

Sunday at Home

Faces and Character

"That woman's a Christian, I'm sure." "Yes, but that young lady isn't, nor that man over there." "I know that old gentleman is, and perhaps that young man, too."

Thus two young travellers were beguiling a long waiting time in a large railroad station. An elderly lady who overheard them was deeply interested in their conversation. She took careful notes of the observations and was rather surprised to learn that plainness and beauty did not seem to be considered. Some of the "home-liest" were most highly estimated, while "that young lady" and "that man over there" were decidedly handsome. By some subtle instinct the young judges were basing their conclusions on what they read in the faces before them—expression.

It is a fact that the inner nature affects the face, lending it something by which others are attracted or repulsed. "Every right action and true thought sets the seal of its beauty on person and face," says Ruskin. "There is no such thing as homely folk like character," adds a living minister of the gospel. It is possible for any one to have more than physical beauty. He may have the expression that attracts human hearts and delights them, really helps them, by having within a pure, loving, sympathetic character. "Let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us."

No Time?

Is it because our minds are so taken up with earthly things and greed for gain that we have no time to be sociable, or to call on sick neighbors? Remember, when they are gone out from this world forever, it will then be too late for you or me to carry a message of cheer, or whatever little offering we may have to give. Let's see to it, from this on, that we do our part toward making some one happy. Commence now—to-morrow may be too late. Life is short. We can not afford to lose precious time waiting for certain conditions or environments before performing acts of kindness which are necessary to spiritual welfare and happiness. There will never be a better time than now.

Home and Heaven

"Home"—oh, how sweet is that word! What beautiful and tender associations cluster thick around it! Compared with it, house, mansion, palace, are cold, heartless terms. But "home!" that word quickens the pulse, warms the heart, stirs the soul to its depths, makes age feel young again, rouses apathy into energy, sustains the sailor in his midnight watch, inspires the soldier with courage on the field of battle, and imparts patient endurance to the worn-down sons of toil. The thought of it has proved a seven-fold shield to virtue: the very name of it has been a spell to call back the wanderer from the paths of vice. And far away, where myrtles bloom and palms wave, and the ocean sleeps upon coral strands, to the exile's fond fancy it clothes the naked rock, or stormy shore, or barren moor, or wild highland mountain, with charms he weeps to think of, and longs once more to see. Grace sanctifies these lovely affections, and imparts a sacredness to the homes of

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earth by making them types of heaven. As a home the believer delights to think of it. Thus, when lately bending over a dying saint, and expressing our sorrow to see him bend so low, with the radiant countenance rather of one who had just left heaven than of one about to enter it, he raised and clasped his hands, and exclaimed in ecstasy, "I am going home."—Dr. Guthrie.

One of the sweetest verses in the Bible is John xiv. 2. "In my Father's house are many mansions, (homes) you." I go to prepare a place for

Fauly Preaching

A prominent Brooklyn clergyman of Presbyterian tendencies is very much amused over a story he recently heard and which has the smell of health and a touch of mountain dew about it. It is about another dominie, a young man of progress, who was called to a district in the midlands of Scotland, who preached what he believed to be sound doctrines, but which he felt convinced, did not satisfy the older members of his flock. He met Tammas one day and being worried asked him about it.

"Tammas," said he, "can you tell me what is wrong with my preaching? I have tried to do right since I have been called here, but I do not think that I am pleasing the congregation. Now, what is wrong?"

"You're a bonnie minister and a fine man," said Tammas. "But ye dinna preach the right sort o' doctrine. Ye speak about deified responsibility an' sic things. But ye dinna preach about the deevil. Noo, relection without the deevil is no worth a damn."—Brooklyn Eagle.

Getting something for nothing offers great attractions to most people. Among the things that we too often dream of having for nothing are admiration, power over others, confidence of people, also good tempers, upright characters, attractiveness. But all these things have their price. He who is willing to pay it can have the reward; no other can have it.

"The race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong." He who even walks, if he cannot run, and will not turn back, will reach the goal; he who fights and will not know that he is beaten, will know the joy of victory.

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