

makes you try to believe in vain? And would you kindly tell me, also, *what* it was you tried to believe?"

Here I saw the shoe fitted pretty tightly, when he answered.

"Well, I'm sorry I can't tell you what keeps me from believing; but there is something, I can't get over. I object to nothing in the Bible; I accept it as the Word of God, and as the only true revelation of God's will; but yet I can't believe."

"And what is it, please that you can't believe?"

"I can't believe that Jesus will pardon my sins and save my soul."

But the conversation began to get a little excited, and I thought it prudent to let the subject drop, so I made no reply, and he said no more. But though I had ceased to speak, I had not ceased to think of the subject; and in a few minutes afterwards I retired to ponder it at home.

Are there not many professing Christians who "cannot believe" to the saving of their souls? So they say. But Christ has said "He that seeketh findeth;" "Ye will not come unto Me that ye might have life." J. M. O.

*In Congregational Advance.*

**A WORD TO BUSY WOMEN.**—Do we realize, we busy people, how recklessly we abbreviate our hours of devotion? How little space we spare for God? Hours? Some of us can compress into one poor, meagre hour a week, exclusive of Sunday and prayer-meeting nights, our time spent in reading the Bible and in prayer. To be blessed and tranquil, and growing spiritually, we must commune with the invisible. A few hurried moments in the morning, a few tired moments in the evening, a fragmentary dash at Matthew or Mark, and a few verses hastily read with the sense of a duty accomplished, are not enough to lift one over the roughness and materialities of every day. They are better than no reading, and better than no prayers; but to have a living sense of the nearness of God, one must abide in Him. We ought to read more of the Bible at a time than we do.—*Christian in the World.*

**SUNDAY FUNERALS.**—If possible, avoid having a funeral on Sunday. Many persons seem to think that because a funeral is a solemn service, Sunday is the most appropriate day for it, and not a few, it is to be feared, select that day because it is no interference with their business. Funerals are often hastened or postponed in order to have them on Sunday. Of course there are circumstances in which that day cannot be avoided. One has a good deal of sympathy for poor people who are dependent upon daily wages, and to whom one day's pay is no small help at such a time. But Sunday funerals are a fearful tax upon a minister's energies, which he often finds quite sufficient for the ordinary duties of the day, and they keep many persons from the house of God. The clergyman is obliged to hasten from the pulpit to the funeral, or from the funeral to the pulpit, with no time to rest between them, and begins a new service utterly exhausted and unfitted for it. Possibly the poor family that appointed the hour of the funeral just at the time of the second public service, and when objection was made to the hour, said, "We thought you would do us the favour of coming then and get somebody to preach for you," might have had some regard for the minister's health, though showing little regard for his public duties or his private funds.

"He that prays out of custom, or gives alms for praise, or fasts to be accounted religious, is but a Pharisee in his devotion, and a beggar in his alms, and a hypocrite in his fast."—*Jeremy Taylor.*

#### INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON SCHEME.

##### SECOND QUARTER.

April	2—The Ascending Lord.....	Acts i, 1-12.
"	9—The Day of Pentecost.....	Acts ii, 1-11.
"	16—Peter's Defence.....	Acts ii, 12-28.
"	23—The Early Christian Church.....	Acts ii, 37-47.
"	30—The Lame Man Healed.....	Acts iii, 1-11.
May	7—The Power of Jesus' Name.....	Acts iii, 12-26.
"	14—Christian Courage.....	Acts iv, 8-22.
"	21—Christian Fellowship.....	Acts iv, 23-37.
"	28—Lying unto God.....	Acts v, 1-11.
June	4—The Apostles in Prison.....	Acts v, 12-26.
"	11—The Apostles Before the Council.....	Acts v, 27-42.
"	18—The Seven Chosen.....	Acts vi, 1-15.
"	25—Review.	