

The Quiet Hour.

The Review.

"If God be for us, who can be against us?"

In the terrible days of the war of the Rebellion, amongst the callers at the White House was one who said to Mr. Lincoln, "I am glad, Mr. President, to believe that God is on our side." "I have no anxiety on that point," was the quick reply; and after a pause—"What I'm anxious for, is to be on God's side." Yes, to be on God's side is ever to be sure of victory. It may not be to-day, or to-morrow; it will and must be some time. If it is not in this world, it will be, by and by, in the world beyond.

Let the lessons be reviewed with this thought in mind—how it fared with those who were on God's side, and as the shadow always follows the sunlight, how those fare who choose against God.

The previous Quarter's lessons, which may be briefly recalled, have their own instances also:—our first parents, alas! in the list of those who choose to be against and not for and with God; Noah and Abraham and Isaac on God's side; Lot against Him; and Jacob, by God's great mercy and by sore and long discipline, won into the ranks of God's faithful servants and soldiers. In the present quarter we have:

I. The sad and shameful story of the treacherous sale of the lad Joseph as a slave into Egypt, Gen. 37: 12-26; saddest of all—as the history goes on to show—to the godless brothers who, envious and covetous, did the despicable deed. The only brightness in that dark day of cruelty and falseness is the innocence and piety of the lad. We shall see what the God whom he served will do for him. "God was with him."—Golden Text.

II. And with him, because he held to God's side—in Potiphar's house, whether serving or tempted; with him still, and for the same reason, when in prison, as the result of his faithfulness to God, Gen. 39: 21. On the day he was sold as a slave, God gave Joseph courage. In the prison He gave him patience.

III. With Him, once more, and once more for the same reason, when he was exalted to the highest rank and authority in Pharaoh's kingdom, and thus enabled to help his own people, as well as the Egyptians. The Golden Text, 1 Sam. 2: 30, is very emphatic.

IV. How truly Joseph was on God's side here, appears conspicuously, for "God is love," and "love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God" (1 John 4: 7). Truly Godlike is Joseph's treatment of his brethren, Gen. 45: 1-15. It makes him pre-eminent in their eyes, and ranks him with the saintliest of all the ages.

V. The fullness and richness of the godly life—like the glory of the harvest—comes at its close. In Joseph's death, we see how greatly honored those are who have lived holy lives. Perhaps Prov. 16: 31 applies here.

VI. The clue would seem to be lost. Here are God's people in distress, under the harrow, Ex 1: 14. But there are three things to be said: (1) They may have been forgetting Him; (2) If faithful and true, God may be permitting their sufferings as a discipline for higher service; (3) In any case

God does not forget them, Golden Text, Ex 2: 24.

VII. How thoroughly God is on the side of the faithful and godly Amram and Jochebed, the parents of Moses, and on the babe's side for their sakes and His people's sake.

VIII. And how terribly that same God sets Himself against those who do despite to themselves, though made in His image, Isa. 5: 22.

IX. In Moses' call, Ex. 3: 1-12, we discover God revealing Himself marvelously to one who had deliberately chosen God's side, Heb. 11: 24, 25.

X. In his courage in the presence of Pharaoh, we see how God endows His own with needed strength for the hardest task.

XI. In the Passover night, how God protects those who take shelter in His mercy.

XII. And in the passage of the Red Sea, the triumph of those who will turn their backs upon Egypt and their faces to whither-sover God will lead them.—Teacher's Monthly.

Where Are You?

BY REV. G. CAMPBELL MORGAN.

Man is saying: "Certainly I could be a Christian IF I could get out of this position; if I could get out of this business, this particular situation in which I am engaged, where there are ungodly men round about me. If I only lived in your home instead of mine, I could be a Christian. My environment is against me.

If you cannot be a Christian where you are, you cannot be a Christian anywhere. God is no more in my home than in thine.

"It is so easy to be Christians while we are in the sanctuary, and the very breath of eternity is upon us and God is at hand. To-morrow in the city, in the workshop, in the office, on the mart, it is very hard."

God is no more in the sanctuary than He is in your shop, or your office, or the mart; and it is no more difficult to pray when ungodly men are thronging around you than it is to pray here.

So long as you are longing for freedom from your present environment to be a Christian, you will never find the deliverance you seek.

Are you a disciple of the Lord Jesus? If so, He says to you, "I am with you always." That overflows all the regrets of the past and all the possibilities of the future, and most certainly includes the present. Therefore, at this very moment, as surely as your eyes rest on this page, so surely is the Lord Jesus with you. "I am" is neither "I was," nor "I will be." It is always abreast of our lives, always encompassing us with salvation. It is a splendid, perpetual "now."—Francis Ridley Havergal.

The world is full of sorrow and trial and we cannot live among our fellowmen and be true without sharing their loads. If we are happy, we must hold the lamp of our happiness so that its beams will fall upon the shadowed heart. Selfishness must die, or else our own heart's life must be frozen within us. We soon learn that we cannot live for ourselves and be Christians.—J. R. Miller.

The Spirit's Work.

BY W. H. M'ILLAN, DD.

Here are some statements of truth which my mind has formulated in my study of the subject of the Spirit's work in the hearts of God's children. I think they embody truth of some importance. I send them because I think the Spirit used them in impressing the minds of my own people, and I hope they might be useful to others.

Christians of reputable lives are perhaps more liable to disobey and grieve the Spirit by what they do not do, than by what they do. They are careful not to utter false words; they may not be equally careful to speak all the truth which the Lord would have them utter. SILENT LIPS MAY BE AS GUILTY AS LYING LIPS. The promises of Christ tell us of the Holy Spirit whom we are to receive. That promise may be misunderstood. We do not receive him as a power to come to our aid in doing the work of Christ. He does not come to our aid; we come into his hands as his instruments. We do not receive the Spirit as a possession, but as a possessor. At Pentecost the tongue of fire, we are told, rested UPON each of them. When the apostles preached, the Holy Spirit FELL UPON the people. When the great promise of the Father is realized in the experience of one of his children, it is the overshadowing, the overpowering and overwhelming presence of the Spirit that comes to him so that he lives IN the Spirit and walks in the Spirit.

A Christmas Thought.

Christmas succeeds Christmas so rapidly as the years go on! Santa Claus is to older people like the dog running around the stump,—he almost catches himself. But is there not in this a suggestion of immortality,—of the deathlessness of life? If life got slower as it grew older, if the years began to drag, we might argue that it was running down and out; but that is not the way. It moves faster, the years grow shorter, the Christmases grow nearer together. What does this mean save that life is not lessening but increasing? That time flies means that life must go on. So this year, when the children wish that Christmas came more quickly, when they say that they would like to have one every week, and you tell them that it won't be long before they will come around fast enough, remember that you are voicing one of the many little things which confirm our faith, and enlarge our hope in an everlasting life.

"God is Responsible."

A number of practical men were discussing, the other day, the burdens of duty, and one of them declared that they were sometimes too heavy to be borne.

"No," said another, "if you carry only your own burden, and don't try to take God's work out of His hands. Last year I crossed the Atlantic with one of the most skillful and faithful captains of the great liners. We had a terrific storm, during which for thirty-eight hours he remained on the bridge, striving to save his passengers. When the danger was over, I said to him, 'It must be a terrible thought, in such a crisis, that you are responsible for the lives of over a thousand human beings.'"

Bishop Hall said, "Every day is a little life." Moses asked to be taught to number, not his years, but his days. If the days are all right, the years will be.