

TRESPASSERS WILL BE PROSECUTED.

"Well, Joe," so one sturdy, rugged-faced laborer accosted another, as they turned out in the early gray of a November morning to their work on a farm at some distance; "you'll be glad to hear as I've turned over a new leaf lately!"

"How's that, Will?" "Why, I've give up 'Swan and Fiddle,' and I brings my wages home reg'lar Saturday nights to my missus; and I've joined one o' them tem'prance things, and got a grand card hung up i' the kitchen; and I goes to church o' Sundays, and does my dooty all round. There!"

"I'm glad to hear it," the other answered, doubtfully; "but what about the old leaves, Will? There was a deal writ on our old leaves as 'ud go sadly agen you and me at the day of judgment. What have ye done about the old leaves, lad?"

"Why, I make no doubt but God'll let by-gones be by-gones," answered the other, a little uneasily. "A man can't change the past to please him, however hard he may try. I'm beginning in the narrow way now though—'workin' out my own salvation,' doesn't it say?"

"Then you've got it, Will! I'm right glad to hear it."

"Got what? I'm only gettin', I tell ye." "Got salvation—your sins forgiven—Jesus as your Saviour!"

"Nay, I ain't, I wish I had! I'm gettin' it only."

"But I thought you said you was 'workin' out your own salvation,' Will? I don't understand you! You can't 'work out' what you ain't got. 'Your own' means that it's yours already. Our parson was speakin' about that very tex' at the Bible-readin' last Sunday, and he made it ever so clear. He said, if you're to 'work out your own salvation,' you must see that it belongs to you first. Nobody'd ever say, 'Go, and work out your bit o' land unless it was your own to work on. It 'ud be trespassin'!"

"Ay, and that's just what it is, Will,—you're trespassin' on God's ground—tryin' to work, where it's all his work; tryin' to step over the hedge, and get for yourself what he's promised to give you for the askin'! And you've no right of way. But with God it's just like them words on the notice board i' yon orchard: 'Trespassers will be prosecuted with all the rigor of the law.' Don't you see, Will, that you'll never be able to be saved as you want. The sins that lie along the way of your life behind you are quite enough to pitch you into hell right away, though you mended every bit of the way ahead fair and good. Because they're behind don't make no difference. Though you can't see 'em, God can. It's never no manner of use turnin' over a new leaf, if the old ones is still left underneath to bear witness against us."

"There—don't go jawing on any longer about it!" put in the other somewhat surlily. "Say how ye do think a man's to be saved instead."

Joe's face showed a sober thoughtfulness for one moment, that meant silent prayer to God for words to answer his friend; then he said earnestly:—

"If I believe that Jesus Christ died for my sins—that is, in my place; and that He has risen again for my justification—why, then I am saved! Jesus, dying for me, blots out those old sins that cry out against my soul; Jesus—rising for me, makes me just before God—forgiving me all the sins I have to grieve over daily when I bring them to God in His name. It means that I am safe now."

"Now?" "Ay, surely; for 'he that believeth on Me—the Lord says—'hath everlasting life.' He don't say 'shall have,' and he don't mean it, neither!"

"Well, that's news to me—if you've got it right, mate!"

"I thought so, Will. And then—when you're safe—comes in the tex' we was talkin' about, 'Work out your own salvation.' We can work as much as we like—love—and gratitude! We are to try to come nearer and nearer to God in His strength, as our parson said. We are to do all for Him. We are always to seek His glory. Ay, and he said too, we are saved already, when we believe on Jesus, from sin's punishment, because He paid the price; but we have to be saved more and more from sin's power, day by day. Will, a thought came to me very strong as he was speakin'. A saved man is like some one who has been saved

from a shipwreck by havin' a rope tied fast round his waist, and the end fastened up on to the top of a steep cliff. He has to climb up the cliff before he can reach his home; but the rope round his waist keeps him safe, and leaves his arms free to hold on to the rocks, and push his way up. Now, you're tryin' to climb the rock without the rope, Will; and you'll never be safe while you do. You've more than enough to do to hold on with both hands, and you never get a step higher; besides this, you're likely every moment to get thrown down into the waves below you. Get hold of the rope, man! Take Jesus for your Saviour! and then hug your tex' if you like, and obey it with all your might! Shall we kneel down here, lad, and tell the Lord you want to be saved?"

"Here, Joe?" "Yes. Shall we do it?"

"Nay. But I'll promise to think on what you've said, and if I find you're right I'll do as you say. Pray for me, Joe!"

"Ay, I do, mate. God bless you!"

It was the last talk they ever had on the subject. That very evening, as the two friends were working together, Joe, the happy Christian laborer, to whom salvation was a beautiful present, gift and possession, was called into the presence of his beloved Master. He fell from the top of the stack in a sudden fit, and was killed in the fall.

Will carried the lifeless body to its home, and there, when he had laid it on the bed, he knelt beside it himself and cried aloud from the depths of his soul:—

"Lord, thou art righteous indeed that thou hast spared me hitherto. Had I been in Joe's place I must have been lost forever. Lord, I have been a trespasser upon thy grounds—working where thou hadst done all by Jesus. I give myself up to thee here—poor sinner! O show me, and give me thy salvation now! Spare me, that Jesus died for me, and has forgiven me my sins!"

That is a prayer, wrung from poor sinners' hearts, that God is pledged never to cast out. Will is a Christian man now, safe and happy. He is living out his text faithfully and earnestly.

Do we never fall into Will's mistake, and trespass upon God's ground, working for our own salvation, instead of accepting Christ's work for us? Do we never work to get salvation, instead of working because we are saved? Then let us remember and consider Joe's rough but true word; "Trespassers will be prosecuted with the utmost rigor of the law." If we will not have grace we shall have law—God's sentence upon those who will not hear him.—British Messenger.

HER PLACE.

BY ANABEL C. ANDREWS.

"There's no use, Aunt Emma. I can't think of anything that I do well enough to earn a living at it. I surely can't wash, as most of the heroines in stories do, and as surely can't teach school or 'tend in a store, and there are more to sew now than are needed. What I shall do, is a conundrum over which I've been puzzling this three weeks. I seem to be no nearer issolution, but I'll never give it up. Somewhere in this world there's a place for me, and I'll find it yet!"

From the look of determination on the speaker's face one might be sure she would make good her words.

"You know you are welcome to stay here, dear, forever if you like. We would all be glad to have you."

"I know, Aunt Emma, I feel very grateful to you for all your kindness, more grateful than I can express; but you don't need me and if I stayed it would be as a dependent on your charity, and my father's daughter could never fill that position gracefully."

There was silence for a time, as the two ladies sewed busily, the elder with a steady, restful manner like one who, having found her place in life, takes placid content as well as her life's work therein. The younger, with rapid, impatient fingers, and a brow clouded by thought.

At length she folded the garment on which she had been working, laid it on the pile beside her, and carried them all to her aunt. That lady said, "Thank you," and looked at the neatly mended garments with a most gratified air, saying as she did so:—

"Well, my dear, you needn't feel that you are dependent on me while you mend like that, for you are worth your weight in

gold. Two or three of those garments—now as good as new, thanks to your skill—would have gone for rags, for, positively I can't find time to do all of such work that needs to be done, but do what I can and let the rest go."

Laura said she was glad she had helped her, and turned to go, with the same preoccupied and thoughtful look. She had taken but a few steps when she paused, turned toward her aunt and exclaimed:

"Does every housekeeper have as much mending as you, aunt?"

"Why, yes," that lady replied, wondering, "more usually, and ever so much more where there are children."

"Then that's my business. I'll go from house to house and mend."

"What are you talking about child?"

"I'll show you in a week or two."

In the Daily Record two days later, there appeared the following:

"Miss Laura Baldwin, No. 8, B. St., will mend and repair neatly at the homes of those who desire her services, for fifteen cents per hour. Telephone connection."

"The idea took," as the saying goes, and Laura soon had her hands full, while her aunt said comically that the telephone bell rung incessantly. A handsome hand bag contained an assortment of silks and thread, scissors, thimble, etc., and with this equipment Laura went from place to place earning a comfortable livelihood.

She made it a rule from the first that not one word of gossip should be told her at any house, and when she went from Mrs. B's to Mrs. A's she was dumb as an oyster in response to all inquiries, were they never so smoothly and she was welcomed wherever she went, keeping all her old friends and making more. So daily she walked her pleasant, independent way. Her bank account grew, and her purse allowed her luxuries for herself and gifts to others, and she laughingly assured her aunt that her place once found was vastly comfortable.—Household.

Question Corner.—No. 6.

BIBLE QUESTIONS.

- 1. Where are we told that God did not spare even the angels who sinned?
2. What two eminent men did the Jews force to go with them into Egypt, after the rebellion against Gedaliah?
3. Where is Jesus called our High Priest?
4. On what occasion did Joshua first distinguish himself?
5. What miracle was performed by our Saviour that the greatest prophet of the Old Testament had not worked?
6. Where does Jesus show that affliction is not a sign that the sufferer is a greater sinner than those not similarly tried.

BIBLE EXERCISE.

Find out the names of the following people and places, each beginning with D and ending with S.

- 1. The town to which Abraham's steward Eliezer belonged.
2. The king who caused search to be made in the house of the rolls for Cyrus' decree.
3. One who made silver shrines for Diana.
4. The surname of the disciple who was not present at Christ's first appearance.
5. A woman full of good works and almsdeeds.
6. One who loved the present world and forsook Paul.
7. A woman who believed Paul when he spoke of the resurrection.
8. The region of ten cities.
9. The Areopagite who heard Paul preach and believed.
10. One mentioned by John who loved to have the pre-eminence.

ANSWERS TO BIBLE QUESTIONS IN NO. 5.

- 1. In Eph. vi. 13-17; 2 Cor. vi. 7; and Heb. iv. 12.
2. Psalms vii., xvii., xxvi., and xxxvi.
3. In Ps. lxxxiv. 11 and in Isa. lx. 1; Rev. xxi. 23; xxii. 5; Isa. xxiv. 23.
4. The Church of Ephesus (Revelation i. 11; Eph. i. 1).
5. Jehosheba, or Jehoshabeath, daughter of Jehoram, King of Judah, who married the high priest, Jehoiada (2 Chron. xxii. 11; 2 Kings xi. 2).
6. To the Church of Laodicea (Colossians iv. 16).

SCRIPTURE ENIGMA.

- BENJAMIN.—GEN. xiii. 28.
1. B-ildad Job viii. 20.
2. E-liphaz Job xxii. 27.
3. N-abum Nahum i. 7.
4. J-ude Jude i. 21.
5. A-mos Amos v. 4.
6. M-oses Deut. xxxiii. 27.
7. I-siah Isa. xxxiv. 4.
8. N-ehemiah Neh. viii. 10.

CORRECT ANSWERS RECEIVED.

Correct answers have been received from Hannah E. Greene, Annie Rothwell and R. J. D.

A DISAPPOINTMENT.

The publishers of the books which we advertised as premiums write us that the supply, except of three or four, is exhausted. We are, therefore, obliged to ask those workers who have earned them to be patient for a short time until another consignment is received. The books will then be forwarded without delay.

Those canvassers who have had them express themselves as much pleased with the result of their labor. We hope to receive the names of many more new subscribers during the next few weeks.

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