

## The Lamp Without Oil.



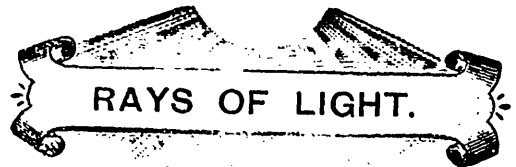
**L**ATELY whilst spending a week in the society of a great number of faithful pastors from the Canton of Vaud, one of them, at a public meeting, related to us the recent conversion of a lady of his acquaintance. She was one of those who lived only for this world; the thought of her sins had never caused her uneasiness; she was careful and troubled about many things, but neglected the one thing needful.

One night, while alone in her room, she saw the lamp which lighted it, suddenly go out. Although she was alone, she said aloud (thinking only of the accident which left her in the dark), "There is no oil in the lamp!" The words thus spoken echoed in the room and sounded in her ears, but with a new sense. She recalled the parable of the Five Foolish Virgins, who had no oil, and whose lamps had gone out at the coming of the bridegroom; and from that moment, day and night, that word of God remained in her soul as an arrow remains in the side of a stag who flies away from the hunter. It recurred to her constantly: "No, I have no oil in my lamp. My God! what will become of me? I have not the grace of God in my heart!" She was filled with fear; then she began to pray, and God opened her eyes and showed her her lost condition in His sight. Very soon she was enabled to accept Him who came to seek and to save the lost, and to know that in him she had eternal life. Dear reader, you may have the lamp of profession and nothing more; soon the cry may be heard, "Behold, the Bridegroom cometh!" Will you be left outside when the door is shut? *Selected.*

## Trying and Proving God.

**H**IS nature, His character, His promises are still the same. Try and prove if He be not still a God of truth and grace and love. Try if the residue of the Spirit is not with Him, and beseech Him to pour it forth. Try if his Gospel will not still convince, convert, and save. Try Him by humbling yourself in His sight, and see if He will not lift you up, Try Him by more frequent and fervent prayer, and see if He will not cause you to receive till your joy shall be full. Try Him by a fresh and full surrender of your heart to Him, and see if He will not fill you with love and life and power. Try Him by a more diligent use of all the means of grace, and see if He will not cause your soul to delight itself in fatness. And try Him by an enlarged liberality, and see if He will not pour you out a blessing that there shall not be room enough to receive it. And in all these re-

spects try Him *now*. "Prove Me *now* herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of Heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it." (Malachi iii. 10.)



**I**T is not great talents that God blesses, so much as great likeness to Jesus. A holy minister is an awful weapon in the hand of God." —*M'Cheyne.*

**I**F I go away." Christ is both present and absent: absent in that he has left the earth; present in that he has not left the faithful soul; or, as he says himself, "The world seeth me no more, but ye see me." —*J. H. Newman.*

**M**Y reverend brethren, watch. *Preach the coming of Jesus.* I charge you, in the name of our common Master, *preach the coming of Jesus.* Solemnly and affectionately, in the name of God, I charge you, *preach the coming of Jesus.* —*Rev. Hugh McNeil.*

## How to Read the Bible.

1. As God's message to you - - - Psa. 139: 17.
2. With preparation of heart - - - Ezra 7: 10.
3. Consecutively - - - - - Acts 11: 4.
4. Topically - - - - - 1 Cor. 2: 13.
5. Daily - - - - - Exod. 16: 21.
6. Read, believe, and practise.

## Christ In Hebrews.

**I**T has been suggested that each chapter in the Epistle to the Hebrews presents to us a different picture of Jesus; thus:—Chap. 1. Sin-purger. Chap. 2. Captain of salvation. Chap. 3. Head of His house. Chap. 4. Rest of His people. Chap. 5. Great high-priest. Chap. 6. Forerunner. Chap. 7. Surety of the better covenant. Chap. 8. Minister of the sanctuary. Chap. 9. Perfect offering. Chap. 10. Obedient one. Chap. 11. Object of faith. Chap. 12. The prince and pattern of faith. Chap. 13. Shepherd of the sheep.

## "NOTES FOR BIBLE STUDY."

32 PAGE MONTHLY, FIFTH YEAR OF PUBLICATION.

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