

During the next six months he suffered cruel treatment in his own home from father, mother, and older brothers, because he would attend worship at the chapel. One night his angered father and mothers tied him to a tree and told him they would beat him to death if he did not recant. Hearing his screams of pain, some heathen neighbors interfered and saved him.

I baptized him three weeks ago. 'Twas touching to hear him pray for his father, mother, and brothers, the marks of whose cruel blows he still bore on his back and arms.

Later on the persecution was so cruel that he came to the chapel and said he must run away; that God approved this course, for he had prayed about it.

I sent word to him that when he ran away if he came to Pekin I would take care of him.—*Gospel in All Lands.*

### THE TEST OF LIFE.

A man waited to speak to the preacher as he came down from the pulpit one Sunday.

"I wish you would come over to see mother the first time you have leisure," he said. "She is afraid she is losing her Christian hope, and she would like to talk with a minister."

"Certainly, I will come," was the warm reply. "I wish none of us had more reason for such fears than she has," continued the preacher, thinking reverently of the old lady, almost blind, and a semi-invalid, but still so full of the sweet Christian graces that her presence in the household was felt as an actual blessing by every member.

The increasing weakness of extreme old age and her utter inability to meet the religious world at any point had wrought upon a deeply conscientious nature, and brought her to wonder if she had ever been really and truly a child of God—a state of feeling which she had never known in younger and stronger days, when she could do active work for the church and humanity in general. That "they also serve who only stand and wait" did not occur to her weakened and weary mind.

The very next day the pastor called to see her. She told him of her early Christian life, of the joy in service that had been hers so many years, her love of the Bible and of prayer, her zeal for the church and all good work.

"Now that I am laid aside," she said in a despondent tone, "I have lost it all. My soul seems as weak and inactive as my

body. My prayers are lifeless, my mind seems half asleep. I have no feeling. And I sometimes wonder if I am deceiving myself all those years."

The minister pondered a moment. Though an elderly man, just such an experience had never come under his observation before.

Almost mechanically he put to her a test question—"How does Jesus Christ seem to you now?"

A flush of joy passed over the wrinkled old face before him, the dim eyes lighted wonderfully.

"Oh!" she said, "I can never cease to love Him! He is all worthy. It is only myself that is cold and unworthy."

"How sweet the name of Jesus sounds  
In a believer's ear,"

quoted the minister. "Don't you see, my dear lady, that all you lack is strength of body to carry out the faith and love that is in your heart? Don't try to analyze your feelings, for physical weakness will rule those to a great extent; only trust."

To the end of her days, which was not long after, the aged woman blessed the man of God who had so easily and skillfully brushed away the cobwebs from her spiritual vision.

The ice covers the little brook, but under the ice the water is still dashing along toward the ocean.

So the ice of feebleness and old age may shut us away from the world's activities, but if our souls are continually fed by the warm springs of faith and love we are, perhaps unconsciously to ourselves, drifting safely to the Peaceful Sea.—*American Messenger.*

### BOYS OUGHT TO KNOW.

1. That quiet voice, courtesy and kind acts are as essential to the part in the world of a gentleman as of a gentlewoman.

2. That roughness, blustering and even foolhardiness are not manliness. The most firm and courageous men have usually been the most gentle.

3. That muscular strength is not health.

4. That a brain crammed only with facts is not necessarily a wise one.

5. That the labor impossible to the boy of fourteen will be easy to the man of twenty.

6. The best capital for a boy is not money, but the love of work, simple tastes, and a heart loyal to his friends and his God.—*Ex.*