

A COMMON REASON OF FAILURE.

Satan cares not where we run, if we are not on a specific errand for the Lord Jesus. He listens delighted to eloquence that saves no one. He will lift the latch for you at each door in your district, if you will go in and only speak of books, and men, and sermons, and health. He does not fear your wringing some religious remarks out of your own dry heart. It is the power of the Holy Ghost he dreads. If you hold not the hem of a present Saviour's garment in the one hand, and reach out the other for a hold of a needy sinner's hand, crying in heart to the Spirit of love to make them meet, no harm is done in that house to the cause of the enemy. One powerless mention more of the Saviour, one failure more to record—this is all.

Foolish labourers that we are, if we come in for all the toil, the preparation, the prayer, the sacrifice, the ill-will, the self-denial, and only miss THE CROWN.—*The Soul Gatherer.*

THERE IS WORK FOR YOU.

Are you saved yourself? then begin to seek the salvation of others. Do not give way to the false and fatal delicacy that keeps Christian fathers and mothers from warning and entreating their sons and daughters to decide for Christ without delay—that restrains the friend or neighbor from dealing faithfully with his dearest companion and old schoolfellow, or his kindly neighbor—the Christian on a journey from giving the little leaflet, or speaking the quiet word in season, to a fellow-traveller whom he shall never see again on this side the judgment-throne. Have you got the fervor of first love? That always opens the mouth and makes bold for Christ, and very tender is its pity for the lost. If it is yours, use it, while not abusing it, and prudent yet bold, in strong faith speak—or write the pleading letter when you cannot talk—to that loved yet still lost and leprous one. Aye, and even if you are repelled, return a kiss for the blow, and let your motto be, "Strike, but hear me!" And do not say, thou art feeble and unworthy in thine own eyes, humble in thine earthly station, or an "obscure disciple," say, What can I do?

Didst thou never hear what James Therral, an old carpenter on Salisbury Plain said to a young Christian, who complained that she was unworthy to serve her Lord? "I used to think as you do, but the Lord taught me otherwise, by a crooked stick. One day my son went to a sale of timber, and in the lot he bought was a piece so twisted and bent that I said sharply, "It will be of no use." "Wait a bit; don't fret; let us keep a look out; there is a place somewhere for it." And soon after I was building a house; there was a corner to turn in it; not a stick in the yard would fit. I thought of the crooked one and fetched it. It seemed as if the tree had grown aside for the purpose. "Then," said I, "there's a place for the crooked stick after all! Then there's a place for poor James Therral. Dear Lord! show him the place into which he may fit in the building of thy heavenly Temple." That very day, I learned that, poor and unlettered as I was, there was a work for me. And so there is a work for you, too, and nobody else can do it."—*British Messenger.*

HAVE YOU ENEMIES?—Go straight on, and don't mind them. If they get in your way, walk round them regardless of their spite. A man who has no enemies is seldom good for anything—he is made of that kind of material which is so easily worked that every one has a hand in it. A sterling character is one who thinks for himself and speaks what he thinks; he is always sure to have enemies. They are as necessary to him as fresh air. They keep him alive and active. A celebrated character who was surrounded by enemies used to remark: "They are sparks which if you do not blow will go out themselves." Let this be your feeling while endeavouring to live down the scandal of those who are bitter against you. If you stop to dispute, you do but as they desire, and open the way for more abuse. Let the poor fellows talk—there will be a reaction if you perform but your duty, and hundreds who were once alienated from you will flock to you and acknowledge their error.