

Parish and Home.

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IF Christ be God as well as man, His language falls into its place, and all is intelligible; but if you deny His divinity, you must conclude that some of the most precious sayings in the Gospel are but the outbreak of a preposterous self-laudation. —Liddon.

THERE is no glorious hilltop without its steep ascent. There is no blessedness of rest without labor. The student finds that it is only after painful, wearisome toil that the hard problems with which his brain has been puzzled become easy. We shall find freedom from pain at last by enduring pain; joy, by bearing sorrow; peace, by walking for a time in the storm, and so learning the ground of our peace.

"The path of sorrow, and that path alone,
Leads to the land where sorrow is unknown."

FROM the *Bible Society Reporter* we gather a good suggestion which some of our readers may be in a position to act upon either in regard to the Bible Society or the missionary cause. A jeweller, finding that frequently he was asked to do some trifling piece of work for which he did not know what to charge, kept a collecting box for the Bible Society near by, and suggested that the customer should put what he liked in this. In this way he was enabled to raise in the course of the year quite a good sum for the society.

IF we trust God, we must believe that the main outline of our lives is shaped by Him. We must not hold the blind fatalism that makes God responsible for all that comes to us. Much that we do is in violation of His will, and it is His will

that wrongdoing should bring its own punishment. But though pain and sorrow thus come as the result of our own actions, God does not desert us. His guiding hand is still shaping our lives. He is so strong and loving that He turns what was evil into good, and the pain which our sin has brought teaches precious lessons to our spirits, and brings them into submission to Him.

ONE of our first duties is to be cheerful. Some persons pitch their voices habitually in such a mournful cadence that they have much the same effect upon the spirits as a passing funeral; and when they add sighs, and sometimes tears, to this accomplishment, their neighborhood is as gloomy as a perpetual rainy day. The pleasant touch, the cheerful voice, the animated manner, do much to keep the machinery of our lives from creaking.

"Care to our coffin adds a nail, no doubt;
And every grin, so merry, draws one out."

The heart may be heavy, but there is no reason why we should inflict our sorrows upon others. They are given us for ourselves, not for our associates.

THERE is not one law for ministers and another law for laymen. There is not one solitary line in God's revelation which says that one must work and sacrifice and give, and the other may hoard and keep. You may be tied down to the dull routine of daily toil, and yet your life, hid with Christ in God, may make you one of the best preachers of righteousness in the world. You may be a very stammerer, and yet your life of love go straight to every heart. We can all give our example. A chance word of reproof, a wayside word of warning, a loving invitation, an act of Christian courtesy done in a Christian way, may lead others unto Christ. —*Church Helper*.

No cause was ever won, in this world, without waging offensive and persistent warfare. The great Farragut used to say, "I don't care a cent how big a gun the Navy Department gives me, but I want plenty of them. If I can't get enough guns to keep up a continuous fire, I don't want any. I don't think that it is the sole policy of guns to sink ships and batter down forts. I want to use them to scare the human element in the enemy. If you can get close enough to your enemy, and can keep upon him such a fire as he cannot stand up against, you have him whipped." And the *Advance*, quoting his words,

adds: "What excellent sentiment for Christian warfare as well! Might we not say as truly, 'A defensive Gospel never won a soul to Christ?'" —*Apostolic Guide*.

IT CANNOT BE DONE.

"Gather up my influence, and bury it with me," were the dying words of a young man to the weeping friends at his bedside. What a wish was this! What deep anguish of heart there must have been as the young man reflected upon his past life—a life which had not been what it should have been! With what deep regrets must his very soul have been filled as he thought of those young men whom he had influenced for evil!—influences which he felt must be eradicated, and which led him faintly, but pleadingly, to breathe out such a dying request: "Gather up my influence, and bury it with me."

Young men, the influence of your lives, whether good or evil, cannot be gathered up by your friends after death, no matter how earnestly you plead. Then remember your influence is now going out from you; you alone are now responsible; you have now the power to govern and shape it. Then live noble, true, heroic, God-like lives. —*Selected*.

For PARISH AND HOME.

REST.

This is for many the season of rest. In increasing numbers every year, men and women are leaving the usual scene of their labors for a few weeks rest amidst changed surroundings. Our forefathers, indeed, did not think this necessary to their health. They toiled on from year to year without change of scene, and never dreamed that a sojourn at the seaside or in the country every summer was necessary to health. Nor was it then. Life had less of movement, of turmoil and waste, for them than it has for us. The business man, with the aid of shorthand and typewriting, does as much mental work now in an hour as he did formerly in three, but his business day has not become shorter. The expenditure of nervous energy is thus vastly greater now, and the man needs a period of prolonged rest if he is to bear the increased strain.

The first requisite to true rest is probably change of scene. So long as we are upon the ordinary scene of our labors, it is hard, almost impossible, to throw off their burden. The old familiar cares and anxieties will not leave us, and so we must leave them, if possible. Therefore, it is wise for every one seeking rest to go away from