

[For OUR MISSION.]

Quiet Thoughts.

SELECTED BY "NESSIE."

IN fair weather as his vessel glides over the water, the traveller gazes upon the coasts bright in the the sunshine spread on either side of him. Occasionally, perhaps, he admires the wisdom of the Pilot. But when mists hide all the beauty from view and storms beat upon the vessel, the voyage is not so pleasant, and it calls for fuller faith in Him who guides. There is the same unerring wisdom; but before the tempest—the enjoyment was in the *way*, not the *Guide*—but now with eyes bent only on the *Pilot* he forgets the *way*.

We must first believe in the power of prayer, before we can realize our privilege, and we shall desire it in proportion as our experience deepens of our right to be in the place of blessing; the more we make use of it the more we shall delight in it, and recognize the value of the Father's portion purchased by the precious blood-shedding for us. Oh sinking heart take thy need to Him!

A prayerless heart is one of the greatest afflictions the child of God can endure.

We all know that in order to experience loneliness it is not needful to be alone; the caverns of the heart God can only fill.

Christ never rejects a service for Him, ever so feeble, or a prayer ever so faint. You have asked God to make you fruitful and He is the answerer of prayer; it is not for you to decide as to your influence. Not in the sword does the power dwell, but in the hand that wields it.

Fear not! follow the tiny seed with faith and prayer; for the Spirit bloweth where it listeth and in a day you know not, there may rise a temple which your feeble hands assisted to raise; though you know not how nor when.

It is better to learn for one's self even if it be in loneliness and suffering than to receive the second hand opinions of others.

It is the *willing mind* that is accepted. God accepted the heart willing to *serve*, willing to *suffer*; and thus can every soul bring forth fruit to the praise and glory of God.

There is a consciousness of having desired to please God in serving Him diligently that leaves or should leave a peaceful confidence in Him. "As much as was in thine heart."

We need a belief in the sympathy of Jesus. The *human* heart of the "Man of sorrows" is on the throne of our Father, and that same Jesus is not ashamed to call us *brethren*. He gives according to

real need, whatever that need may be, and does not offer the theory of *wisdom to the head* when the heart is sigh breaking.

Nothing but entire confidence in God Himself and dwelling on His wisdom and love, can reconcile the mind to the prayer which we know has not been *delayed* but *denied*.

What of all those desires that have been denied? The love which has *not* fulfilled them is as great as that which granted those in which we rejoice.

Lord, thou knowest how often Thy servant looks this way and that way and not unto Thee. Now is my prayer;—"Let the will of the Lord be done! My Father knows best, and when the way is perplexed and weary, let me wait for Thy "Guiding eye."

There is nothing secular; all is sacred if carried to Jesus,

There is nothing sinful, you say, in a desire—there is *sin* in a rebellious desire for what is denied, a lack of subjection, a lack of love. The cross was galling and I wanted it removed before it brought forth fruit.

Trust, when you cannot see, keeping this one great thought in view—My Father loveth me.

Preaching.

THOSE who have given some attention to the matter and method of preaching as described in homiletic books, and as practised in some pulpits, must have often felt, that while "methods" have their place, they are not to overshadow or to push aside the "matter." The fact is, the preacher who is full of Christ, saturated with His Spirit, and has no object before him when he enters the pulpit but to make Christ known to his fellow-sinners as the only Saviour, and no end to be gained but the salvation of the sinner's soul, will be trammelled with no procrustean rules of homiletics. He will speak from a mind filled with Gospel truth, from a heart surcharged with divine love; while he is musing the fire burns; like Paul he will not count his life dear unto him that he may testify the Gospel of the grace of God, and like the blessed Lord, having exhausted all his preaching upon the hard-hearted, he will give them last of all his tears. "He beheld the city and wept over it."—*Pulpit Treasury*.

A SQUARE flag-stone of a pound's weight was recently shoved out of place in an English town by the united efforts of only three mushrooms growing under it. This shows the immense power of a thing that *grows*. And three live Christians in a community will often, by the inherent force of their *life*, lift up the dead weight of worldliness over them.