

THE DOMINION PRESBYTERIAN

these untruthful words. Prayer dispels darkness as the sun the morning mists. "Prayer makes the darkened clouds withdraw.

Prayer climbs the ladder Jacob saw; Gives exercise to faith and love, Brings every blessing from above."

Let us cultivate the habit of looking on the bright side of things. Let us magnify the light rather than the darkness. David became discouraged "and said in his heart, I shall one day perish by the hand of Saul." He brooded over his untoward surroundings. He said, "in his heart." Had he told it out to a friend or even spoken it aloud, she would have seen the sin of the natural and faithless heart, he would have seen things in God's light. He would have foreseen the wicked Saul already doomed and dead and himself the loyal and loved king of God's own appointment.

What is thy burden, thy suspense, thy fear, O child of God? Does it apply to yourself, or family, or business, or Sunday school class, or church? Say not, "All these things are against me," but stir thyself in faith and works. "Stir up the gift that is in thee." Trust God and use the talents and opportunities He gives thee. "Commit thy way unto the Lord, trust also in Him and He will bring it to pass. Delight thyself also in the Lord, and He shall give thee the desires of thine heart."

Thus every ill of life, everything that seems to be against us, may be turned to a blessing, and instead of saying, "All these things are against me," we shall triumphantly exclaim, "If God be for us who can be against us?"

"By thy blessed love constraining,
Keep us now from all complaining;
Thou wilt soon on earth rejoice,
Blessed, blessed Lord!

"What have I to do with crying?
What have I to do with sighing?
To my own will I am dying,
Blessed, blessed Lord!

"I lay all upon Thine altar,
I will never fear nor falter,
Thy blest will I would not alter,
Blessed, blessed Lord!

"In thy secret place I'm dwelling,
In my heart Thy joys are swelling;
Help me as Thy love I'm telling,
Blessed, blessed Lord."

BACK TO GOD'S WORD.

It is the help which inspires self-help which is a living force in life. Amid the multitudes of helps in the Sabbath schools of today is there not danger that the scholar will fall in self-help? To one line of thought we call attention, and chiefly by illustration. In the Sabbath school of long ago, when we had few helps, the committing to memory of Scripture and of hymns was the chief thing with the scholar. How many scholars in the Sabbath school of today commit even the few verses of the lesson? How many teachers and superintendents emphasize this as of prime moment? How many scholars—teachers possibly—go to school without the preparation needed to make the half hour given to teaching helpful and profitable to either teacher or scholar? The Sabbath school largely fails of its own mission because scripture is not committed to memory as it should be. Even the pulpit sometimes fails of the abundant scriptural lessons, the text in some cases being the only crumb that falls from the rich granary of God's Word.—Lutheran Evangelist.

Happiness is not here; it cannot be found in the way of nature, sadly corrupt and disordered; and nature will have its share of the man in spite of all his efforts to dispossess it.

MANNERS IN THE MINISTER.

The pastor has much to do with social life. We do not live in a land of barbarians. We rejoice in the dissemination of culture and refinement. Churches want their pastors to be gentlemen. They want them to manifest at least ordinary politeness and a thoughtful attention to the usages of good society. Some church members may carry their taste for etiquette to an excess and become overfastidious. But sensible people recognize the value of certain rules in social intercourse, rules which are founded upon that regard for the comfort and pleasure of others which is one fruit of Christianity. Men who have been obliged to struggle in life for "the main chance," as it is called, and who have a natural admiration for great independence of character, coupled with a good deal of boldness and conceit, sometimes delight to trample on social usages. They call it "defying the absurd dictates of fashion." It seems to them unnecessary and fussy to be neat in their personal appearance, to cultivate good manners at the table, to be courteous to ladies and children. They have none of that delicate sense of fitness which is so desirable. In speech and in conduct they seem to glory in doing the startling rather than the appropriate thing. They annoy sensitive natures by their lack of respect, if not of reverence; and make their best friends ashamed of their boorishness. If favors are shown to them they take no pains to express appreciation or gratitude; and spoil by their clumsy bluntness in conversation and by their rude jokes and personal criticisms during the week all the spiritual appeals of their sermons. Indeed, if refinement of manners is not cultivated by the minister in social life, the lack of it will soon appear in the way he conducts the services of God's house where a delicate appropriateness is the true expression of reverence.—Henry F. Colby, D.D., in *The Hamletic Review* (August).

IS OPPORTUNITY EVER LACKIN'?

Many a Christian asserts that he would do more for Christ if only his opportunity were wider. The little round of humdrum life, and cramped environment, he says, offer little if any opening for direct service for the Master, such as winning souls to Christ. How fortunate that Paul did not seek refuge behind such an excuse! When he was in the midst of rather embarrassing limitations he proudly said, "I am an ambassador in chains,"—and he thought more of his ambassadorship than he did of his chains. Which part of our life are we thinking of most?

TWO INVITATIONS.

There is inspiration in a task that promises neither ease nor wealth, provided it is really worth the doing. And there are many such tasks in the world, waiting for men and women who are more concerned with the world's needs than with the world's rewards. A young man who believes in putting his personal experiences at the disposal of others, if he can do so helpfully, by writing, made this comment in a letter that accompanied some of his manuscripts: "Writing, as I conceive it for myself, is sufficiently difficult and unremunerative to repulse the uncalled—which is inspiring." The "called," in any field, are those who are willing to spend themselves to the uttermost without any thought save that of the service that they may render. Those who are willing to respond to the inspiration of such tasks need never be found among the "uncalled."

Every day we may see some new thing in Christ; His love hath neither brim nor bottom. O, that I had help to praise Him.

OUR GIFTS.

Some Bible Hints.

It is only obvious honesty that we should give larger gifts to God as God gives larger gifts to us (1 Cor. 16:2).

Nothing is best done till it is habitually done. Giving should have a regular time (1 Cor. 16:2).

Can man rob God, who can take anything from him? Yes; for God cannot take from man a freewill offering! (Mal. 3:10).

Suggestive Thoughts.

It is not enough to give unless the gift is in proportion to our means; nor that, unless it is given regularly; nor that, unless it is a generous proportion.

Great giving will greatly commend our Society, because it is greatly needed.

Giving must begin when our gifts are small and easy, or it hardly will become a habit when our gifts may be large ones.

It is not fair to expect the young people to pay the debts of the churches and mission boards; but to be in training to pay them when they grow up.

A Few Illustrations.

No secular business can be successful without the keeping of accounts; how can the King's business?

Giving specially to God one-seventh of our time and one-tenth of our money helps us to give Him all our time and our money.

The tenth is the interest we pay on our possessions to God, in token that they are all His.

If one loves another, one is always trying to see how much one can give him, not how little.

To Think About.

Is my giving glad or grudging?
Do my prayers go with my gifts?
Do I make a business of giving?

A Cluster of Quotations?

It is one thing to know how to give, and another thing to know how to keep.—Seneca.

For the will and not the gift makes the giver.—Lessing.

He gives not best that gives most, but he gives most who gives best. —Arthur Warwick.

Some men give so that their gold and silver shoot you like a bullet. —Beecher.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS.

M., Oct. 12—Liberality pleases God. 2 Cor. 9:6-11.
T., Oct. 13—Saints are liberal. Ps. 112:1-10.
W., Oct. 14—Toward those in want. Matt. 5:38-42.
T., Oct. 15—To missions. Phil. 4:14-18.
F., Oct. 16—To the saints. Rom. 12:12, 13.
S., Oct. 17—A liberal widow. Mark 12:41-44.
Sun., Oct. 18—Topic: Commending our Society. IV. By systematic, generous giving. 1 Cor. 16:1, 2; Mal. 3:7-12.

THE SIMPLE LIFE.

Content to live from day to day
Serving the Lord,
To do His way
The work that He lays out for me;
Knowing no task can ever be
Too hard,
Too great for me,
If I will trust and learn to say,
"Thy work, Thy will, Thy way,
Dear Lord."

I think we would cross no man's path without hailing him, and, if he needs, giving him supplies.—Beecher.

*Y.P. Topic, Sun., Oct. 18—Commending our Society. IV. By systematic, generous giving. 1 Cor. 16:1, 2; Mal. 3:7-12.