

Our Sunday Hour

Who is wise will ponder these things

THE shortness of the interval between the last and the present issue of UPS AND DOWNS has made it impossible for us to receive many contributions from our readers to "Our Sunday Hour" page, but we have had numerous verbal communications and references to the subject that encourage us to hope that it will be taken up later on and will become an interesting as well as a useful department.

We have received the following from one who is well able to speak from rich experience of the way of salvation and the life that is led by faith in the Son of God:

"It is good to know the plan of salvation, but it is better to know it is the plan for my salvation, and it is best to know I am in the plan. I personally found I was in the plan when I read one day, 'We know that we have passed from death unto life because we love the brethren.' Since then I have had many other experiences, grasped new truths and learned more of God's love to me. Still I go often back to the old 'We know,' and rest myself there and rejoice not in my poor love for others, who are fellow-heirs with me of the glory, but in the fact that Love won me, Love keeps me, and Love will keep till in the presence of God I rejoice forever in Love Eternal. Won by Love and kept by Love, what a glorious path the believer ought to tread! If with loving eyes I see each of my brothers, how tenderly I shall judge him, with what forbearance I shall suffer from his folly or want of judgment and how gently I shall try to win the wanderer back to the paths of right. It is a glorious privilege to be long to Christ, and privilege spells itself out in duty all the way through. The sons of a King must have court manners—speak, act, live as those who are born to a high inheritance, and not be deeply moved by trifles or let the honour of the name they bear be degraded. We are the sons of the King of kings

and must ever seek to hold high above all scorn or shame the Name we bear, not by haughtiness, pride or display, but in gentleness, meekness and faith daily show forth His praise."

We delight in the thought here suggested that the infinite love of our Father, as manifested in the redemption wrought out for us in Jesus Christ, is the ground and assurance of our eternal life. Our salvation from the enslaving power of sin in this world, and from the penalties of sin both here and hereafter, lies in the great and glorious fact, "I have loved thee with an everlasting love," and "being saved" is not a mere mental condition, the result of passing emotion, and which may be affected by temperament or purely physical causes. "I know I am saved because I feel so happy" is a very weak and insecure position to rest in, but "I am saved because God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life" is the true anchorage of the soul. Happiness, even spiritual ecstasy, is no test of security. Very likely the man who built his house on the sand was happy enough in it until the tempest began to arise; but "these sayings of Mine," "the words which I speak unto you," and which are spirit and life, had found no place in his heart. He was a stranger to Christ, his foundations were laid in the treacherous quicksands of earthly conceits and human fallacies, and in the time of storm and stress that in which he had placed his faith was found to be giving way beneath his feet, and disaster and destruction befell him. The man whose house was built upon the rock was he who had hearkened to and accepted the teachings of Christ, who had taken Christ's yoke upon him and was learning of Him the lessons of love, of service, of self-sacrifice that He had come to teach. He had yielded him to Christ and had devoted himself to Christ's calling.