service "amid the contradiction of sinners," is closing; already the words are sounding from the throne of light: "Lift up your heads, O ye gates, and be ye lifted up, ye everlasting doors," for the entrance of another ransomed soul into the "glory he had had with the Father before the world was." We can not think of another scene in the saint's experience more precious to the Redeemer, unless be resurrection. Then when the spirit sounds with a new shout of rapture to its immortal form, nothing more is left but to "follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth, to the sound of harpers harping with their harps," in worthy homage and joyful loyalty. It is inexpressibly sweet to think how precious it is to our "Elder Brother" to welcome his kindred home; to know, that when we come to the end of all dying he rejoices with the yearning love of his infinite heart, over the complete, eternal deliverance of those he bought with his own blood. Yes, it makes death a triumph and a joy, to be assured by Him, who is "the resurrection and the life," "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints."