

THY WAY IS BEST.

BY NEWMAN HALL.

"Father, not My will, but Thine be done." Thy way, O Lord! Thy way—not mine!

NOTHING BUT LEAVES.

BY REV. THEODORE L. CUYLER.

Jesus was on His way from Bethany to Jerusalem—"hungry." He espied a fig-tree afar off, well laden with leaves.

Jesus hastens to the tree which had telegraphed to Him already that it was in bearing condition; and lo, "He found nothing but leaves."

Here is a parable for the close of the year. It is full of tender and touching solemnity to thousands of our readers.

There is no sin promises. Cherry trees must issue their white and fragrant "promissory notes" in May, or there would be no payment of delicious fruit.

How full of leaves was the plausible fig-tree on the road to Bethany! How profuse of promises is many a young professor.

My backsliding friend tells the sad story of your past year's life. As you look back over the barren year now closing, you find nothing but leaves.

Will you bear with a few plain truths even though they have a sharp edge? You need them, and they are spoken in love.

"backsliders in heart." The best evidence of this assertion is that you do not feel as you once felt, you do not do what you once did, you do not enjoy what you once enjoyed.

"Nothing but leaves; the Spirit grieves over a wasted life; Sin committed while conscience slept, Promises made, but never kept, Idle words for earnest deeds— Nothing but leaves!

Such are the sad thoughts and sorrowful self-reproaches that are troubling the spirits of many professed Christians as they review the year now closing.

ON THE DOWN GRADE. An old California stage-driver was on his death-bed. His eyes were closed. His hands were cold.

1. Death comes to all. No will-power of man can resist it. After the most faithful effort to reach the lights of middle life; after the steadiest pressure on the "brakes," to ease the descent to death, there comes a moment when the foot refuses to obey the will.

2. The tendency of sin is downward. It sweeps the soul on with a swift current. Sin runs on a down grade all the way.

3. The hold upon the "brake" lost! How terrible! The frantic steeds press on. The unlightened load pushes upon them.

4. The hold upon the "brake" lost! How terrible! The frantic steeds press on. The unlightened load pushes upon them.

5. The hold upon the "brake" lost! How terrible! The frantic steeds press on. The unlightened load pushes upon them.

DR. GUTHRIE ON CLERICAL INCOMES.

The Rev. Dr. Guthrie presided at the annual meeting in Glasgow, on the 22nd ult., of the Society for the Benefit of the Sons and Daughters of those Ministers and Missionaries of the Free Church of Scotland whose circumstances prevent them from giving their children an education befitting a clergyman's family.

Such are the sad thoughts and sorrowful self-reproaches that are troubling the spirits of many professed Christians as they review the year now closing.

ILLUSTRATIONS AND FIGURES OF SPEECH. Blackwood's Magazine says, in an article on "Illustration:"

Perhaps there is no intellectual gift that conveys a greater sense of power than that of ready and felicitous illustration, or one that wins its possessor a more undisputed pre-eminence.

Of the object of illustration: "Its serious office is to help along an abstract argument, to lighten and facilitate the discussion of grave topics, to administer a filip to infirm attention, and arrest a straggling wayward fancy.

Figures are out of place when used evidently as a mere embellishment: "When authors insert metaphor as an ornament, which is the way many people view it, it does not deserve to be read.

With a view of indicating plainly the great difficulty on the part of borrowers paying a high rate of interest, we ask a careful consideration of the increase of capital invested at the various rates of interest, as set forth in the following statement:

HIGH RATES OF INTEREST. With a view of indicating plainly the great difficulty on the part of borrowers paying a high rate of interest, we ask a careful consideration of the increase of capital invested at the various rates of interest, as set forth in the following statement:

the old sum of money, and thereby is worse off than ever he was before. Now, these things ought to be remedied. I believe in many cases it is true, as the poet sings, that more evil is wrought by want of thought than want of heart;

ILLUSTRATIONS AND FIGURES OF SPEECH. Blackwood's Magazine says, in an article on "Illustration:"

Perhaps there is no intellectual gift that conveys a greater sense of power than that of ready and felicitous illustration, or one that wins its possessor a more undisputed pre-eminence.

Of the object of illustration: "Its serious office is to help along an abstract argument, to lighten and facilitate the discussion of grave topics, to administer a filip to infirm attention, and arrest a straggling wayward fancy.

Figures are out of place when used evidently as a mere embellishment: "When authors insert metaphor as an ornament, which is the way many people view it, it does not deserve to be read.

With a view of indicating plainly the great difficulty on the part of borrowers paying a high rate of interest, we ask a careful consideration of the increase of capital invested at the various rates of interest, as set forth in the following statement:

HIGH RATES OF INTEREST. With a view of indicating plainly the great difficulty on the part of borrowers paying a high rate of interest, we ask a careful consideration of the increase of capital invested at the various rates of interest, as set forth in the following statement:

Table with 4 columns: Interest Rate, Principal, and Accumulation. Shows how a \$1000 investment at 1% grows to \$1000.00 at 100 years, while at 5% it grows to \$2,653,796.00.

THE DEACON'S SERMON.

From the deacon's standpoint the minister's salary was large, indeed "enormous," as the deacon used to say. In point of fact, it was very moderate, being only \$460 a year, and \$50 of that to be taken in wood.

He lived upon and cultivated a farm that furnished him and his family almost an entire living. When they wanted groceries, or any kind of store "goods," he would make a trade of butter and eggs, and supply their wants.

Scratching his head in a meditative sort of way, he went over to the "store," where he found a willing crowd to listen to his "views." In his opinion, the minister did not earn his money.

The men of the beans nodded his head and flung the beans more assiduously, as though they had something to do with the work referred to by the deacon.

"And then as to preachin—I'd like to know what there is in that?" he continued. "If a man couldn't write in half a day enough to read half an hour on, why I'd think he'd better quit the business, wouldn't you?"

This last remark, in the course of time, got around to the minister's ears, and he determined at the first opportunity to give the deacon a chance to try his "gifts."

This soon occurred. Only a few weeks after the conversion referred to, it happened that the minister was called to be absent from home for a Sabbath.

A view of the deacon's face that moment would have been highly amusing. The first slight tinge of surprise soon gave way to an expression of pride, confidence, and triumph most refreshing to contemplate.

"Oh, certainly," replied the dominio, hardly able to suppress a slight twinkle in his eyes, "and my wife will be pleased to have you take dinner and supper, too, with her, if you should not get through before mealtime."

An hour later, but yet early in the morning, found the deacon in the minister's study preparing for work. He had left word at home to keep some dinner for him, as he might possibly not get his sermon written so soon as he expected, but still expressed the opinion that as he only had to write enough to keep him reading half an hour, he would, if he had no bad luck, get through by noon.

To give the deacon the credit due him, it must be said that he did have, with all his failings, a fountain of good sense in his mind, and was a pretty good judge of what a sermon ought to be.

The deacon proceeded at once to business. He stood a moment to take a