

Look Up.

There are many poor burdened afflicted souls who have entered the new year with a multitude of troubles they could not leave behind them. Some have hobbled over the line almost bent double with rheumatism, others have crawled over with the weight of years resting upon them, some have come with the flush of consumption upon their cheeks, mothers with hearts bleeding because of wayward sons and daughters, while others come with secret troubles which cannot be told. To all we say :

Keep looking up, keep looking up,
The mists will clear away,
In God's own time his loving hand
Will brighten up the way.

Keep looking up, keep looking up,
The eternal hills are there ;
Far, far beyond these gloomy clouds
Are treasures rich and rare.

Keep looking up, keep looking up,
With faith's aspiring eye ;
The promise is that help will come
From him who dwells on high.

Working Christians.

Learn to be working Christians. "Be ye doers of the Word, not hearers only, deceiving your own selves." It is very striking to see the usefulness of many Christians. Are there none of you who know what it is to be selfish in your Christianity? You have seen a selfish child go into a secret place to enjoy some delicious morsel undisturbed by his companions. So it is with some Christians. They feed upon Christ and forgiveness ; but it is alone, and all for themselves. Are there not some of you who cannot enjoy being a Christian, while your dearest friend is not, and yet you will not speak to him? See how you have got work to do? When Christ found you, He said, "Go to work in my vineyard." What were you hired for, if it was not to spread salvation.

What blessed for? O my Christian friends! how little you live as though you were the servants of Christ! How much idle time and idle talk you have! This is not like a good servant. How many things you have to do for yourself! How few for Christ and his people! This is not like a servant.—*McCheque.*

How to Live.

Life is wasted if we spend it
Idly dreaming how to die ;
Study how to *use*, not *end* it ;
Work to finish, not to fly.

Godly living—best preparing
For a life with God above ;
Work ! and banish anxious caring !
Death ne'er comes to active love.

Death is but an opening portal
Out of life to life on high ;
Man is vital, more than mortal,
Meant to live, not doomed to die.

Praise for present mercies giving,
With good works your age endow ;
Death defy by Christlike living,
Heaven attain by service now.

—*Newman Hall.*

A Mother's Character.

Coming home from years of study abroad a young man, one evening, in conversation with his only surviving parent, shocked him with a sneer against the religion of Christ. Not a word of reproach came from the lips of the grieved father. He took his little lamp and went to his chamber. All night that young sceptic heard the tramp of the feet of his sleepless father, and the sound was a knell of sorrow, the cause of which he well knew. In the morning the father brought to his son the well known Bible of a sainted mother, and desired him to read and compare its teachings with the memories of her life. He read, and found a tear-stained and deeply underscored verse, "By their fruits ye shall know them." Conviction seized him. The beauty of her character, the patience, purity and fidelity she had showed, were convincing evidences of the unspeakable superiority of Christian character over the hollow fruits of scepticism. He cast away the toils of the tempter, knelt and consecrated his life and his splendid talents to his Saviour, whose voice then and there seemed to say, "This is the way ; walk in it." The surest way, therefore, for us to conquer the unbelief is to live the faith we profess, and thus hasten the day of its grand coronation.—*Sel.*

The feelings and views which do not prompt us to virtuous conduct are no evidence of piety.