

change in my business," he proceeded to explain, "without first asking special divine guidance."

The lawyer smiled tolerantly. "O yes, I understand," he replied. "But your phenomenal success can all be explained in a natural way. For instance, most men act impulsively sometimes, yield to their whims, or to ideas suddenly conceived. You escape this danger through your system of praying before you act. The prayer gains you a little time. Besides, your feeling of reverence for the Being you worship, has, in itself, a tendency to clear your mind of prejudices, to restore your balance, and make you a reasonable, logical person—otherwise, a good business man."

A light broke over the face of the merchant.

"Thank you for this weight of indirect testimony," he responded, "Ah, how much there is in what you say! In an attitude of prayer one comes near to the Fountain of all wisdom. And being there, he comes to his best self; he touches the highest point of manhood. And this advantage is all independent of what he receives in answer to his petition. No wonder that the praying man rises from his knees enlightened and uplifted."—*Jane Ellis Joy, in Independent.*

A DAY AT A TIME.

One secret of sweet and happy Christian life is in learning to live by the day. It is the long stretches that tire us. We think of life as a whole, running on for years, and it seems too great for us. We cannot carry this load until we are three score and ten. We cannot fight this battle continually for half a century. But really there are no long stretches. Life does not come to us in lifetimes; it comes only a day at a time. Even to-morrow is never ours till it becomes to-day, and we have nothing whatever to do with it but to pass down to it a fair and good inheritance in to day's work well done and to-day's life well lived. It is a blessed secret, this of living by the day. Anyone

can carry his burden, however heavy till night falls. Anyone can do his work, however hard, for one day. Anyone can live sweetly, quietly, patiently, lovingly, and purely, till the sun goes down. And this is all that life ever really means to us—just one little day. "Do to-day's duty, fight to-day's temptation, and do not weaken and distract yourself by looking forward to things you cannot see, and could not understand if you saw them." God gives us nights to shut down the curtains of darkness on our little days. We cannot see beyond, and we ought not to try to see beyond. Short horizons make life easier, and give us one of the blessed secrets of brave, true, holy living.—*Selected.*

THE WAY TO EXCUSE.

A little brown-eyed maid, no taller than the dinner-table, came to her mother with her apron wet down the front.

"Agnes! Agnes!" exclaimed the vexed mother, "you have been to the water cooler again when I told you not to go. I shall be obliged to punish you this time."

"No, mudder," said the trembling little voice, "you'll have to 'scuse me this time, 'cause Lila was so sirsty she cried for a drink, and nobody was there to give it to her but me."

"Well, daughter, as it was for Lila's sake you did it I will excuse you this time, but you must not turn the spigot again, no matter who cries. Will you remember?"

The little one promised, her face all sunshine again, and the mother took her off for a dry apron. But that was only a small part of the mischief, and in the worry and fatigue of mopping up the water that had run over the pantry floor and collected dangerously near the flour barrel, the mother's temper gave way. "I declare, Agnes!" she said, "you are too much bother for anything! Why can't you learn to let things alone?"

Hearing no sound she looked

up, and she will not soon forget the look of disappointment on the little face. "Why mudder," said the baby, "I thought you said you would 'scuse me. *I don't call this 'scusing me!*"—*The Evangelist.*

DEMORALIZING AMUSEMENTS.

Sweden has taken a very advanced and decided step in doing away with demoralizing amusements. Its government has abolished every variety theatre and every variety music hall in the kingdom. The ministers assigned as a reason for this procedure that these resorts were morally injurious to the public, especially to the young. What a good thing it would be if other nations would recognize this pioneer movement by similar action! There would, no doubt, be a howl of opposition and a cry of trespassing upon the rights and liberties of the community, but the effect of a suppression of this and other debasing, immoral, and vicious forms of amusement in our cities would be to greatly promote the morals of the people, and save thousands of our youth from vice, licentiousness, and crime.—*Presbyterian.*

"Jesus Christ was born in obscurity, and yet the fame of no other has ever penetrated so far and continued to shine with increasing lustre so long as His fame. He was destitute of educational advantages, and yet His teachings have challenged and received the admiration of the most learned men. He made himself the servant of all, condescending even to wash the feet of His disciples, and yet millions of men and women in the most enlightened countries have acknowledged Him as Lord and Master. His life and character have been scrutinized more narrowly than those of any other being, but no fault has ever been proved against him, and every possible moral excellence in the highest degree of perfection has been accorded Him even by His enemies."