

overflowing, as it does, with these promises, we must *know* that every act of His towards us, every incident of our lives, is working to their fulfilment. Truly our God is a great God, and "we are the sheep of His pasture."—*A.M.A.*

"FAITHFUL IN A VERY LITTLE."

(LUKE XIX. 17.)

STANDING at the open portal of another year to-day,
Will you take a simple motto, as your guide along the way—
"Faithful in a very little,"—This your motto for the year;
Let it make you truly earnest in the Master's service here,
In the lot where He has placed you, humble though it seems to you,
He would have you seek His glory in each little thing you do;
Thus the daily task that meets you, will seem beautiful and bright,
When you take it as His bidding, when you do it in His sight.
Opportunities will meet you, kindly things to do and say;
Take them promptly, use them wisely, for they quickly pass away.
Do not lose them idly wishing you had greater work to do,
Take the work the Master chooses, go where He has need of you.
Aim to do some deed of kindness, every day throughout the year;
Try some saddened life to brighten, seek some lonely heart to cheer.
Daily make it your endeavour someone else to help and please,
Though it may mean self-denial, giving up your will and ease,
Others may not heed your efforts, you may even think them lost,
But the Master sees the motive, and the Master counts the cost;
And the smile of His approval, surely your reward will be,
"Inasmuch as ye have done it . . . ye have done it unto Me."
"Faithful in a very little," faithful you will be in all,
And the New Year will be happy, whatsoever may befall,
As you cheerfully accomplish every duty each day brings,
Seeking first to please the Master in life's many little things,

—*Ethel Waring, in The Christian.*

FOR PARISH AND HOME.

SEEING OR TRUSTING.

DOES God work in the same way that He did eighteen centuries ago?

This is a question which, in one form or another, is constantly recurring to earnest children of God. The Church of Christ has got into such a settled rut of believing that He does not, that

it requires no little moral courage to take an opposite stand, and yet it would seem, during the last few years particularly, as if God were specially showing that He is the same God who has not changed His way of working.

George Müller startled English Christianity when he was used as an example of how God honours those who simply trust Him. The huge orphanage asylum at Bristol, the large and independent missionary organization and the flourishing Bible and tract depot, all supported by prayer, are a standing monument to prove that God does work in the old way, that the promise of the Bible holds good literally to-day.

Dr. Gordon, of Boston, was lately in Toronto giving an account (by special request), of what God was doing in his work, and he told of a flourishing missionary work, in aid of which no one had ever been asked for a cent; indeed, he said he even avoided talking of it unless, as on this occasion, he were asked to do so, lest he should seem to be advertising it. Mr. Hudson Taylor, of the China Inland Mission, is another proof of how God honours those who do their work in simple dependence upon Him. One of the best of the biographies of to-day is that of Dr. Mackenzie, medical missionary of China. In the ninth chapter there is a very remarkable instance of this same full answer to the faith of those who simply trust. Dr. Mackenzie had been stationed at Hankow and doing most successful work there, but for various reasons he was removed to Tien-tsin, in Northern China. On arrival there the prospect seemed very gloomy. A medical work had been started and was dropped some years before, leaving a debt behind it as its only monument. When Dr. Mackenzie arrived he had no money and no drugs. At first he was tempted to feel very discouraged; it would take at least six months before aid could reach him from the London Society who had sent him out, and the city seemed full of sickness and was in dire need of medical work.

Thus, thrown upon God alone, he and his wife and other Christians there, met daily in prayer for help and guidance.

It was suggested that a petition should be sent the Viceroy, Li Hung-Chang, whom Dr. Mackenzie speaks of as the most enlightened man in China, the friend of Chinese (General) Gordon.

A memorial was accordingly sent in, presented by the American Consul. It met with a kindly reception, the Viceroy approved of the aims of the missionary, the need of the hospital, etc., but offered no help. For two months they continued praying, and all this time the doctor was able to do almost nothing at the work of which he was so passionately fond. But all of a sudden, just when they began to think that God was not going to help them in this direction, the answer came. The Viceroy's wife lay dangerously ill, the native doctors had given her up, and, in despair, the Viceroy was at last induced to send for the English doctors. They were allowed free access to her, but found her case a very critical one. They felt it was a matter for prayer rather than medical skill, and all met daily for prayer for her recovery. Their prayer was answered, and after six days Lady Li was out of danger. She still needed special treatment, which could best be given by a lady, and so (Miss) Dr. Howard kindly came from Peking for two months. The Viceroy, unlike most Chinamen, was very fond of his wife, and felt deeply grateful for what the doctors had done, and as they would take no pay, gladly set at their disposal an entire quadrangle of the temple to Iseng Kwoh-fan, one of the finest buildings in Tien-tsin, for dispensing work. This became a big hospital for our patients, and Li Hung-Chang supplied all the necessary funds. The work at once became fashionable; the best people in the place came to be treated, and while treating their bodies the doctors ever watched for opportunities to speak to them of Christ. Not long after Lady Li provided another hospital in charge of Miss Howard, for women.

The out-patient work was, however, from many points of view, unsatisfactory. The patients were not under the direct influence of the Gospel as they would be in an in-patients' hospital. Dr. Mackenzie was not satisfied. Very soon he suggested the building of an hospital to some of his late patients. His idea was taken up cordially, and soon a splendid hospital was erected on the mission.

And all this seemed clearly to come about *because* he had been forced to look away from every arm of flesh to God alone. In Hankow, he had received almost no assistance from the natives, and had he in Tien-tsin been able to