

## RELIGIOUS WANTS OF A BUSY LIFE.

Social action, and material enterprise, and aggressive discovery, which are the grand characteristics of modern society, bring along with them the hazard of an irreligious self-reliance, a scepticism about all that is invisible and impalpable to sense, and a feverish propensity to judge everything by its show and its returns.

So the bulk of our enterprise out-grows its strength; and, in the pride of all his pushing schemes and marvelous machinery, man comes to esteem himself little less than a critic of revelation and copartner with the Almighty, whom the Church of Christ ought to consider herself much beholden to, if he condescends to say kind things of her, and whom God himself cannot fail to covet as an ally for so much business and motion, if indeed there is any other God than the science that perfects the engine, and the motive power that turns the factory wheel.

As long as you preach to such a man about his stupendous capacity, and stimulate his arrogant activity, he hears. But tell him of the deep things of God, of self renunciation and repentance, of a cross and a consecration, of silent worship and a solemn faith, of resting in the Lord and waiting patiently for him—and you seem to clash against his glorious career of aggrandisement. All the more do we need this deep and stiller element in our piety. We want not only to work, but to believe that God in Christ works, and with mightier force than we—works through and by us, or without us, as He will; and that we are at best but inept and incompetent instruments in his hands. “Be still, and know that I am God!” Let our loud march of an audacious civilisation hearken to that.—*F. D. Huntington.*

## THE OPEN DOOR.

The daughter of a poor widow had left her mother's cottage; led astray by others, she had forsaken the Guide of her youth and forgotten the covenant of her God. She had entered upon that path of sin which leads down so quickly to the chambers of death.

Fervent, believing prayer, was now the mother's only re-source, nor was it in vain. He who heareth the cry of the afflicted heard the cry of that poor widow.

Touched by a sense of her sin, and anxious to regain that peace to which she was now a stranger, late one night the daughter returned home.

It was near midnight, and she was surprised to find the door unlatched. “Never, my child,” said the mother, “by night or by day has the door been fastened since you left. I knew you would come back some day, and I was unwilling to keep you waiting for a single moment.” Oh! how does this simple story set before us the tender compassion and love of our Father in heaven, and His readiness to receive back His wandering ones. “Thou, Lord, are good, and ready to forgive; and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon thee.” (Ps. lxxxvi. 5.)

Reader, are you far from God? Does your own heart tell you that you have sinned against Him? Are you afraid to think of his presence? Do you fear to meet Him as your Judge? Do you fear that your iniquities will shut you up under the everlasting condemnation?

Oh! remember now, at this moment, God sets before you *an open door!* It is wide open both by night and by day. He will not keep you waiting a single moment, and His voice is heard calling to you, “Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: Though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.” (Is. i. 18.) Oh! despise not the goodness and forbearance and long-suffering of God! Come back to Him, trusting only in the name and in the blood of Jesus! Delay not till the day of grace is past, and the door of mercy is closed for ever! It will be too late then. “When once the Master of the house has risen up and shut to the door, and ye begin to stand without and to knock at the door, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us, *He shall answer and say unto you, I know ye not whence ye are: depart from me all ye workers of iniquity!*”—*British Messenger.*