

Patmos, when nearest God. It is when alone under his fig-tree in prayer that Jesus sees Nathanael. All religious biography, our own closet communion and success with God, show what Christ means when, as if it were the only way to pray, He says: "And thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret, and thy Father, which seeth in secret, shall reward thee openly."—*Rev. Wm. M. Baker.*

BUSINESS AND RELIGION.

A wealthy, irreligious, shrewd business man in Illinois was approached by a member of the church of Christ for a subscription towards building a meeting-house. He cheerfully put down his name for two hundred dollars, and then remarked, "I give that as a good business investment. I would rather give two hundred dollars every year than not to have the gospel preached in this community."

"How is that?" he was asked. "You do not pay any heed to the gospel. Why are you interested in having it preached?" "O," he replied, "I live here with my family, and my property is around here; without the influence of Christianity the condition of society would soon become such that neither property nor life would be safe. I would not be willing to live in any community where the gospel was not preached!"

These views of a hard-headed man of the world are confirmed by all experience. Christianity is the salt of the earth. Only the utterly abandoned would be content to live where its influence had ceased to be felt.

ALIVE WITH GOD.

A young mechanic, who had strayed into the Academy of Music and there gave his heart to Christ, went home and told his wife that he had become a Christian. He immediately set up a family altar, and began to ask a blessing on his food at the table. "One day," so his wife reported, "he lifted up his face from the table, over which he had bowed to give thanks for his daily bread, and with tears running down his face, said: 'Wife, it has only been a week since I began to live. It is a blessed thing to be alive with God.' This testimony tells its own story.—*Words and Weapons.*

GOING TO CHRIST.

I am afraid your fondness for pleasure is keeping you from becoming a Christian. Remember what Christ says: "Whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he can not be my disciple," Luke vii: 33. In coming to Jesus the first thing to be settled is, not what pleasures you must forsake, but whether you will forsake any or all of them if Christ requires. Do you stand ready, as soon as you are shown that any pleasure, no matter what, is sinful, to forgo it? This is the feeling which God demands."

The kind father finds his little child with her lap full of playthings. "Give me what you have in your lap," he says. The little one without a murmur surrenders all she has. The father then examines the toys, hands back whatever is safe for her to have, but retains the broken glass, the sharp knife, and the poisonous paper. So you must yield up everything to God and leave it with him to decide what pleasure he will give you back again.—*Foster.*

GIVING CHRIST ALL.

I feel when I have sinned, an immediate reluctance to go to Christ. I am ashamed to go. I feel as if it would do no good to go, as if it were making Christ a minister of sin, to go straight . . . to the best robe,---and thousands of other excuses, but I am persuaded they are lies direct from hell. I am sure there is neither peace nor safety from deeper sins but in going directly to the Lord Jesus Christ. This is God's way of peace and holiness. It is a folly to the world and the beclouded heart, but it is the way. I must never think a sin too small to need immediate application to the blood of Christ. If I put away a good conscience concerning the faith, I am a shipwreck. I must never think my sins too great, too aggravated, too presumptuous, to hinder me from fleeing to Christ.—*McCheyne.*

FEMALE IGNORANCE IN BENGAL.—Bengal has a population of 69,691,456. Mr. A. Croft, the Director of Public Instruction, recently observed, "that whilst there were a million-and-a-half pupils in the schools of Bengal, there were only 75,000 girls, and the vast majority of them were only in the lowest primary stage of instruction."