

"THE SIMPLE LIFE."

A good deal has been written on this subject, but not too much. This is how it appears to a woman in Harper's Bazar: "But we women all know, don't we? that it is one thing to establish an ideal, and another to live up to it in detail. Here, as ever, lies our strength and our weakness. It is we, after all, not the good Pastor Wagner nor any other man, who have to work out our own salvation from the fettering trifles that hold us back from our highest usefulness and happiness. We have to call upon the strength of our minds to order these little things so that neither they shall suffer nor the great things, but so that they, being in order and fit subordination, shall add their beauty to life. To do it, we need to take the broad view. However busy our hands may be with the little things, our minds must see them in the large, in the full sum of their little relationships. We need to let the light of eternal spaces in upon the confusing clutter that distracts us. In that illumination we shall by slow degrees, find a place for every genuine duty, put it in its place and with a firm hand keep it there. We shall see at once that we need a large supply of patience that we cannot expect to learn how to live until just before we die, if then; but that being steady and still, we can move on and up a little at a time. The comfort will be that we shall move others up with us—Those We Love Best, Those We Love Next Best, and Those of Whom We Are a Part. We shall see the righteousness of play and rest, and take our share—may plan and look out for our share—with a thankful heart. And our happy husbands and children will rise up and call us blessed.

All the South African papers speak with evident approval of the meetings conducted by "Gipsy" Smith in Johannesburg. A thanksgiving service was held at the close of his revival campaign and in his testimony to this worth Dutch and English took an equal part. Rev. Paul Nel, on behalf of the Boer churches expressed his gratitude for what had been accomplished; and at his suggestion the Dutch members of the congregation rose and joined in one of their favorite Psalms. The evangelist was greatly moved by this expression from those who had so recently been the enemies of the English in the field of war. When he left Johannesburg, the day after his formal "farewell," a great crowd assembled at the railway station to see him off; and for half an hour or more hymns which they all loved were sung by those who had come to bid him "God speed." His simple but effective presentations of the gospel have stirred both English and Dutch congregations with an equal fervor, and even the secular journals acknowledge that his visit has been a blessing to the colony. The gospel from the lips of this humble follower of Christ has done more to soften the asperities of races than all the wisdom of statesmen.

SEEKING THE CRIMINAL.

Under the heading of "Crime and its Remedy" the Christian Herald thus closes an article: "The servants of Christ should go out into the highways and hedges to seek those who are spiritually blind and maimed, to compel them to come in. Not yet has the Church awakened to a sense of its duty to the heathen at home, as it did, a century ago, to the claims of the heathen abroad. There needs to be a united and sympathetic effort to reach the outsiders; to get at the children and enlighten them; to relieve the pressure on the poor, which prompts them to crime; to take the criminal by the hand when he comes out of prison, and help him to an honest life. This is a gigantic task, but it is what the church is here for. It is to be a light to the world. It has done enough for the righteous man sitting comfortably in his pew, absorbing doctrinal and ethical teaching Sunday by Sunday.

"Now let it, like its Master, who declared that he came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance, go among the sinners and try to win them in the name of Christ. They are miserable, they are being hunted and imprisoned; they would listen to men who loved them, and honestly and intelligently tried to help them. There is the true secret of social reform—when the church energetically, vigorously and thoughtfully takes it up, that day will have dawned for which we pray, 'Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven'."

HALF YEARLY ANNUITIES.

The half yearly annuities to widows as well as to ministers connected with the Aged and Infirm Minister's Fund, are payable on the first of October. The annuitants are reminded that the slips sent, containing their addresses etc., should be returned to Dr. Warden without delay.

The American Surety Company of New York, whose business it is to furnish bonds to men employed in positions of trust, has recently said that one fourth of all defalcations which they are called upon to make good are due to gambling, betting upon horse races. In the South their losses are augmented by losses at cards; in the East through gambling in stocks. It is not to be wondered at that some financial institutions have placed conspicuously in their banks and counting rooms notices to the effect that attendance upon the racetrack will be considered sufficient reason for dismissal of any employee in their service. But a young man of to-day is as safe from this vice as he was in the days of our fathers—if he keeps away from the track.

The Christian Work and Evangelist tells of an institutional church in Minneapolis which will have among its features a "tavern" and a theatre.

AUTUMN WISDOM AND PLANNING.

Says the Treasury: "As we come together with new thought of the work the Church ought to do for its members and for the world around it, and now is the time for new planning, and deeper reflection upon our work, that it may be so wisely undertaken that it can strengthen in our hands, as the trees with falling leaves or bare branches reach down for a deeper, stronger hold on the soil below frost line, and that we may enter into so strong and self-contained life, that we can go through winter demands for charity and larger church work, and into the profound reality of Lenten following of Christ, even to his passion and death, to rise with a new Easter appreciation of His reward and renewing power. So the 'Christian year' may have a beautiful and strong reality to us, and we may find it suggested in the renewing and constant seasons of nature."

Japanese missionaries say "The people are more easily approached and effected with the Gospel than they have ever been since the country was first opened;" and when a missionary just added to our number can say, "Things look very encouraging to me, and I feel that the people are very eager for the Word of God;" while one who stands midway between them says, "I think the work in the West Coast is in a better condition than it has been in fourteen years at least. We find that the people are not only willing to hear, but more willing to receive Christianity than formerly."

In the Lutheran church in North America the benevolent contributions in the year 1903-1904, for home and foreign missions, for orphans, for education, and for the care of the sick, amounted to \$1,648,895.56.

Bishop Johnson tells the English and American residents of India that whether they like it or not they are really representing Christianity to the people. "In fact," says he, "they are like the pictures in the lesson book which illustrate the latter part."

At the installation of Rev. R. J. Campbell in the City Temple, London, Joseph Parker's successor, three prominent ministers of the Established Church were present, and spoke in cordial and fraternal terms.

It tends to sobriety to have pay day first or middle of week instead of Saturday. The Massachusetts bureau of labor statistics has specially investigated the subject and submits strong proof in favor of some other day than Saturday.

A Catholic writer scores the Irish Catholic clergy for building expensive cathedrals where they have little or no flock to fill them. At Armagh, a town whose population decreased between 1881 and 1901 from 10,070 to 7,569, a cathedral has been built which has cost \$1,200,000.

Half a million dollars is the amount to be raised for the further endowment of Queen's University, Kingston. Principal Gordon is to be relieved of his lecturing duties, and is to superintend the endowment work, assisted by a strong committee representing the Presbyterian church.