

Value of Private Prayer.

No means of grace known to us can replace the quiet hour of communion with God in prayer and meditation on His Word. Dean Farrar testifies of its effect in the life of his mother. He says:

"My mother's habit was every day, immediately after breakfast, to withdraw for an hour to her own room, and to spend that hour in reading the Bible, in meditation and prayer. From that hour, as from a pure fountain, she drew the strength and sweetness which enabled her to fulfil all her duties and to remain unruffled by all worries and pettishness. I never saw her temper disturbed. I never heard her speak one word of anger or calumny or of idle gossip."

Here is the secret of power. He who drinks at the secret fountain-head of God's love can travel the desert path unparched with thirst. Sweetness of spirit comes from communion with God in spirit.

King Calls for the Bible.

At the coronation of Edward VI., when the three swords for the three kingdoms were brought to be borne before him, the King observed that one thing was yet wanting, and he called for the Bible.

"That," he said, "is the sword of the spirit, and ought, in all right, to govern us, who use these for the people's safety by God's appointment. Without that sword we are nothing: we can do nothing. From that we are what we are this day . . . we receive whatsoever it is that we at this present do assume. Under that we ought to live, to fight, to govern the people, and to perform all our affairs. From that alone we obtain all power, virtue, grace, salvation, and whatsoever we have of Divine strength."

How Sheba's Queen Travelled.

"How did the Queen of Sheba travel when she went to see Solomon?" asked the teacher of her Sunday-school class of little girls.

No one ventured an answer.

"If you had studied your lesson, you could not have helped knowing," said their teacher. "Now look over the verses again."

"Could she have gone by the train?" asked the teacher, beginning to lose patience as the children consulted their books, but appeared to arrive at no conclusion.

"Yes'm," said a little girl at the end of the class: "she went by train."

"Did she, indeed?" said the teacher, loftily. "Well, Louise, we would like to know how you found that out?"

"In the second verse," responded the child. "It says, 'She came with a very great train.'"

The teacher subsided.

Good Works better than Fine Raiment.

St. Paul tells Timothy that women should adorn themselves with good works rather than with costly raiment. St. Peter, too, says that the adornment of the heart is of far more importance than any outward adornment. Tertullian, no doubt, was thinking of this when in one of his sermons he gives the following hints to a woman who wishes to dress well.

"Let simplicity be your white; chastity your vermillion; dress your eyebrows with modesty, and your lips with reservedness. Let instruction be your earrings, and a ruby cross the front pin in your head. Employ your hands in

wifery, and keep your feet within your own doors. Let your garments be made of the silk of probity, the fine linen of sanctity, and the purple of chastity."

Pleasant for the Minister.

Some years ago, when the famous Dr. Norman MacLeod was minister of the Barony Church, in Glasgow, a minister from an adjoining parish was called in to see a man who was very ill.

After finishing his visit, as he was on the point of leaving the house, the minister remarked to the man's wife:

"You don't attend my church, do you?"

"Oh, no, sir," said the woman.

"Do you attend any church at all?" then asked the clergyman.

"Oh, ay, sir, we gang aye to the Barony Kirk. We're members o't," was the reply.

"Then why didn't you send for Dr. MacLeod?" asked the pastor, with some surprise.

"Na, na, sir," replied the woman emphatically. "We wadna risk him in a case o' this kind. Do ye no ken it's a dangerous case of typhus?"

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