Christ for Me!

"The Lord is my helper."-HEBREWS xill, 6.

#### FRANKNESS.

## BY LIZZIE M. WHITTLESEY.

"There, does my dress hang right?" asked an odd-looking girl of her stylish companion, at the dressmaker's one day. "Yes, certainly, quite correct," was the chorused reply, and yet as she "slopped" R. C. H.

down the stairs, one corner dipping and draggling behind her, the girls exchanged glances and laughed.

"Now, that thing'll always be out of gear," said they "and the worst of it is she's so perfectly unconscious of it." The dressmaker, who had not been con-

"Why didn't you tell the girl, then?" she asked pointedly. "I wouldn't thank anybody to lie to me first and laugh after-wards."

Rather a rough way of putting it, perhaps, but isn't it a just epitome of our ordinary social intercourse ?

How much more truly friends had the girls proved themselves, had they told her of the sagging skirt, and helped straighten it.

I know a lady who, for one long summer, wore unlined grenadine sleeves, foolishly imagining that the glimpse of white plump arms was pretty. At last, motives of com-fort and economy induced her to line the sleeves, and then one friend after another congratulated her on the change.

I told Nell," confided one voluble acquaintance, " that, as intimate as she was, she ought to tell you that dress didn't look well.

The lady recounted her story with tears in her eyes.

"Do you know,' she concluded, "I've never trusted Nell as much since. As we were such friends, why couldn't she have told m ; before I changed the sleeves of my own accord."

There is a greater dearth of genuine lov-ing frankness than of any other Christian grace Deception is the style, truth dubbed "blunt," and "not good form."

' I think Grace is making a mistake to throw herself away on that worthless fellow, said a girl speaking of a mutual friend.

"I know it, replied another; "but Grace evidently thinks he is all that could be desired. I didn t tell her so, but she will certainly rue the day if she does get

tied for life to him. "No, she didn't tell her," so Grace went on and married the dissipated fellow with whom, had she enly known, she would hardly have gone across the street.

How many heartaches, how many lifelasting sorrows might be averted by a few timely words of Christian frankness.

The general excuse is that such advice and counsel is resented, as arising from curiosity or an intense interest in other people's affairs. But in all cases, motives can be discerned behind words, and when a friend is moved by genuine love for another, and a sincere desire to help him, the fact will be unmistakably expressed in tone and manner.

Many valuable things I learned from my good father, now on the "other side," but none "stays by" as that object lesson, illustrated by our life of saying nothing about others we should be unwilling to have them hear.

Many a time was some girlish criticism checked, by knowing that sooner or later my victim would get the benefit of it from my father's candid life.

We can all recall some true and loving friend, who has, in a quiet hour of kindly talk, told us facts concerning some pet mannerism of ours which proved of more real service than all the "taffy" over doled out to us.

A bright, taking young lady marred her agreeableness by a certain saucy pertness, which, cultivated by the admiration of her friends(?) developed into most disagreeable

ways. "Fan would be so nice if it wasn't for that one thing," remarked a school-girl companion concerning this young lady. But no one told her, and so Fan was allowed to grow up into an assuming, un-pleasing, sarcastic woman, dreaded by acquaintances and grieved over by friends.

Yet, being a girl of sense, she would have considered it a real kindness had some true friend called her ill-timed vivacity by its ac-

Moderato, bolds R. GEO. HALLS. Whom have I, Lord; in heaven but. Thee? None but Thee! None but Thee! I. its, close, Christ for me! Christ for And when my, life draws to -me! And this my song thro' life shall be: Christ for .me! Christ for me I... cov-et not earth's glitt-'ring toys: Christ for "He knoweth best,"-I mur-mur not: Christ for And sin be-set me all a - round, Christ for me! Christ for me 2, I. me ! Christ for me ! 3. me! Christ for me l 4. 5. me! Christ for I shall re - pose, Christ for Safe in His arms mei

1. He "hath for me the wine-press trod, He hath redeemed me "by His blood," 2. Earth can no last ing bliss be-stow, "Fading" is stamped on all be - low; 3. Tho "vine" and "fig-tree" blight as sail. The "la-bout of, the o-live fail," 4. Let earth her fierc est bat - tles wage, And foes a gainst my soul en - gage, 5. When sharpest pains my frame per-vade, And all the powers of na -ture fade; Q me! Christ for God : Christ for me r: And re-con-ciled my soul to me! Christ for me I 2. Mine is a joy no end can know: Christ for And death o'er flock and herd pre - vail, Christ for me! Christ for me l 3 Strong in His strength 1 ' scorn their rage: Christ for Still will 'I sing. thro' death's cold shade, Christ for me ! Christ for me l 4 mel Christ for mel

conceal a hidden sting, don't go and com-plain to Gertie, but have the thing out between you two. At the risk of repeating myself, I emphasize candor.

Don't whisper to Sadie that Flossie's hair looks old-fashioned. Go to Florence and in the sweet, graceful way you know so well how to assume on occasion to draw your gentlemen friends, fix up that abundant brown hair in the pretty new style that becomes her shapely face so well.

"O wad some power the giftle gie us, To see oursel's as ithers see us."

That power is friendly frankness, and it might so easily be ours to give and to get. If criticism is worth giving about our friends it is worth giving to them.—*Christian at* Work.

#### "THIS MINISTRY."

"I do hope that one of my boys will be a do nope that one of my boys will be called to the ministry," said Mrs. Ashland. "Only one?" was her friend's reply. "I ask that all my children may early ac-cept the ministry God offers to them." "The ministry God offers? I do not un-derstand."

derstand."

"I mean just this ; 'Even as the Son of Man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister,' so to each one of us is given a ministry (ministering) in this world which we only can fully accomplish, and in which 'as we have received mercy, we faint not.' Our ministry as wives, mothers, and housekeepers, is often a harder service than that of our good pastors." "I am sure it is ! But these daily duties

daily cares constitute my ministry, I have no right to complain of or shirk them.'

Her friend, who knew her circumstances better than Mrs. Ashland supposed, knowing that she was indeed sorely tried and tested, prayed that her words might be guided with discretion as she replied :---

"I won't say you have no right, dear. I only think that when you see your life in the full light of God's Word you will not want to shirk or complain. You have just this ministry, this man boarding with you, this sickly husband, this family of growing boys, this untrained, careless servant. Seeing, then, you have this ministry, as you have received mercy you faint not. You are called quite as plainly as you long to have your son called, and to quite as important a ministry." "" Or ministry, let us wait on our minis

tering.' I have noticed how that text might apply ! Why, you have made it such a different matter to plan for to-morrow's meals, to try and make things run smoothly, and to be patient with my poor husband. I had been trying and trying to see a way out of jit all, and so many gave me such advice! Every one seems to think I should get rid of this or that burden ! Yet 1 never can see that I ought, and if it is my minis-try I would not." " ' Take heed to the ministry which thou

such a wonderful rest in accepting our lot as a gift from our dear Lord. As to the puzzles in your life, no experience is with-out them, and I find much comfort in trusting friend called her ill-timed vivacity by its ac-tual name of heartless ridicule. Be frank, girls. If Mattie's sharp words said Mrs. Ashland, thoughtfully. "If my the sea, God 'prepared a great fish to swal-

low him ;' then later he ' prepared' a gourd and an east wind. He is not only able, but willing to prepare what we need of trial and blessing, and to give us his mercy that we faint not. I fear we too often weaken each other by our sympathy for trials which, if seen as part of each one's ministry, would

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not seem trials but blessings." "I am sure we do. I never before thought of my little daily cares and duties as a ministry; but I shall not forget it, I hope. And now I must go home, for it is nearly dinner-time, and 'wait' on my ministering.'"

Is there not a suggestion here for you. dear reader? Are you accepting your daily cares and duties as a ministry to be entered into for God? If, day by day, we say to him, "Whatever work thou hast for me grace to do it," and then just "wait on our ministering," will not our life be one of peace, even though full of trial and seeming perplexity ?- Selected

## DOUBLED IN TEN YEARS.

The fact that the number of converts in China has more than doubled within ten years, and now exceeds thir'y thousand, is proof that Christian work is eminently successful there, and should act as a stimulus to more abundant labors.

# Question Corner.-No. 23.

PRIZE BIBLE QUESTIONS

61. Name in their order the first four prophesics of the coming of Christ in the Bible? 62. Where was Jesus born and what prophet foretold the place of his birth?

OUR PRIZE COMPETITION.

Our prize competition is almost at an end. One more number and it will be finished. It is well that it is so, for one large drawer is already tightly packed with the papers, and if many more an-swers come in we shall have to empty another drawer to accommodate them.

We shall give the results as early in January as possible. We would strongly urge that our young Bible students make no delay in sending in their last answers.

# OUR NEW PREMIUMS.

The next number of the Northern Messenger will contain our New Premium List, just in time to enable all our young people to secure handsome new books for the Christmas holidays.

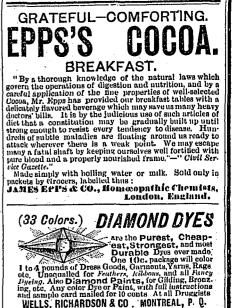
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