

DON'T MEDDLE WITH GOD'S PLANS.

Many men wreck their lives by determinedly carrying out their own plans without reference to the plans of God. In an army every part, every brigade and regiment must wait the commander's orders. If any battalion moves independently, though ever so heroically, it not only confuses the whole plan of battle, but brings disaster to itself, as well, in the end. So each individual must always wait for God's command to move. Keep your eye on the pillar of cloud and fire that leads. Rest when the pillar rests; move when it moves. Never lag behind, but be sure you never run ahead. You can make the clock strike before the hour by putting your own hands to it, but it will strike wrong. You can hurry the unfolding of God's providence, but you will only mar the divine plan unless you wait for him.

You can tear the rose-bud open before the time when it would naturally open, but you destroy the beauty of the rose. So we spoil many a gift or blessing which God is preparing for us by our own eager haste. He would weave all our lives into patterns of loveliness. He has a perfect plan for each. It is only when we refuse to work according to his plan that we mar the web. Stop meddling with the threads of your life as they come from the Lord's hands. Every time you interfere you make a flaw. Keep your hands off and let God weave as he pleases. Do you think you know better than he does what your life ought to be?

THE LONGEST LIFE SHORT.

Says Dr. Taylor in "Joseph as Prime Minister:—"Young man, do not leave it to a future day, but do it now. Man of middle-age, you have a vivid sense of the rapidity with which your years have gone, but they will go just as rapidly in the future as in the past. Man of old age, you have to make haste—you have no time to lose.

"The ancient law said concerning the sale of an estate, 'according to the number of the years thou shalt diminish the price;' the nearer they were to the Jubilee year the cheaper they were to sell their land. So the nearer you come to the end of your days, you ought to hold earthly

things more loosely and prize heavenly things more highly. When your business day is drawing to a close, you hasten to conclude your work, despatching sometimes in an hour more than in all the day that went before.

"When Napoleon went on the field of Marengo it was late in the afternoon, and he saw that the battle was really lost, but looking at the Western sun he said: 'There is just time to recover the day!' and giving out his orders with rapid and characteristic energy, he turned defeat into victory. So, although your sun is near to setting, there is time to recover the day. Avail yourself of the eventide, lest your life end in eternal failure."—*Sel.*

DAILY DIRECTORY.

The following "Directory," taken from the manuscript of Gen. Sir Wm. Waller, so distinguished in the days of Cromwell, is well worth preservation. He writes:--

Every day is a little life, in the account whereof we may reckon our birth from the womb of the morning, our growing-time from thence till noon, when we are as the sun in his strength, after which, like a shadow that declineth, we hasten to the evening of our day, till at last we close our eyes in sleep, the image of death; and our whole life is but this tale of a day told over and over again.

I should therefore so spend every day as if it were all the life I had to live; and in pursuance of this end, and of the vow I have made to walk with God in a closer communion than I have formerly done, I would endeavor by His grace to observe in the course of my remaining space, or rather inch, of life this daily directory:—

To awake with God as early as I can, and consecrate the first-fruits of my thoughts unto Him by prayer and meditation and by renewed acts of faith and repentance, that so God may ever awake for me and make the habitation of my righteousness prosperous. To this end I would make it my care to lie down the night before in the peace of God, who hath promised that His commandment shall keep me when I sleep, and talk with me when I awake; otherwise it may be justly feared that the corruptions that bid me last good night will be ready to give me first good morning.