

Words of the Wise.

THE service of sin often proves very expensive.

INSTEAD of complaining of the thorns among the roses, we should be thankful there are roses among the thorns.

SOME lives are like a foot-print on the hard rock, enduring forever; and some are like a foot-print in the sand, to be erased by the coming tide.

NEVER swerve in your conduct from your honest convictions; decide because you have seen reason for decision, and then act because you have decided.

PERE HYACINTHE, when asked why the Prussian soldiers were so uniformly victorious, replied, "Because each one of them carries a Bible in his knapsack."

HOWEVER early in the morning you seek the gate of access, you find it already open; and however deep the midnight hour when you find yourself in the sudden arms of death, the winged prayer can bring an instant Saviour near.—James Hamilton.

AMUSEMENTS may be lawful; devotion to them does not edify. We do not weigh them in the scale of religion and pronounce them immoral; but we find them unworthy to absorb the time, the interest, the devotion of an earnest life.—Dr. J. W. Hough.

SIN is really the source of all unbelief, and it is on this account that unbelief is always treated in the Bible as criminal and punishable. Could any sceptic be thoroughly emptied of sin, he would at once rise unto faith as a balloon springs aloft when all its weights are cast out.—Rev. Dr. Burr.

Do not pity yourself. Self-compassion is a morbid luxury, a caricature of self-respect. Do not nurse your grief and brood over it. Do not feed it with thought till it grows big. Forget yourself. Think of the world, with its want and woe. Think of God and His help. Fling yourself, sorrow and all, upon the distress of man, and you shall find how God comforts those that mourn.

THE Christian conflict is not to be carried on by theological engineering. Our religion has often been ably defended, when in any legitimate sense it was neither preached nor practised. In such times scepticism always flourishes. Christianity, when vital and aggressive, carries its own divine sanction. Like the sun in heaven, it is shown to be real by its own light and heat.—M. B. Anderson.

LIFE force may go into words or it may go into deeds. The power of steam may expend itself through the cylinder or through the whistle. Steady living, under the sweet pressure of genuine love for God, is vastly more eloquent than the most rhetorically sweet-sounding declarations by the human voice. There may be a religion without words; there can be none without deeds. The old proverb puts it well: "None preaches better than the ant, and she says nothing."

In commerce and trade Christianity has its indispensable place, and God's people their sphere of usefulness. The Golden Rule is the true Christian yardstick; commerce becomes a cheat if it is disused or broken. When a Church member defaults or turns his back, he repeats the sin of Judas. Christ is betrayed, and men's faith in Bible integrity is so far shattered. A Christian merchant, manufacturer, or mechanic, has a call to serve Christ and save his fellow-men as much as any Gospel minister.—Dr. Cuyler.

LET a man get but one glimpse of the King in His beauty, and then the forms and shapes of things here are but the types of an invisible loveliness—types which he is content should break and fade. Let but a man feel the truth, that goodness is greatness, that there is no other greatness, and then the degrading reverence with which the titled of this world bow before wealth, and the ostentation with which the rich of this world profess their familiarity with title, all the pride of life, what is it to him? The love of the inward, everlasting, real, the love that is of the Father, annihilation of the love of the world.

An infidel, who was school trustee, would not give the key of the school-house to a Christian lady who desired to hold a Sunday school in it. Though his denial was rough and insulting, yet she nevertheless said to him: "I think I am going to get it. I am going to pray over it, and I have found out from experience, that when I keep on praying, nothing gives way." The next time she came, the hard heart had given way, and she not only handed her the key, but eventually herself took a part in the work of saving souls. The praying that makes something give way is the praying that is worth something.

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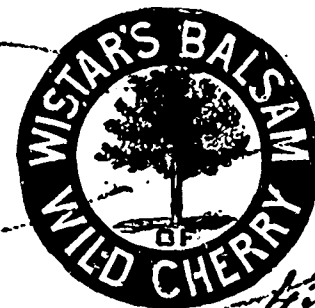
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