

of feet washing are often pictured on the monuments.

FOOTWASHING—The King of England was formerly accustomed to wash the feet of as many poor men as he was years old, but this is now commuted to a gift of money. On Maundy Thursday (the day before Good Friday), in St. Peter's at Rome, the Pope

washes the feet of thirteen selected persons. His red cope is taken off, an embroidered apron put on, and a towel fastened to his waist. An attendant bears the silver ewer, and the Pope, taking a sponge in a pair of silver tongs, does little more than touch the foot of each. He then waits on them at the supper table.

APPLICATION

Jesus knowing that his hour was come (Rev. Ver.), v. 1. We are apt to think we have a right to forget our neighbors, when we ourselves are in deep waters. It Others First! was not so with Jesus. He forgot self, and remembered others. And it ought to be our aim to do as He did. Self-forgetfulness marks the heroic, noble soul. It was splendidly shown on one occasion by some of our troops in South Africa. The Boer bullets had riddled the line terribly, and the sufferers lay in groups, bleeding to death. When relief came in the form of surgeons and stretchers, the first group of wounded men said to the surgeons, "Don't stay to help us, some of the boys ahead there may be suffering more, go to them." That was like the spirit and speech of Christ.

The devil having now put into the heart of Judas, v. 2. Every man's heart is his castle, and no one can enter without permission.

We cannot escape being tempted, but we can keep the temptations from entering our hearts and making their home there. Bad places, bad associations, bad habits, are open doors through which the devil sends his evil wishes. If one will, in the strength of Christ, avoid these places and associations and habits, and read good books and cultivate good companionships and cherish high ideals, he will find that by so doing he is resisting the devil and giving him the notice to quit which he will act upon.

He took a towel, and girded himself, v. 4. St. Augustine was once asked, "What is the first step in religion?" He answered, "Humility". "And the second step?" He answered again, "Humility". "And the third step?" Once more he answered, "Humility". What is humility? It is

not an excessive underrating of yourself, an easy and glib abusing of yourself, a withdrawing from service because you are not efficient. Likely enough, when one speaks of you, as you speak of yourself, you grow angry and resentful. Christ's humility shone out from His clear consciousness of power and divinity. By no word did He belittle Himself. In the light of this great Example, we see that humility is the glad consecration, when need arises, of one's whole being, powers, possessions, to lowliest service for others' sakes. He is most humble who will quickest and lowliest serve. "And the cloth of humility should always be worn on the back of Christianity."

Lord, dost thou wash my feet? v. 6. Peter had been looking out for his dignity and his position. When his Lord went about the footwashing, Peter was humbled, and therefore exalted. Humility is greatness, and this revelation that Peter gave of himself helps us to understand his subsequent career. Some one of the ancients has said, "Where a gracious person would sit below me, I will acknowledge his dignity, but where a proud person would move above me, I will abhor his vanity". A humble heart may meet with opposition from man, but it will meet with approbation from God. "When humility is the corner-stone, there glory shall be the top-stone."

Thou knowest not now; but thou shalt know hereafter, v. 7. The weavers of costly tapestries do their work on the "wrong" side.

They do not see the design The Wrong Side they are making. All that they see is the tangle of threads and thrums, a mystery and confusion of vague suggestions. So it is with our life. We cannot understand what we are doing, or what

Corner-stone
and Top-stone

Humility!
Humility!!
Humility!!!