

Your business, as a Christian, is to win souls for Christ, and it is your duty to acquire skill in doing your life-work. Study God's Word; seek the guidance of the Spirit; speak or act when He gives the word. Observe, think, pray. Adapt your method to the individual. Above all things, have tact. That is what one man did not have, of whom I read recently. Sitting down in his home at night, he remembered that he had failed to speak to anyone that day on the question of religion. Hastily putting on his shoes and hat, he hurried into the street. The first man he saw was driving a herd of cattle. He shouted to him through the darkness, "Are you ready to die?" The man, supposing himself attacked by a highwayman, turned and fled, while the other went back to his house with a consciousness of duty performed. I would not vouch for the truth of the story, but I would urge the importance of personal work. How many there are who have promised to "strive to do whatever the Lord Jesus Christ would like to have them do," who never even think at the close of the day whether or not they have spoken a word for the Master.

I HEARD a remark the other day that impressed me, and I want to share it with you because it is appropriate for the new year. "Piety should be no fossil of a past experience." That remark stuck to me because I have known people, and not old people either, whose religious experiences were far too antiquated. They remind one of the dried-up specimens in a biological museum—they have the form of what were once living things, but they are now shrivelled and dead. It is a pity when Christians can only speak of blessings received in years past, and have no rapturous testimony to bear to the goodness of God to them here and now. The religion of many is largely a memory and a hope. They speak of what Christ has done for them, and of what they expect Him to do, but they are without present blessings and present joy. They are like a man in a tunnel who sees a light at either end, but meanwhile walks in darkness. The grace of God, in the experience of the Christian, should be like the river that grows deeper and broader as it rolls away from its source. Christian Endeavorers! do not rest in the experiences of yesterday. The golden age of your life as a follower of Christ is ahead, but get richer and larger blessings as you go on your way. Let every day have its own story to tell of God's goodness and care. Grow in the knowledge of Christ.

A Prayer.

By Isabelle Ecclestone Mackay.

GIVE me, oh Lord, a glorious song to sing;
A song so sweet and full of love for Thee
That all the loving hosts of far-off heaven
May hark an instant to its melody.
Help me, oh Lord, some noble deed to do,
Some blameless act to herald forth Thy fame;
To swell the conquests of Thy cross and bring
To suffering ones the healing of Thy name.

Teach me, oh Lord, to write a word so great
That they who read may ever think of Thee,
And, thinking, long to know Thee and to taste
The matchless sweetness of Thy sympathy.
But if, oh Lord, I may do none of these,
If in my life no great, glad thing may come,
Help me to do the very best I can,
Content to wait till heaven for T. "Well done."
Woodstock, Ont.

Shining Faces.

SOMETIMES, in passing through a crowd, we see a face that attracts us by its sweetness of expression. Perhaps it is an old face, crowned with a glory of hoary hairs; yet love, joy, and peace shine out of every dot and wrinkle in it. Sometimes it is a young face, that beams with health and purity and beauty. But whether old or young, when we see that unmistakable soul-light in a face, we know that the heart behind it is pure, the life good, and that the body thus illuminated is the Temple of the Holy Spirit. To keep the mind occupied with good, pure, useful, beautiful, and divine thoughts, precludes the possibility of thinking about and thus being tempted by things sinful, low, or gross. It is because Paul knew this that he says so earnestly: "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are of good report, think on these things." In the well-formed habit of thinking pure thoughts lies the secret of being pure in heart; and in the daily and nightly meditation in the law of the Lord is a safeguard against many of the sins which defile the carnal heart and debase and blacken the countenance.

Appreciation.

THE man who said, 'Tis the unexpected that always happens,' was a preacher, I'll guarantee," said a clerical member of the Lunch Club, remarks the *Interior*. "At my time of life I ought not to be stunned by anything, but yesterday, after service a good woman of my flock did manage to take my breath away. I was preaching about God's tender wisdom in caring for us all," he said. "I illustrated by saying that the Father knows which of us grow best in sunlight and which of us must have shade. 'You know you plant roses in the sunshine,' I said, 'and heliotrope and geraniums, but if you want your fuchsias to grow you must keep them in a shady nook.' After the sermon, which I hoped would be a comforting one, a woman came up to me, her face glowing with a pleasure that was evidently deep and true. 'O, Dr.—, I am so grateful for that sermon!' she said, clasping my hand and shaking it warmly. My heart glowed for a moment, while I wondered what tender place in her heart and life I had touched. Only for a moment, though. 'Yes,' she went on, fervently, 'I never knew before what was the matter with my fuchsias.'"