

According to the popular conception the Intermediate Life is for one class a hopeless Life, while for the other class it is a stagnant Life.

It is neither the one nor the other. It is not a hopeless life, because progress, improvement and growth are always possible.

It is not a stagnant life either, because such progress, such improvement, and such growth are forever and ever being carried out.

The babes in Christ are growing to be children in Christ: The children are growing to be young men, and young women in the Lord; and these last are still growing till in them our Lord's standard in His Sermon on the Mount is reached:

"Be ye perfect, as your Father also, which is in heaven, is perfect."

It is however of the highest importance to remember, as Mr. Chambers as forcibly pointed out in his "Life after Death," that our position in the Intermediate Life "will answer exactly to the degree of sanctification which has been wrought in us by the Holy Ghost, in the period before death. The road to the distant goal of moral and spiritual perfection is a long one, and every inch of the way must be traversed. When death overtakes those who, for many years, have been patiently and perseveringly plodding along that road, they will find themselves, in the unseen-life, within a measurable distance of the end. On the other hand, when death comes to those who have but only just commenced the journey, the goal will be far ahead. And between the starters and the finishers will be an intervening distance."

IV.

This leads by a natural transition to the great practical lesson of this whole subject, at which I must glance in conclusion.

THE VITAL IMPORTANCE OF THE CULTIVATION AND THE FORMATION OF CHRISTIAN CHARACTER HERE AND NOW.

The author to whom I have referred says, "Thousands of Christian people are positively indifferent about the formation of character, because they do not realize that God means what He says when He states that "whatsoever a man soweth, *that* shall he also reap."

The pardon of our sins through the precious blood of Jesus cannot