

Parish and Home

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No. 10

CALENDAR FOR SEPTEMBER.

- 3—14th Sunday after Trinity. *Morning*—2 Kings ix.; 1 Cor. xii., 28, and xii. *Evening*—2 Kings x. to 32, or xiii.; Mark vi. 14 to 30.
10—15th Sunday after Trinity. *Morning*—2 Kings xviii.; 2 Cor. i. 23, ii. 14. *Evening*—2 Kings xix., or xxiii. to 31; Mark x. to 32.
17—16th Sunday after Trinity *Morning*—2 Chron. xxxv.; 2 Cor. ix. *Evening*—Neh. i. and ii. to 9, or Neh. viii.; Mark xiv. to 27.
21—St. Mat., A., E and P.—*Morning*—1 Kings xix. 15; 2 Cor. xii. 14, and xiii. *Evening*—1 Chron. xxix. to 20; Mark xv. 42, and xvi.
21—17th Sunday after Trinity. *Morning*—Jeremiah v.; Galatians iii. *Evening*—Jer. xxii. or xxxv.; Luke i. 57.
29—St. Michael and All Angels. *Morning*—Gen. xxiii; Acts xiii. 5 to 18. *Evening*—Dan. x 4; Rev. xiv., 14.

FOLLOW THOU ME.

Have ye looked for sheep in the desert,
For those who have missed their way?
Have ye been in the wild, waste places,
Where the lost and the wandering stray?
Have ye trodden the lonely highway,
The foul and darksome street?
It may be ye'd see in the gloaming
The print of Christ's wounded feet.

Have ye folded home to the bosom
The trembling, neglected lamb,
And taught to the little lost one
The sound of the Shepherd's name?
Have ye searched for the poor and needy,
With no clothing, no home, no bread?
The Son of Man was among them,
Who had nowhere to lay His head!

Have ye carried the living water
To the parched and thirsty soul?
Have ye said to the sick and wounded,
"Christ Jesus makes thee whole?"
Have ye told my fainting children
Of the strength of the Father's hand?
Have ye guided the tottering footsteps
To the shore of the "golden land"?

Have ye stood by the sad and weary,
To smooth the pillow of death,
To comfort the sorrow-stricken,
And strengthen the feeble faith?
And have ye felt, when the glory
Has streamed through the open door,
And flitted across the shadows,
That I had been there before?

Have ye wept with the broken-hearted,
In their agony of woe?
Ye might hear me whisper beside you,
'Tis a pathway I often go.
My disciples, my brethren, my friends,
Can ye dare to follow me?
Then, wherever the Master dwelleth,
There shall the servant be.

—Selected.

WHEN a ship leaves a shore it has a harbour in the distance for its goal; and so every life should have its purpose.

One sees so many in these days who seem like barques drifting listlessly on a wide expanse of water, going they know not where nor whither.

If there is anything that should characterize a strong man it is a definite purpose in life. God places us here for some noble and useful work, and everyone should find out what that work is and strive to do it. Lately the writer has met a good many young men, and one thing has struck him very forcibly with regard to the majority of them, their apparent lack of any real purpose in life. They may do their allotted tasks fairly well, being fairly faithful in their everyday duties, but their desires seem to rise but little above "having a good time."

Now such men are not likely to make their mark in the world's history, nor do much for the community in which they live, much less be a strength and blessing to their country or the Church of the living God. Without desiring to preach, one would like to write something that would stir the hearts of our young people, would rouse them from an indolent lethargy, or self-seeking pleasure, to the high purposes that lie before them.

We cannot all be a Shaftesbury or a Gordon, or a Hannington; but we can all *aim high*, and by the grace of God fill the position that He has placed us in so faithfully, so unselfishly and so well, that other lives will be encouraged, cheered and helped, and our Father glorified.

We know of no purpose or aim in life higher or better, yea, none to be compared with that of the most unselfish and heroic of men, even He who called Himself "the Son of Man," and who said, "I came not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me," and who near the end of His earthly journey could look up into the face of His Father

and say, "I have finished the work Thou gavest me to do."

Let our aim be then to do the King's business, the work He hath appointed for us, and whether it seem humble or lofty, low or high, small or great, it is a glorious work, and if faithfully done will receive the King's benediction, "Well done, good and faithful one."

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BEFORE building it is necessary to clear away the rubbish so that the foundation may be firm and solid. But if the rubbish is cleared away and nothing more done it will not be long before it accumulates again, and in any case it is so much ground wasted. So it is in building character. If one seeks only to clear away the rubbish out of his life, he will at the end have only an empty, unsatisfactory character as the result. But if he not only seeks to remove wickedness, but also cultivates righteousness, at the end he will have a character free from blemishes and full of strong, useful qualities. If a man's religious life consists only in giving up he will be simply a cipher, neither good nor bad, whereas he is required to be good and not bad. One must be constructive as well as destructive in all permanent building.

And now observe him, he is a great stickler for legal performance; now he will be a good neighbour, he will pay every man his own, he will leave off swearing, the alehouse, his sports, and carnal delights; he will read, pray, talk of Scripture, and be a very busy one in religion, such as it is; now he will please God, and make Him amends for all the wrong he hath done Him, and will feed Him with chapters, and prayers, and promises, and vows, and a great many more dainty dishes as these, persuading himself that now he must needs be fair for heaven, and