

the church. With her mind full of the pleasure she was going to enjoy, she had thought nothing of it, but it seemed to her now, it was like something falling on the ground.

Always impulsive, Ruth left her seat, rushed through the little dressing-room, snatching somebody's hat as she went out into the street. Back she went to the spot she remembered, and there, under a little bush, where it had lain unobserved, lay her purse.

Miss Brigham was very much astonished, just as she called the name of Ruth Nordham, to see that little girl rush breathlessly up the aisle, her hair disordered, holding aloft the purse saying, "I almost lost it—but I don't care for the lace collar, and I'm—going—to remember my pocket" Then suddenly remembering where she was, she went blushing to her seat.

When the matter was explained, both her teacher and her mother felt that Ruth had learned a lesson of truth and thoughtfulness in the most practical way, and one which she was most likely to remember.

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A THOUGHT AT SEVENTEEN.

At the age of seventeen Elizabeth Gurney, afterwards better known as Elizabeth Fry, the woman who did so much to reform the inmates of Newgate Prison, thus wrote: "I am now seventeen, and if some great circumstance does not happen to me, I shall have my talents devoured by moth and rust. They will one day lose their brightness, their virtue, and one day prove a curse instead of a blessing."

Was there any reason to fear that her talents might lose their brightness? Certainly; unused talents always do. Apart altogether from the teaching of the Bible on this subject, nature shows very impressively that talents unused will be withdrawn. The illustration of the arm tied in a sling becoming useless, is well known. It is said that the common moles of the fields could once see, but that they cannot now because they burrowed so long in the darkness that they lost the use of their eyes. Darwin, when well advanced in life, regretted that he had so long neglected music and poetry, because he felt then that the faculty by which these things might have

been enjoyed was atrophied. Miss Gurney had good reason to fear that her talents might be destroyed with rust and moth unless something were done to develop them.

Did the "great circumstance," as she called it, happen to her? Yes. One day about the time when she wrote the quotation given above, a preacher who was unknown to her, preached in the church she attended, and that day she gave her heart to Jesus. After that her talents had no more chance to rust, for her first thought every day was how she might serve the Master whom she loved. This was one of the secrets of her great success in lifting up the fallen, and in bringing back again to the right path those who had wandered far away.

She does not seem to have possessed extraordinary talent, but she had fully consecrated what she had; and when, owing to natural timidity, she would have shrunk back, her love to Christ and to needy souls constrained her to go forward. This is clear from a statement which she made shortly before her death—"Since my heart was touched, at seventeen years old, I believe I have never wakened from sleep, in sickness or in health, by day or by night, without my first waking thought being how best I might serve my Lord." No wonder that her talents were not devoured by rust or moth.

A LITTLE GIRL'S VICTORY.

Two little girls were playing together. The elder one had a beautiful doll in her arms, which she was tenderly caressing. The younger one crept up softly behind her and gave her a sharp slap upon the cheek.

A visitor, unseen and unheard, was sitting in the adjoining room and saw it all. She expected to see and hear another slap, a harder one, in retaliation. But no. The victim's face flushed, and her eye had a momentary flash of indignation. She rubbed her hurt cheek with one hand, while she held the doll closer with the other. Then in a tone of gentle reproof, she said:

"O, Sallie, I didn't think you'd do that!" Sallie looked ashamed, as well she might, but made no reply. "Here, Sallie," continued the elder girl, "sit down here in sister's chair. I'll let you hold dolly awhile if you'll be careful."

Sallie's face looked just then as if there were some "coals of fire" somewhere around, but she sat down with the doll on her lap, giving her sister a glance of real appreciation, although it was mingled with shame. The hidden looker-on was deeply touched by the scene. It was unusual, she thought, to see a mere child show such calm dignity and forgiveness under persecution. Presently she called the child and questioned her.

"How can you be so patient with Sallie, my dear?" "O," was the laughing answer. "I guess it's 'cause I love Sallie so

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much. You see Sallie's a dear girl," excusingly, "but she's got a quick temper, and Sallie forgets herself sometimes. Mamma said if Sallie would do angry things to me and I should do angry things to her, we'd have a dreadful time, and I think we would. Mamma said I should learn to give the 'soft answer,' and I'm trying to."

The lady took her in her arms and kissed her. "My little dear," she said, fondly and earnestly, "I think you have already learned the lesson."

—He who loseth his faith, what staff has he left?

—Happiness is not the end of life; character is.

—"The only safe and easy way to appear good is to be good."

—"In the kingdom of grace the man of prayer is the man of power."

—A Christian must be thoughtful of the comfort and happiness of others.

—The Old Testament enfolds the New, while the New Testament unfolds the Old.

—"Faith can remove mountains of difficulty if we but so trust that Christ will not see any wavering."

—"Men may make a calm and call it peace but there can be no real peace that is not founded on truth."

—"To be the child of God is to be the child of destiny—for God is destiny, the power that governs the future."

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—A holy life has a voice. It speaks when the tongue is silent, and is either a constant attraction or a continual reproof.

—I wonder many times that ever a child of God should have a sad heart, considering what the Lord is preparing for him.

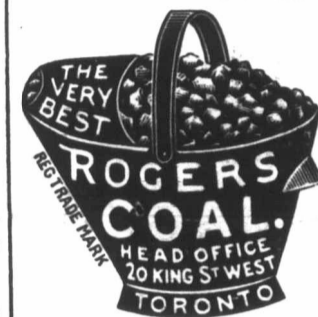
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