

### Personal Service

In an old number of *The Sunday Companion* we found the following brief editorial which we commend most heartily. Its appropriateness is evident:—

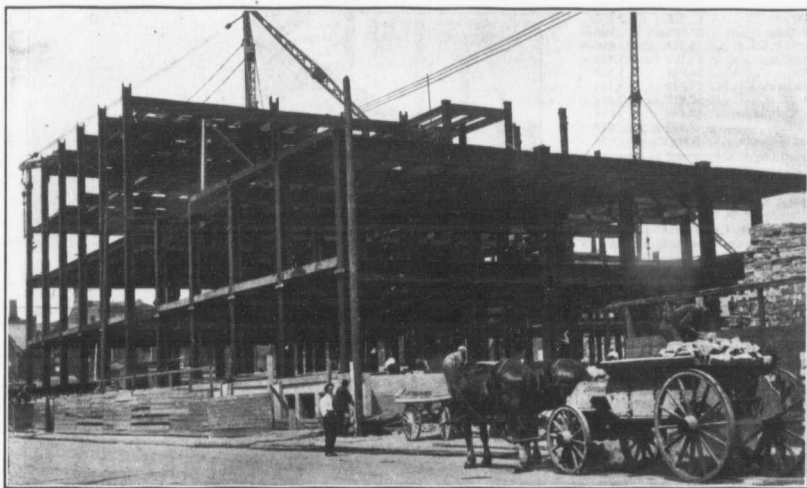
"There is a very suggestive phrase in one of Mrs. Browning's letters which I want to pass on to my readers. She complained that nowadays Christians can scarcely give a cup of cold water "except they lay down pipes and found a company with branches!" Everybody wants to work on the wholesale scale. Everybody hungers to have the world as their parish. We are being overwhelmed by multiplied organisation. Our elaborate machinery is crippling our workers. The spontaneity of Christian life is imperilled. I quite agree with Mrs. Browning's warning. We have innumerable organizations laying down pipes, while the thirsty world is waiting for cups of cold water.

We must be perfectly sure that when we have the alternatives of the complex and the simple, the simple is always the

What, then, shall we do if our best is to be done? We must do it all for Christ. And our Lord has assured us that little things can be consecrated as well as great things. That is the spiritual significance of the exquisite trifles to be found in God's Word. He has fashioned the tiny shell on the beach, which is as marvellous as the last ridge that crowns the mountain summit. And what He has done in His world He purposes that we should do in ours. The only way in which our toils can be glorified is to do them in the consciousness that they are offerings of His glory. We can sweep a room as though He were to be our guest. We can write a letter as though He were the correspondent who would read it. We must speak a cheery word as though His were the ears that were listening and His the heart that needed inspiration. Everything can be done for Him, and in so doing we should have the very "peace that passeth understanding," the contentment of the blessed life.—*Selected.*

delicate savour which belongs to the affections of the little child.

And so our Father waits us all. Even the poorest and the most obscure of my readers is wanted by the infinite God. No one is a thing of indifference; everybody is a child of grace. There is nothing more perilous than when we begin to assume that God has no interest in us, and that we only count in the universe like the sands of the desert. Self-disparagement of that kind is quite as deadly as self-conceit. Life that is held in self-conceit can never blossom like the rose. Every power is dwarfed, and often withers away. There is a sense of self-respect which comes from the apprehension of our regal dignity, of our sublime relationship to the eternal God. To know that we are wanted by Him, to know that we shall be welcome at His gate, to know that we shall find the door ajar, to know that we shall be a welcome guest at His table—all these inspire a great joy in the heart, in which all the powers are seen at their strongest and best.



THE NEW BOOK ROOM, SHOWING CONSTRUCTION AS IT APPEARED JULY 11th.  
View Taken on Richmond St. looking west. Compare with previous issues.

way of the Lord. But it is just these simple things which we are most inclined to ignore. We have an unhealthy craving for the intricate or the sensational, the big, and the obtrusive. And yet all the time the Master is bidding us carry the cups of refreshing water to fainting souls. I am perfectly sure I am describing the perilous condition of many of my readers. They are waiting for an organization. They like to pass resolutions. They like to be partners and shareholders in an imposing company. And all the while there are weary pilgrims on the road, just wanting the lovetouch of the friendly soul.

The world is not to be saved wholesale. It is going to be saved by individual kindness and personal service. Here comes in the glory of fellowship with Christ. Everybody's personality can become a minister of His grace. Everybody can carry a cup of cold water to feverish lips. Let us believe in ourselves when we are abiding in Christ. Let us look out for the common need that we may offer it personal service."

### Love's Offerings

I remember a very eventful morning at the City Temple in Dr. Parker's wonderful ministry. He announced for his text, "As though He had need of anything." The great preacher then took up a little vase of flowers which was standing in the pulpit. He said, "These flowers were gathered by tiny hands in Devonshire lanes, and sent to me with a letter of love. Did I need them? No. Did I want them? A thousand times—yes!" And then he turned to the congregation and said, "There are strong men here who were kissed by their little girls before they left home this morning. Did you need it? No. Did you want it? A thousand, thousand times yes!" And so he went on, in his own marvellous way, to show that, even though we may not be in need of things, the heart may sorely want them. And even though the eternal God may not need the love and the devotion and the service of His children, He wants us as an earthly father wants the

And then the Bible is always bidding us be of good cheer. And the groundwork of its appeal is always this, that God cares for us—"The very hairs of your head are all numbered." God's love pervades all things, goes down into details, enters into the trifles of our daily life. The sun that illumines a planet can warm a hearthstone, and the God who dwells in infinite spaces can also dwell in the human heart. Let this great evangel come to the hearts of my readers like the light of a summer morning. If anybody is reading these words who is depressed and forlorn, let them take heart again. Let them remember that whatever changes, and whoever may leave and forsake them, the infinite Lord wants them, and will find His pleasure in their friendship and presence.—*Sunday Companion.*

"If your eye is on the Eternal, your intellect will grow, and your opinions and actions will have a beauty which no learning or combined advantages of other men can rival.—*Emerson.*