

## "I CAN'T AFFORD IT."

**J**UST come and give me a hand's turn at my garden, Jem, of a Sunday morning, will you?" said a working man with a pick-axe over his shoulder, to an old hedger who was trimming a quickset hedge.

Jem took off his cap and scratched his head a bit, in his own country way, and then said—

"No master I can't afford it."

"Oh I don't want you to do it for nothing; I'm willing to pay you!"

"I can't afford it."

"Why, man, it will put something in your pocket, and I'm sure you're not too well off."

"That's it; I can't afford it."

"Can't afford it? What do you mean? You don't understand me!"

"Yes, I do, but I ain't quick of speech, do you see? Howsomever, don't ye snap me up and I'll tell ye I ain't too well off; that's as true a word as you ever spoke. Times be mostly hard wi' me, and if I ain't well off d'ye see, in this world, I've a hope—a blessed hope my missus calls it—of being better off in the next. My Lord and Saviour said these words with his own lips. 'I go to prepare a place for you. . . that where I am, there ye may be also.' I learned that text twenty years ago, and I've said it over hundreds of times, when things went cross, and me and my wife wanted comfort."

"Well, well! What's that got to do with your saying in answer to my offer, 'I can't afford it'?"

"Why, no offence to you, but, it's got all to do with it. I can't afford to lose my hope of a better lot in a better land. If my Lord be gone to prepare a place for me, the best I can do is to ask Him to prepare me for the place. And, you see, Sunday is the only day that I can give all my thoughts to all these holy things. Besides, I read this promise in Isaiah lviii. 13 14:—'If thou turn away thy foot from the Sabbath, from doing pleasure on My holy day; and call the Sabbath a delight, the holy of the Lord, honourable; and shalt honour Him, not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure, nor speaking thine own words: then shalt thou delight thyself in the Lord.'"

## BULLETIN FOR THE WEEK.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19.

Bible Class at 3 p.m., and Go-pel and Song Service at 8.30, followed by an Enquiry Meeting at 9.15. All invited.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 20.

12 noon.—Thanksgiving and Praise Meeting. The Secretary.

8 p.m.—YOUNG MEN'S BIBLE CLASS. Conducted by the Secretary.

9 p.m.—Young Men's Prayer and Testimony Meeting.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 21.

12 to 12.45 noon.—God's Charge to a Faithful Servant. Joshua i. 1-8. Rev. J. Salmon.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 22.

12 to 12.45 noon.—The Despised Friend. Isa. liii.; Ps. xxii. 6. J. J. Gartshore

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 23.

12 to 12.45 noon.—Which Master Have You Chosen? Matt. vi. 24; Ex. xx 4-6. S. R. Briggs.

8 p.m.—WORKER'S TRAINING CLASS. Rev. H. M. Parsons.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24.

12 to 12.45 noon.—Disobedience to God Swiftly Punished. 1 Kings xiii 11-26. R. Merryfield.

7.30 p.m.—BOY'S MEETING.

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 25.

12 to 12.45 noon.—One of God's Purposes in Affliction. Amos iv. 6-13. Assistant Secretary.

7.15 p.m.—Invitation Committee Meets for Prayer.

8 p.m.—YOUNG MEN'S MEETING.

C. S. Gzowski, Jr.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26

3.00 p.m.—Evangelistic Bible Class H. B. Gordon

" Deaf Mute Class. F. S. Bridgen.

" Chinese Class. W. M. Morse.

" Italian Class.

8.30 p.m.—Gospel and Song Service H. O'Brien. Followed by an Enquiry Meeting at 9.15  
*Requests for prayer may be addressed to the Sec'y.*

## Railway Men's Meeting.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 19.

3 p.m.—Union Station. W. Marks and A. R. Saunders.

## YOUNG MEN'S BIBLE CLASS

EVERY MONDAY EVENING,  
AT 8 O'CLOCK.

ALL INVITED.