

finger is on the latch, and I'm ready for Him to open the door. It is but the entrance to my Father's house." And said another, "Why should I shrink from dying? It is the funeral of all my sorrows, and evils, and sins, and the perfection of all my joys forever."

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### CLERGYMEN LIKE THE STAND-BYS.

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The simple presence of such persons in the church is of itself to every minister a powerful help and encouragement. He is glad, of course, to see new faces coming in from time to time. The poor mother, the stand-by at home, who has a breakfast and a husband and a half dozen children to get ready in the morning, so that she herself can come out only now and then, whenever she does come is seen with pleasure. The young men of his flock, flowers of the kingdom, whose eyes and religious natures open usually only in the latter part of the day, but who occasionally under the inspiration of a new suit of Sunday clothes blossom out in the forenoon, excite in him, till he learns better, a gleam of hope. The religious casual, the small and infrequent worshipper described by Horace, owning a pew but occupying it so seldom that when he does use it, it has to be found for him by the sexton, is not by any means unwelcome; and there is always an inspiration of some sort in the great crowd of strangers who appear Sunday night when it is advertised that he is going to speak on the kingdom of Satan, or the doings of the devil, or the sowing of wild oats, or some kindred theme. But after all it is the stand-bys, the men—usually old

ones—and the women living often farthest from church, who are absolutely sure of being in their places punctually every Sunday, and the day, whatever the season or the weather or the subject may be—these that he looks upon with special delight and finds to be the fountains of his greatest inspiration.—*Sunday Afternoon.*

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### GOD'S REFUGE.

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In one of the old cathedrals in England the visitor of to-day is shown a gate to which in olden times any criminal might flee and entering into which any criminal was safe. By night and day a monk kept watch by the window above and at the first wild knock below made haste to open; and, once within, the fugitive was safe. He must submit to whatever penance the superior chose to put upon him; but the civil law could not touch him with its lightest finger. It was a rude type of a sublime truth. The gospel proffers to every soul a refuge; and when one has once entered into it not even the wild beating of his own remorseful heart can follow him there.—*Select.*

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### BAPTISM, THE DOOR OF EN- TRANCE INTO THE CHURCH.

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If we are guided by Scripture, we can scarcely contemplate Baptism apart from the state into which a man is admitted by it; just as we can hardly think of a door or a gate apart from the building or inclosure of which it is the entrance.

In the Scriptures, all the baptisms are assumed to have entered, at their Baptism, into the Kingdom