

SERVANTS OF GOD.

Have you ever observed, both in the Old Testament and the New, the dignity of the service of God is spoken of as paramount to all the other dignities of God's people?—"Hast thou seen my servant Job?" Job, according to God's own account of him, was unparalleled upon the earth! There was not another man like him upon the earth, and the Lord could boast of him as "my servant Job!" God spoke with Moses face to face, but when God would boast of Moses, he did not speak of other privileges, but this: "My servant that is faithful to all my house." The great apostle Paul, of whom we were speaking, puts his being a servant of God before his apostleship. You never find him writing "Paul, an apostle and a servant," but "Paul, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ." You find the same in Peter. You never find him saying, "Peter, an apostle and a servant," but he also says, "Peter, the servant of God and Jesus Christ, and an apostle." When the great apostle speaks of James, he calls him "the Lord's brother"; but when you find James writing his epistle, it is, "James, the servant of God and of Jesus Christ." The beloved disciple lay upon the bosom of God, but we do not find him speaking of this as his primal privilege; it was, "John, the servant of Jesus Christ."

The man after God's own heart had learned the lesson that I wish we all would learn on this subject to-day.—Have you marked his pleading with God? He does not plead his earthly dignity, and say, "Great God, I am a king;" nor does he plead his prophetic office, but he comes before God, as a poor, needy, man, and he pleads thus: "I am thy servant." If you were to take a concordance and read the number of pleas that David founds upon this, it would interest you: "Be merciful unto thy servant," "Be surety for thy servant," "Hide not thy face from thy servant." Go all through, and you will find he pleads the service of the Lord, and that he was engaged as the servant of the Lord, more than all other considerations whatsoever. This also was Elijah's boast. "The Lord God Almighty," he says, "before whom I stand." He was a great prophet, and he performed mighty things, but he boasts not of his office, and not of his service. "The Lord liveth before whom I stand." This was Gabriel's dignity: "I am Gabriel, that stand in the presence of God." The glory of the angelic host does not consist in this, that they excel in strength, that they stand upon the mount of God, but that they do his commandments, and that they hearken unto the words of his mouth. There is no higher privilege than to be the servant of God. When we come to the Revelation, we read of a goodly multitude there, clothed in white robes. There are palms in their hands; they stand upon a sheet of glass; they harp with the harps of gold; but what is the privilege on which the Spirit of God lays emphasis? Not their robes, not their palms, not their harps, but this: "They serve God, day and night, in his temple."—Rev. Marcus Rainsford.

TRUE HOLINESS.

A hermit, who passed his life in the severest self denial—living only upon herbs and berries—and making his bed upon the hard floor of his cave, began at length to be puffed up with pride at his austerities, and went so far even, as to wonder whether any man living could come up to him in holiness and merit.

But God took pity upon the poor man, thus in danger of losing his soul through self deception, and revealed to him, that in sanctity he fell far short of a poor servant of all-work at a neighboring inn.

Surprised and mortified to find himself surpassed by this poor girl, the hermit went to visit her, and questioned her as to the means by which she had arrived at such a high state of perfection in God's sight.

"Good sir," replied the servant; "I know not why you would seek to learn anything from me; I am not holy, as you suppose. I do nothing good. I only try to do my day's work, so as to serve my mistress faithfully; and besides that, every time

that I carry a bundle of wood into the kitchen I think of my Master above, who, for love of us poor sinners, once bore the wood of the Cross."

CURIOUS BIBLE FACTS.

A prisoner, condemned to solitary confinement, obtained a copy of the Bible, and, by three years' careful study, obtained the following facts:—

The Bible contains 8,586,489 letters, 773,692 words, 31,178 verses, 1,189 chapters, and 66 books. The word "and" occurs 46,277 times. The word "Lord" 1,855 times. The word "reverend" occurs but once, in the 9th verse of the 111th Psalm. The middle verse is the 8th verse of the 118th Psalm. The 21st verse of the 7th chapter of Ezra contains all the letters in the alphabet except the letter J. The 19th chapter of 2 Kings, and the 87th chapter of Isaiah are alike. The longest verse is the 9th verse of the 8th chapter of Esther. The shortest verse is the 35th verse of the 11th chapter of St. John. The 8th, 15th, 21st, and the 31st verses of the 107th Psalm are alike. Each verse of the 136th Psalm ends alike. There are no words or names of more than six syllables.

AN ENGINEER'S STORY.

Presence of mind and rapidity of thought in the time of danger have saved thousands of lives. Here is an incident related by an engineer that well illustrates that truth:

"Several years ago I was running a fast express one night. We were three hours behind time; and if there's anything in the world I hate it's to finish a run behind schedule. These grade crossings of one-horse roads are nuisances to trunk lines, and we had a habit of failing to stop, merely slacking up for 'em. At this crossing I had never seen a train at this time of the night, so I rounded the curve out of the cut at full tilt. I was astonished to see the target set against me though I had time enough to stop. But it was a down grade there, and the track was very slippery, and to add to the danger my air brake didn't work right. I whistled sharply for to have the target set clear for me, but on looking I saw that a freight train was standing right over the crossing, evidently intending to put a few cars on our switch.

"I wish I could tell you what my thoughts were at this time. I gave the danger whistle, but I had seven heavy sleepers on and we just slid down that grade spite of everything I could do.

"Now comes the surprising part of my story. Quicker than I can tell you, the brakeman on the freight train uncoupled a car just back of our crossing and signalled his engineer to go ahead, which he did sharply, but barely in time to let us through. In fact, the pilot of my engine took the buffer off that rear car. Through that little hole we slipped, and lives and property were saved.

"Now, that brakeman was only a common rail-roader, yet he saw that situation at a glance. There wasn't time to run his whole train off the crossing, nor even half of it—barely time to pull one car-length by prompt, quick work. He kept his wits about him as, I venture to say, not one in a thousand would have done, and saved my reputation, if not my life. He is now a division superintendent on one of the best roads in this country; and may good luck go with him!"

POWER OF EXAMPLE.

In a town of Bavaria there is a little tumble down church building where the Duke, as often as he came that way, used to go in and pray. If, on coming out of the chapel, he happened to meet any of the peasants in the field, he loved to converse with them in a friendly way.

One day he met an old man, with whom he fell into conversation on various things; and taking a liking to the man; he asked him, in parting, whether he could do anything for him.

The peasant replied: "Noble sir, you cannot do anything better for me than you have done already."

"How so?" answered he. "I do not know that I have done anything for you."

"But I know it," said the man, "for how can I ever forget that you saved my son! He travelled so long in the ways of sin that he would have nothing to do with the church or prayer, and sank every day deeper in wickedness. Some time ago he was here, and saw you, noble sir, enter the chapel. 'I should like to see what he does there,' said the young man, scornfully, to himself, and he glided in after you. But when he saw you pray so devotedly, he was so deeply impressed that he also began to pray, and from that moment he became a new man. I thank you for it. And this is why I said you can do me no greater favor than you have done already."

OUR NATIONAL FOODS.—The class of Hygienic Foods advertised in another column under the above name, are deserving of special attention by all who wish to secure the greatest amount of muscle, brain and nerve strength from the food they eat.

HINTS TO HOUSEKEEPERS.

The Germans concoct an after-dinner beverage perfectly adapted to the delicate taste of ladies; this is the celebrated egg-wine. Rasp off the yellow rind of a lemon with a quarter of a pound of sugar. Put the sugar juice of a lemon in a casserole with half a teaspoonful of freshly ground cinnamon, a bottle of white wine, and four well-beaten eggs; whisk it all together over the fire until it is scalding hot, but do not allow it to boil.

JELLIED CHICKEN.—Boil a chicken until the meat slips easily from the bones, reducing the water to about one pint in the boiling. Pick off the meat in good sized pieces, taking out all the fat and bones. Skim the fat from the liquor, add a little butter, pepper and salt to taste, and add one-half ounce of gelatine. When this dissolves pour it hot over the chicken. The liquor should be seasoned highly, as the chicken absorbs much of the flavor.

ORANGE SNOW.—Orange snow is delicious when prepared after the following method: An ounce of isinglass is dissolved in a pint of boiling water; it is then to be strained and allowed to stand until it is nearly cold; now mix it with the juice of six or seven oranges and one lemon; add the whites of three eggs, and sugar to taste; whisk the whole together until it looks white and like a sponge; put it into a mould and turn it out the following day.

OMELET.—From four to eight very fresh eggs; break them singly and carefully; when they are sufficiently whisked pour them through a sieve, and resume the beating until they are very light; add to them half a teaspoonful of salt, season with pepper; dissolve in a small frying-pan two ounces of butter, pour in the eggs, and as soon as the omelet is well risen and firm throughout, slide it into a hot dish, fold it together like a turn-over, and serve at once.

PRAIRIE CHICKENS.—After cleaning, split open on the back and put in a dripping pan; sprinkle well with salt, a little pepper and a few pieces of butter; fill the pan a little over half with water, and cover with another pan the same size and let steam in the oven for one hour and a half. Then take cover off and let them brown. Toast a few slices of bread and lay on the platter, put the chicken on the toast, and pour over the whole the juice from the pan.

A REMEDY FOR BURNS AND SCALDS.—Mix common kitchen whitening with sweet oil or water, and plaster the burn and some inches beyond it, all round it, with the paste thus made. Lay it on as thickly as possible, and leave it there. It acts like a charm; the most agonizing pain is stilled in a few minutes. The application should be kept moist by applying fresh oil or water to it. A moist flannel may be wrapped round it at night to prevent it drying. The paste should remain on till the burn is healed.

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