

he was to me till he was gone." Such words are the poisoned arrows which death shoots back at us.

How much more we might make of our family life, of our friendships, if every secret thought of love blossomed into a deed! We are not now speaking of personal caresses. These may or may not be the best language of affection. But there are words and looks and little observances, thoughtfulness, watchful little attentions, which speak of love, which make it manifest, and there is scarcely a family that might not be richer in heart wealth for more of them—HARRIET BEECHER STOWE.

Laws of Christian Growth.

Growth in the Christian life must follow the laws of growth everywhere. A plant in a dark cellar must either die or live a poor, feeble and dying life. It needs light; it needs sunshine. If you live in the dark cellar of your own nature you will grow more and more feeble, until spiritual death succeeds to the long absence of spiritual life and power. If you live in the shadows of doubt, in the gloomy vales of misanthropy, in the dark dens of fault-finding and selfishness, you will lose all the light and joy, and finally the very life of the true believer. Come out into God's sweet sunshine. Eat the divine manna as given in the divine book. Exercise all the spiritual sympathies and muscles by following Christ, "who went about doing good."—R. S. MACARTHUR, D.D.

The Bible the Word of God.

"The Bible the word of God!" exclaimed a young sceptic in the hearing of a friend. "No, it is the invention of men."

"The Bible claims to be God's word, does it not?" asked the Christian.

"Yes, the men who wrote it pretend that they 'spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.'"

"If the Bible, then, is not what it claims to be, it is, you think, an imposture, and its writers liars?"

"Yes, that is what I believe."

"Good men would not lie and deceive, would they?"

"Of course not."

"Then the Bible, you are sure, could not have been written by good men?"

"I feel certain it was not."

"Now, answer me candidly. Does the Bible condemn sin, and threaten bad men with punishment?"

"Yes," rather reluctantly.

"Does it condemn lying and deception?"

"Yes," a little sharply.

"Would bad men—deceivers and liars—make a book that condemns their own sins?"

"They would not be likely to do so, certainly."

The young sceptic felt the ground giving way under him, and changed the subject.

"Never start what you can't stop." Never start a false report. You can't stop it. Never begin a bad practice; it will become a habit which you can't manage.