

flicting cruel disappointment upon those who trusted so entirely in his friendship? How comforting, how strengthening was the answer that came to him. "Ye cannot serve two masters." Yes, he had striven to be loyal to that one Master whom he had vowed to serve. It was an imperfect service after all, it had not been a joyful, a willing sacrifice, yet He who can be touched by our infirmities knew that he had never wavered in his purpose, when once he had realised his duty. Then came the words, "I will never leave thee nor forsake thee." What blessed words they are! They came like a strain of perfect, heavenly harmony to still the disquiet and the discord in John's heart. And looking onward to the end he thought of a joy beyond all joys—of what it must be to hear the Master's voice saying, "Well done good and faithful servant."

(To be continued.)

THOUGHTS FOR THE SUNDAY BEFORE EASTER.

"Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus."

"Learn of Me," He says, "for I am meek and lowly of heart, and ye shall find rest unto your souls." Day by day through this most solemn week we are to behold the meek and lowly Jesus, the Spotless Lamb of God, exposed to the scorn, the insults, the impious cruelty of men, mocked and reviled and spitted on, derided by the stony-hearted multitude, swayed by the prince of darkness; we are to see Him, the Lord of Life and Glory, "obedient unto death, even the death of the Cross." And as we gaze upon Him so patiently enduring for our sakes sufferings inconceivable, His wondrous words come to us with a new power. "Learn of Me, for I am meek and lowly of heart."

How can we look unmoved upon those awful scenes! Incarnate Love surrounded by the hate of men; He, by whom all things were made, despised and rejected by His creatures! the only begotten Son of God, who was "in the bosom of the Father," a very scorn of men and the outcast of the people! It thrills us with awe and bitter shame to think that human beings such as we should have set at naught, yea, crucified, the Lord of Glory; it thrills us with wonder inexpressible to behold Him, whose power is infinite, going like a Lamb to the slaughter and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, in patient silence bearing what passes our conception.

Yea, Lord, we would learn of Thee! O with what speechless shame we remember, now in the presence of Thy meek endurance, our sins of mad rebellion at the little trials which beset our path, our impatience at the most trifling indignity which may be put upon us, our passionate recriminations, our burning indignation at a supposed insult. Thou King of Kings and Lord of Lords, dumb before Thine accusers! We, miserable sinners! Now in this week sacred to Thy sorrows, let us, if never before, see ourselves in the light of Thy perfection. Let us be pierced through and through with the consciousness of our sins against Thee. Then into our bruised hearts pour the balm of Thy forgiveness, and at the foot of Thy Cross let us find rest unto our souls!

Jesus says, "Come unto Me, and I will give you rest."

WORLDLINESS.

EVIL is never so deadly as when it puts on an air of respectability. Jesus says that the publicans and harlots should go into the kingdom of heaven before the pharisee; and to this day doubtless His everlasting words come true, and more open sinners are saved than decorous Pharisees. The worldliness which most of us have most to fear, is a negative worldliness—a worldliness without great sins, because it has not great temptations; a quiet unobtrusive worldliness, so unpretending that it hides itself even from our own notice; a worldliness which the more effectually deposes God, because it does not overtly rebel against Him—nay, in words it owns His being, re-enacts, without reference to Him, some of His laws, yet shaped so that they should not press upon it; a worldliness which is the more hopeless because it substitutes self for God so universally, yet so noiselessly and imperceptibly, that the soul, like Samson, does not know that God is departed from it, and that it is living without Him. It is one of those poisons, taken in infinitesimal doses, which are unperceived until the sufferer is dead;—E. B. PUSEY.

OLD BOB.

That white-faced bay horse you see looking at us from among that bunch of mares and colts is quite a celebrated character in the neighborhood, and if the Royal Humane Society gave gold medals to dumb animals I am sure old Bob deserves one: One rough, stormy day, after a succession of heavy rains, which had swollen the Little Laramie River till it became a broad, raging torrent running level with the top of the banks, old Bob, who was close to the river, caught sight of a little colt which had fallen into the water and was being rapidly carried down stream, in spite of its struggles. Old Bob trotted to the edge of the river, and, with a loud neigh, plunged in, swam to the poor little chap, and seized him as a dog would a rabbit, and, after a fight with the stream, landed the little fellow safe and sound, not much the worse for his bath. I think old Bob is entitled to unlimited freedom and grass as long as he lives, and the happy hunting grounds hereafter. — *The London Field*.

INFLUENCE OF MOTHERS.

It is a fact worthy of notice, that the most distinguished men who have adorned the Church by their virtues, or who have served their country by meritorious actions, were men who had the happiness of receiving from pious mothers, early principles of morality.

Witness St. Louis, King of France, who owes his greatness as a king, and his virtues next to God, to his mother, Blanche. Though occupied during the minority of her son with the affairs of State she had time to devote to the religious training of her son. "I love you tenderly," she said to her child, "but sooner would I see you a corpse at my feet than that you would tarnish your soul by a mortal sin." If Queen Blanche could pay so much attention to her son's instruction, notwithstanding her weighty occupations of State, surely other mothers cannot excuse themselves for want of time, from discharging a similar duty towards their offspring.

A LITTLE girl came in her night-clothes very early to her mother one morning, saying, "Which is best, mamma, to tell a lie or steal?" The mother replied that both were so bad she couldn't tell which was worse.

"Well, said the little one, 'I've been thinking a good deal about it, and I've concluded it's worse to lie than to steal. If you steal a thing you can take it back, 'less you've eaten it; and if you've eaten it you can pay for it. But'—and there was a look of awe in the little face—"a lie is forever."

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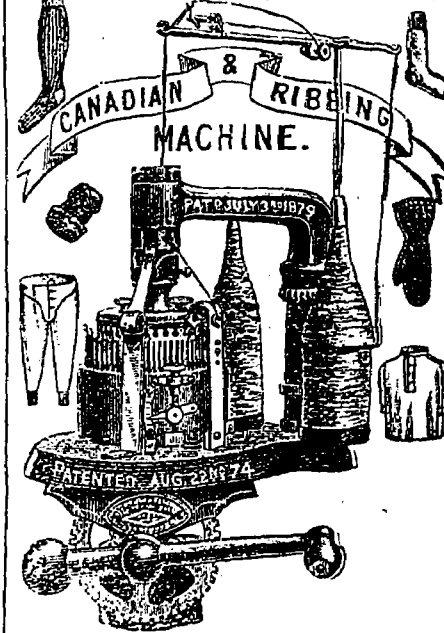
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Post Office Inspector's Office, Halifax, 16th Feb., 1883.



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