

"He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities."—Isaiah liii. 5.



HOW THE FIRE GOES OUT.

A CHRISTIAN merchant became greatly absorbed in his business. It had grown rapidly, and encroached more and more upon his time, till he could scarcely ever spare a moment for attending the means of grace. His pastor, grieving over his absence, resolved to go and call upon him.

So one morning he went to the merchant's private office, and, after exchanging the usual greeting, walked up to the fireplace, and, taking the tongs in his hand, lifted a large, red-hot, blazing coal from the fire, and placed it on the hob. He did not say a word, but pointed significantly to the coal, which gradually became paler and cooler, the flame finally dying out, and leaving nothing but a black, smoking coal. There was silence for a few moments, the pastor silently praying that the lesson might be learnt and taken to heart, and the merchant wondering at his pastor's conduct. Presently he spoke:—

"I think I understand your meaning, and it rebukes me. You wish me to remember that it is by constant Christian intercourse that the fire in our heart burns, and that when we forsake the assembling of ourselves together the fire dies out."

The reproof was not lost. The merchant learnt the lesson. From that day he made time to attend the means of grace; and in so doing he rejoiced his pastor's heart, obtained refreshment for his own soul, and helped also to keep up the fire in his fellow-Christians' hearts.

It is only by fellowship and communion with Him that we really keep warm. He is sufficient to keep all His children burning brightly to His praise. And how many a lonely, suffering child of God has proved it! But our God is One who works by means, and He chooses that His children should be helps and stimulants to one another; and if they refuse to be helped in His way, no wonder that the fire should burn dim and low.

WHAT'S YOUR PERSUASION?—Some years ago a visitor said to a poor, wounded soldier, who lay dying in the hospital, "What church are you of?" "Of the church of Christ," he replied. "I mean, what persuasion are you of?" "Persuasion," said the dying man, as he looked heavenward, beaming with love to the Saviour, "I am persuaded that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, shall be able to separate me from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus." None should rest contented with any hope less sure or bright.—*From Day to Day.* By ROBERT MACDONALD, D.D.

## EVANGELISTIC BIBLE CLASS

Held every Sunday Afternoon,

AT 3 O'CLOCK.

All Welcome.

The chastisement of our peace was upon Him; and with His stripes we are healed.—Isaiah liii. 5.