

SUNDAY READING.

"SHALL NEVER SEE DEATH."

Strong are his arms, tender and sure his hold,
The trusty servant whom the Father sends
To bring His Child safe home. He doth extend
It carefully in his stout grasp, and bends
His footsteps swifly to the welcome door
From which its feet shall never wander more.

Feeble and faint, what need the weary know
Who carries him? what need has he to see
The servant's face, whose careful feet do go
Right onward with him, homeward, steadily?
He will not waken till in endless peace
He wakes at home, and so his wanderings cease.

Then pain is over: and forever past
The former things, sin, sorrow, cares and tears.
The "house of many mansions" reached at last,
Bliss oversweeps all sadness, peace all fears;
Gone are they with his last faint mortal breath;
Death brought him home! but he did not see
Death.

—Margaret C. Hodenpily.

PULPIT, PRESS AND PLATFORM.

Lutheran Observer: The reason why many people read so much and know so little, is because they read nothing thoughtfully and thoroughly.

Presbyterian Witness: Yes; it would be hard to overstate the woes the use of strong drink brings upon individuals and families—the poverty, the disgrace, the bitter anguish, the irrevocable disasters that follow in its train. Strange, sad, awful is the fact that young men from Christian families and Christian churches knowingly betake themselves to this thing.

Rev. D. M. Buchanan: Christ enthroned in the home is the greatest source of true happiness. When misfortune, sickness and bereavement come there is no comforter like Jesus of Nazareth. When you face the troubles and difficulties of life you need Jesus with you. An earnest endeavor on the part of every member in the home to make it bright and happy, goes a long way towards reaching that object.

Sunday School Times: Going back is sometimes a dangerous business. It may prove disastrous to others as well as to ourselves. In certain mountain passes of Austria are found sign-boards bearing, in German, the words "Return Forbidden." These roads are so narrow and precipitous that there is not room for two carriages abreast; therefore, to attempt to retrace one's path might bring disaster upon one's self and upon those coming after. Once having started there, you must keep straight on until you have reached your destination. Today's pressing duties call us forward, not backward. There are others coming after; we must push ahead for their sakes and for our own. Austria is not the only place where there is need of the warning, "Return Forbidden."

Morning Star: Despite the fecundity of phenomenally great preachers and the never failing fluency of some who are not great, it is a heavy task to preach half a hundred sermons a year and have them worth the preaching. "I don't see," said a keen-eyed, intelligent-looking man on a street car recently, "how the preachers stand it. It

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must be a terrible drain on brain and nerve. I should think they would feel pumped dry all the time." And yet there are people—dear, good, thoughtless souls!—who expect the minister to "trot and talk" nearly all the week, and then, tired out and lacking suitable preparation, to preach instructively helpfully, and eloquently on Sunday. The Lord forgive them; they know not what they ask! If they did, they wouldn't ask it.

Dr. J. Monro Gibson: There was far more agreement in common between the most rigid Presbyterian and the most flexible Congregationalist than there was

between the Evangelical and High Church parties of the Church of England. They of the Evangelical Churches had their separate apartments as in a house, but they did not keep the doors locked all the time. They had pleasant exchanges, and could all meet happily together. A man must in the first place be loyal to his own particular Church, but that did not mean he was to have no enthusiasm for the great community. They heard a good deal in connection with business matters of lessening competition, and of the need of increasing co-operation. This was needed in the Church, for there had been too much competition and too little co-operation.