

man had worked an hour or two longer? He must have some reason for being so late at his work: perhaps his wife or children are ill."

"He thinks that he ought first to obey the commands of God; and he is sure that God will not allow him to suffer for obeying his will."

"Then you suppose that he expects God will work some miracle to help him; for surely if his work is not finished he will not be paid for it. For my part, I should not understand a workman leaving a piece of work unfinished for any such fantastical notions; and if his master is of the same opinion, and should want the work to-morrow, what will become of him?"

"My friend, every thing in this world belongs to God; and let us remember that he causes all things to work together for the good of those who love him."

"All this may be very true; but I should like to know something more about this man. I think I will come this way to-morrow morning, and see what he is about. I shall call at your house in the afternoon."

SUNDAY MORNING.

"Well," said I, "my friend, have you been looking after our poor watchmaker?"

"Yes, and I do not know what to make of him: there is something extraordinary in every thing he says and does. I never saw any one like him before."

"Why, what has happened?"

"After we parted last night I thought a good deal about what we had seen. I rose early this morning, and was again at the house by six o'clock. Several families live in it, and the outer door being open, I went up the first stairs, where I found a dark corner in which I could stand, and hear and see all that passed in his room."

"My good friend, you were rather too inquisitive. I wonder you were not afraid of paying for your curiosity."

"I was, as I told you, much struck with this man; and I did not think I was likely to suffer even if I were found out. He did not appear a very quarrelsome subject."

"I cannot think your proceeding a laudable one; and, whatever the event may be, would advise you not to adopt such an improper plan again. But go on."

"I had hardly placed myself when I heard the poor watchmaker singing. Now, thought I, I have found you at work; but I was mistaken: he was sitting with his children around him; a Bible lay open on the table, and they were singing the one hundred and third Psalm. Next him sat a young girl about fourteen; her arm rested on his shoulder. Between his knees stood a child three or four years old, while another brother, some years older, completed the group. They sang in a most pleasing manner, and I heard another voice from the next room joining with them. What they sang evidently came from their hearts, and I must confess it went to mine."

"This is not surprising; but proceed."

"After they had sung, they knelt down and prayed. I was particularly struck with the prayer of the daughter:—here it is; I wrote it down, and will read it to you:—'O thou blessed Saviour, the friend of sinners, we call upon thee with our whole hearts, and may thy Holy Spirit teach us to pray aright! We lived without the knowledge or love of thee, and were always unhappy: but now, O Lord, we love thee, and we know that thou lovest us! O be with us, and bless us! Especially be with us this day, as it is thine own day. Enable us to serve thee with all our hearts: may we be attentive to thy word, and enable us to understand it. Bless our dear minister who teaches us to know thee. O Lord, be with our dear mother! we entreat thee for her: thou canst take away her sickness if it be thy will. (A voice from the next room added, 'But thy will be done.') Yes, O Lord, thy will be done! May our dear father be spared to us, and may we all be good children. Amen!'"

"Now for breakfast," said the father. "Jenny, where is the milk?" The table was presently covered with four cups, half a loaf, and a jug of milk. They took their places, and the father asked a blessing."

"You have drawn an interesting picture, indeed," said I.

"Compare this humble meal with the sumptuous repasts of the world, and say which is true happiness. A poor artisan entreats God to bless his humble fare, and eats with pleasure, and without repining; while the irreligious and sensual man sits down to his crowded board without even thinking of the Almighty, who gives him all things richly to enjoy."

"The clock struck eight. 'Jenny are you ready to repeat your chapter?' 'Yes, I learned it last night, and have looked over it again this morning.' 'Clement, are you ready?' I will look over it once more,' answered the boy, and sat down by the window. 'My children, I hope you will be perfect in your catechism to-day: do not let me have the pain to hear you are wrong in your answers;—your teacher will also be grieved. Remember he told you once you were more ready at reading any thing than your Bible: don't let him have to say this again. Set a good example: let it not be said that children who have been taught to know and love the Saviour are behind those who are ignorant of him.'"

KEEP HOLY THE SABBATH DAY.

"At this moment a man came up the stairs: he was well-dressed, but his countenance looked harsh and forbidding. He appeared quite out of humour, and, throwing open the door, exclaimed in an angry tone, 'Must I always be obliged to look after you in this way? Have you finished my work? I must have it this morning.'"

"Frightened at his voice and manner, the boys ran and hid themselves in the next room. Jenny stood by the door. The watchmaker offered a chair to his master. 'Pooh! none of your ceremonies; where is your work?'"

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