

"She calls him papa," persisted the little creature.

"You had better come along with me. I guess you came this way."

"Yes, but I don't want to go back, I want to find my papa," said the little girl, crying afresh, as if her heart would break.

"What do you want of your papa?" asked the lady.

"I want to kiss him."

Just at this time a sister of the child, who had been searching for her, came along and took possession of the little runaway. From inquiry it appeared that the little one's papa, whom she was so earnestly seeking, had recently died, and she, tired of waiting for him to come home, had gone out to find him.

GLOOM AND GLEAM.

I have my times all dull and gray,
When life crawls maimed and slow,
And not a sunbeam marks the way
Which I am forced to go.

But I have times—God sends them me,
And on them sets His seal—
When every moment laughs with glee,
And woe smiles into weal.

And then I mount on airy wings
Which quiver in the sun;
I look on all these men and things,
And love them every one.

Or else I climb up at my will,
With hope and gladness shod,
Until I stand upon the hill,
Wrapped in the arms of God.

God sends them me, and makes them mine,
And takes them then away;
I could not, if I would, repine
When times are dull and gray.
—Robert F. Horton, in *Good Words*.

HARMONY AT HOME.

1. We may be quite sure that our will is likely to be crossed during the day; so let us prepare for it.
2. Every person in the house has an evil nature as well as ourselves, and therefore we must not expect too much.
3. Look upon each member of the family as one for whom Christ died.
4. When inclined to give an angry answer, let us lift up the heart in prayer.
5. If from sickness, pain or infirmity, we feel irritable, let us keep a very strict watch over ourselves.
6. Observe when others are suffering, and drop a word of kindness.
7. Watch for little opportunities of pleasing, and put little annoyances out of the way.
8. Take a cheerful view of everything, and encourage hope.
9. Speak kindly to dependents and servants, and praise them when you can.
10. In all little pleasures which may occur, put self last.
11. Try for the soft answer that turneth away wrath.

THE CUP OF SORROW.

On classic cups and vases we may have sometimes seen devices carved by the cunning hand of the sculptor. So around the cup of trial which God commends to the lips of suffering Christians are wreathed many comforting assurances. Here is one of them: "All things work together for good to them that love God." Here is another like it: "As thy days, so shall thy strength be." Afflicted friend, turn thy cup of sorrow around, and thou wilt see engraved upon it those precious words: "As one whom his mother comforteth, so will I comfort you." Turn it again and read, "My grace is sufficient for thee." They are invisible to selfishness and blind unbelief. And God sometimes washes the eyes of his children with

tears in order that they may read aright His commandments.

A YOUNG GIRL'S APPEAL.

May I hold your attention for a few moments? Many of us, no doubt, have felt the same impulses on seeing wretched, miserable men struggling within the grasp of liquor. Some of you must have felt as though you would give all that you possess to free such miserable beings from the chains of slavery. Have you ever thought seriously, my young friends, of the heart-broken dwellers in homes ruled over by such tyrants? We who have fathers that abhor intoxicating drinks in every guise, have we ever tried to quell this tide of destruction?

O, my young friends? wake up from this sleep, shun as you would a venomous reptile the young man with the tainted breath. Perhaps this has fallen under the eye of a young girl about to sell herself to such a one. In God's name pause, consider the step. The future will bring you a broken heart, a wretched, destitute life on this earth. Consider the misery of a drunkard's home. Then, can you take the step.

If we take girls of this present age would only arouse ourselves and make a stand firm and unflinching, determined not to allow dabbles in the wine-cup to associate with us, what a glorious result we might accomplish. But the great trouble is that the majority of the girls of to-day are too lenient in that respect; they do not consider it wrong to take a glass now and then. Perhaps some of you have offered a young man his first glass. O, girls! how can you persist in this practice when you see hundreds, yes, thousands of wretched beings around you who began with a small quantity? Make it a point to save some young man. Have you a brother? Then ask God's help in teaching him to abhor the cursed stuff. What a grand work is open to the young girl's of the age. May God grant that each one may enter into it with her whole soul, and we shall find the harvest to be abundant and our reward hereafter sure.

A LIFE OF PRAYER.

Words and syllables—neither written nor spoken—are life. Our Saviour alone was the "word" of God. His utterances were *Spirit* and *Life*. He was God with us. And His walk and daily life were the expressions of his inmost soul. The struggle of the good man's life is to make his life and philosophy the same. The jealousy of the honest man's life is that his walk may not fall too far short of his words. The highest reach of the Christian life is walking with God—living, moving, having his being—consciously in him—walking in the light of God—entering upon the life everlasting.

There is no understanding Christianity on a low level. There is no common place, "merchandise article," in the Christian faith. "Ye cannot serve God and mammon" is the divine order. Modern life claims that to belong to Eastern forms well known to be extreme—transcendental.

Christian conversation embraces acts and words, everything that bespeaks the existence of the man—acts, words, mien, clothing, gait. All these, in men, are forms of expression—manifest ideas—give forth the character and movements of the soul, as leaves and fruit of trees bespeak the stock.

The soul's aspirations are, "Search me, God, and prove me; try me and know my thoughts, and see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting." "Let the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart be acceptable in Thy sight." The church's prayer is that in all our works begun, continued and ended in Thee, we may glorify thy holy name.

O that our thoughts and words and deeds might together make up prayer and praise; in their humble and lowly and unselfish honesty testify to the truth and righteousness of God, that they might be all testimony, entreaty and praise; all light, all truth in themselves, that they might be reflections of divine character, life of God's life, utterly and absolutely unselfish, dead, buried with Christ and alive only in his life.

THE GREAT MASTER.

"I am my own master!" cried a young man proudly, when a friend tried to persuade him from an enterprise which he had on hand; "I am my own master!"

"Did you ever consider what a responsible post that is?" asked his friend.

"Responsible—is it?"

"A master must lay out the work which he wants done and see that it is done right. He should try and secure the best ends by the best means. He must keep on the lookout against obstacles and accidents, and watch that everything goes straight, or else he must fail."

"Well."

"To be master of yourself you have your conscience to keep clear, your heart to cultivate, your temper to govern, your will to direct, and your judgment to instruct. You are master over a hard lot, and if you don't master them they will master you."

"That is so," said the young man.

"Now, I could undertake no such thing," said his friend. "I should fail sure, if I did. Saul wanted to be his own master, and failed. Herod did. Judas did. No man is fit for it. 'One is my Master, even Christ.' I work under His direction. He is regular, and where He is Master, all goes right."

MOTHER'S TURN.

"It is mother's turn to be taken care of now." The speaker was a winsome young girl, whose bright eyes, fresh color and eager looks told of light-hearted happiness. Just out of school she had the air of culture, which is an added attraction to a blithe young face. It was mother's turn now. Did she know how my heart went out to her for her unselfish words?

Too many mothers, in their love of their daughters, entirely overlook the idea that they themselves need recreation. They do without all the easy, pretty and charming things, and say nothing about it; and the daughters do not think there is any self-denial in the neglect. Jenny gets the new dress, and mother wears the old one, turned upside down and wrong side out. Lucy goes on the mountain trip, and mother stays at home and keeps house. Emily is tired of study, and must lie down in the afternoon; but mother, though her back aches, has no time for such an indulgence.

Dear girls, take good care of your mothers. Coax them to let you relieve them of some of the harder duties, which for years they have patiently borne.

—An amusing case came up before an English magistrate a few weeks ago. An action was brought by an elderly single lady to recover a certificate for some banking shares which her nephew had "borrowed" and had placed to the credit of his own private account. The defence was that "a heavenly voice" had directed him to commit the act. The defendant was ordered to return the certificate or the money value of it. Mr. Justice Wills remarked that devils could whisper as well as angels.

—We should endeavour to promote the happiness of those with whom we dwell; for a selfish, churlish, silent person in the family, like a cloud obscuring the sun, soon cast a gloom over all around him, which is wholly inconsistent with Christianity. "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

—He lives long that lives well; and time mis-spent is not lived, but lost. Besides, God is better than his promise, if he takes from him a long lease and gives him a freehold of a better value.—*Fuller*.

—Tramp: "I have lost an arm, sir will—
Passer-by (in great haste): "Sorry but I haven't seen anything of it."—*Exchange*.