THE RIGHT SORT OF REST.

It is rest first, and after that all else that he holds for us. Our rest should be like our Sabbath, a beginning of the days. Under the law the order was, work at the first, and day after day until the seventh, when labor shall end in rest. But when Christ rose from the dead, that first day of the week became the hallowed one, consecrated to life and rest and joy. And from that living, joy-ful rest in him, the whole being energized and fitted for its task, the soul can go on to serve him to the end. It has found rest because it has ceased from working in its own strength, worketh in It to will and to do of his good pleasure. Practically, it makes the widest possible difference whe ther we work up to rest or from it_Sarah F. Smiley.

"PLEASE" OR "MUST."

In one of the parks there have been, for several years, a number of signboards bear-ing these words : "Please keep to the path." This notice apparently failed to serve the the purpose intended, for during the past mmer it was changed for another : "You must keep to the paths," reminding passers-by that there was a law by which they could be compelled to do what before they had been merely asked to do.

So God deals sometimes with us. In many ways the invitation is given to all men to walk in the right paths-in other words, to live a right life-and they are asked, with a divine gentleness, to keep God's laws ; but if the invitation is disregarded, and the laws willfully broken, there comes a reminder, in one form or another, that they must keep to the right paths, or be surely punished. What God asks of us is always in love and kindness, and he hopes that we shall obey out of love ; but God's requests becom mands if we do not heed them, and "please" changes to "must"-Ex.

THE FOUR PLANTS.

An old teacher was once taking a walk through a forest with a scholar by his side: The old man suddenly stopped and pointed to four plants close at hand. The first was just beginning to peep above the ground, the second had rooted itself pretty well into the earth, the third was a full-sized tree. The tutor said to his young companion :

"Pull up the first." The boy easily pulled it up with his fin-

gers. "Now pull up the second."

The youth obeyed but not so easily.

"And now the third."

The boy had to put forth all his strength and use both arms before he succeeded in aprooting it.

"And now," said the master, "try your hand upon the fourth.

But lo I the trunk of the tall tree, grasped in the arms of the youth, hardly shook its leaves.

"This, my son, is just what happens with our bad habits and passions. When they are young we can cast them out readily, but only divine power can uproot them when they are old."-Classmate.

A POOR SOUL.

It was on the day of Judgment. A risen soul went up to the Lord in quiet confidence; not that she was bold or proud or vain, O, no; all her earthly life long she had pictured erself standing by the Lord's side on the latter day.

But the Lord looked earnestly into her face and said, "Who art thou?"

Then the soul was settled by this question and said timidly, "O, my dear Lord, knowest thou me not?"

"No," said the Lord, "I know thee not." "O, my Lord and God," said now the poor soul, "dost thou not remember how I went everyo Monday thou gavest to the sewing meeting, and Tuesdays to the temperan meeting, and Wednesdays to the Band of Hope, and Thursdays to the missionary ing, and Fridays to the choir practice and Saturdays to the free and easy for working girls, and Sundays to the guild"-Sob and fluttered she repea ted the last

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words twice, and added in despair, "O, Lord, NONE rememberest thou really nothing at all ? "Soul," said the Lord, whenever I came and knocked at the door, thou wast not at

home."-Hermann Oeser.

SEEKING GOD; NOT THINGS.

In the early hour of the Christian life we are apt to tabulate answers to prayer, to measure our faith in God, and God s fidelity to us by the number of answers we can claim ; but with a deeper knowledge of God a change comes over us. The boy measures his father's love by the number of things he can get, but with passing years he cares more for communion and less for things, learns that the best gift the father can make is himself; so we pass from pleading for favors to commun-ion with God. What we learn that God may be had for the askiug, we seek him, and not things from him .- Selected.

FAITHFUL UNTIL DEATH.

John Elliot, on the day of his death, in his eightieth year was found teaching the alphabet to an Indian child at his bedside. "Why not rest from your labors?" asked a

"Because," said the venerable man I have prayed to God to make me useful in my

sphere, and he has heard my prayer ; for now that I can no longer preach, he leaves me strength enough to teach this poor child his

alphabet." After such an example of obedience to the command, "Be ye faithful unto death," who can plead inability to serve the Master ?

One thing is clear to me, that no indul-gence of passion destroyed the spiritual nasuch as respectable selfishness George Macdonald.



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