

OUR WORK.

NOTES FOR
BIBLE STUDY, BIBLE READINGS, ETC.

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TRUST.

BY MARGARET SANGSTER.

I cannot see, with my small human sight,
Why God should lead this way or that;
I only know that He hath said, "Child,
follow Me;"

But I can trust.

I know not why my path should be
So straightly hedged so strangely barred
before;

I only know God could keep wide the
door;

But I can trust.

I find no answer often when beset
With questions fierce and subtle on my
way,

And often have but strength to faintly
pray;

But I can trust.

I cannot know why suddenly the storm
Should rage so fiercely round me in its
wrath;

But this I know, God watches all my
path,

And I can trust.

I may not draw aside the mystic veil
That hides the unknown future from my
sight,

Nor know if for me waits the dark or
light,

But I will trust.

I have no power to look across the tide,
To see while here the land beyond the
river;

But this I know: I shall be God's for-
ever,

So I can trust.

Job the Patriarch.

Moral Rectitude in Adversity.

BY GEO. W. ARMSTRONG, LONDON.

ARTICLE NO. III.

In many respects the character of Job is worthy of imitation and invitation. He is pre-eminently distinguished for his great patience under adverse and trying circumstances. He stands unique in the annals of history, not as "the greatest man in the East," for if that had been his only recommendation history would doubt-

less have known little or nothing of him. It is Job on the dunghill and not Job in the palace; Job the poor and afflicted one, and not Job the rich and prosperous that all men admire. But why admire him thus circumstanced? Because of his calm resignation, his strong faith, and his unwavering confidence in God, when cast down, as it were in a moment of time, from a position of the highest altitude as a prince among men, to one of the most direful degradation.

I wonder how many men, in the whole history of the world, could have stood so calm and resolute amidst such sudden and complete destruction? I have seen men, yea, even Christian men, weep like little children who have lost some favorite toy, when some unlooked for calamity has befallen them to deprive them of *only part* of their worldly possessions.

It is adversity and not prosperity that develops the true manliness in man. It was because Job upheld high and holy principles when the sun of prosperity shone upon him, that, now, when sudden darkness sets in his high and holy principles prove themselves strong enough to sustain him, and enable him amidst the wreck of fortune to exclaim, "The Lord gave and the Lord hath taken away, blessed be the name of the Lord."

Satan asked, "Doth Job serve God for nought?" Yes, is our reply to the inquiry in the sense Satan meant it; but, in a higher and nobler sense we stoutly answer NO, Job doth not serve God for nought! God is a reasonable and fair dealing master to all his servants and those who serve him well and faithfully shall receive an adequate reward. Job looked beyond the material and perishing to that which was spiritual and enduring. He served God not for the loaves and fishes—to use a common expression—but because God's service was delightful to him, and in that service, apart from all worldly gain, he found ample reward. Job was a man, in a religious sense, who lived long before his time. In practice he

displayed great Christian principles, and understood in his innermost heart that great truth long afterward uttered by our Divine Saviour, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you."

Vice in Paris.

It is well known that the antipathy, not to call it by a harder name, of upright and thoughtful Germans to the French is largely based upon their conviction of the prevalent demoralization of that people. The domestic virtues so general and so honored in Germany have been sadly wanting in France, and frivolity, laxity and more gross corruption are the legitimate results. It would seem that the intelligent and influential leaders of thought in France would heed the lesson it has learned at great cost, that in weakening the foundations of virtue in its youth and in its homes it has sapped the sources of its strength. And yet they allow the widespread circulation of corrupt thought through the low novels and blasphemous papers and pictures to which even children have unrestricted access, helping to produce that precocity in evil which their wisest men ought so much to dread. More than that, the municipal authorities of Paris during the season hire the Odeon Theatre and give free tickets to the boys and girls of the communal schools to go to the play on Thursday afternoon, where the theatricals performed are often such as no boy or girl should witness. It is positively asserted that through these plays children are initiated into vice and into scorn of religion. It is sad to think that the officials of that great city not only wink at the existence of evils which they ought to suppress by all the power of the law, but even take pains to create the appetite for exciting spectacles which when indulged will so often tend to sensuality and vice.

The love of Christ is above all things.