

my dear Lord, oh, do it cheerfully for His sake. » In an instant she is out of bed. « Oh, yes, she says, I could not be better employed. » She draws water, makes the fire, fills her kettles ; there is not a bit of sulkiness or grumbling about it. One thing goes off after another. It is astonishing how this thought makes her do everything so easy and so well. Her appetite is good ; and at night she goes to bed, full of health, and with the best conscience in the world. Ah ! this is the servant who has got the grand secret.

Yes, dear friends, if you want to be good and happy, be diligent. Make it a point of conscience not to neglect your work, nor to do it in a lazy or careless way. It is a matter of conscience, for when you receive wages you are bound to discharge the duty or office you take upon yourself, in a perfect manner or as it is expected that it should be done. And as the Lord will reward you for a faithful and diligent performance of it, so He will call you to account and judge you if you neglect it. This is why the Scripture says, we must not be « eye-servants. » — What is an eye-servant ? It is one, if I understand it, who does her duty when the master's or mistress's eye is upon her, but who neglects it when their back is turned. One who is very plausible to one's face, who says : « Oh, yes ! » but who cannot be depended upon. Such servants do not care ; they love their own ease and comfort more than they love their plain duty, more than they love to please God ; they provoke bad humor, defraud their employers of what they had a right to expect, and are the occasion of a great deal of sin. The Scripture describes it well : « As vinegar to the teeth and smoke to the eyes, so is the sluggard to them that sent him. » (Prov. 10-26.)

*Advantages of diligence.*—Don't be afraid of labor or trouble. The industrious servant will not have near as much work to do as the lazy and shifeless one. Why ? because she manages so that her work is done with much less trouble. She goes right at it without allowing it ever to get the upper hand of her. If a good deal is to be done in the morning, she gets things ready over night. A great many things can be done better then than in the morning. One servant will get up in the morning ; there is the fire all out ; no kindling-wood ready ; the sticks all wet ;