

Day by Day.

Everything difficult in life is met with far greater success when the duties of each day are taken up in their natural order. Anxiety as to the future is not consistent with a just view of God's unerring care.

Christ had a perfect ideal in His mind of the work of each day to be done in that portion of day. He was fully able to meet that perfect ideal. All strained effort to compass the task of tomorrow was foreign to Him.

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The Growth and Action of Resisting Sin.

A secret sin works insidiously, but with wondrous quiet power. Its hidden ravages are awful, and the outward revelation of their result and existence may be completely unobtrusive.

Orp.

This is what every Christian ought to have, and what many a one lacks. There is a certain inspiration in the very thought of the clenched hand, with its tense muscles and unyielding grasp.

After moral failure, cheerfulness in the teeth of discouragement, hopefulness for others, no matter how low they may have sunk, and unflinching faith in the truth that God never forsakes the repentant sinner, and somehow will bring out all things aright for his own.

There is a great deal to be said for the idea of a "day by day" religion. It is a religion that is not a religion of the future, but a religion of the present.

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An Invalid's Oath.

"Ah! someone is knocking. I wonder if Jane does not hear," said Emma Grant. "Oh, dear! I do hope it is not anyone to see us, for I am so tired," says her sister Fannie.

"How do you do, Mrs. Sanford," said Emma. "No," she replied, "Mrs. Sanford's inquiry for her mother, 'mamma is not at home, she has gone to auntie's today.'"

"How is Fannie?" inquired Mrs. Sanford. "She seems better in some ways; but she has been very low-spirited the last few days. I hope you will be able to cheer her."

"Well, Fannie," said Mrs. Sanford, as she entered the room. "I am glad to find you well enough to be on the sofa."

"Yes," replied Fannie; "I am on the sofa, but I am getting as tired of it as I am of the bed."

"God will not keep you there," replied Mrs. Sanford, "unless it is best for you. If there was so other way for you to reach the Kingdom of Heaven, except by lying there, you would be willing to, would you not?"

"Yes, but there are other ways, why should it be the way for me, while others get there so much easier?"

"Perhaps, dear," said Mrs. Sanford, softly, "as one of the plants in God's line, you will grow best in the shade; and He loves you so much that He wants to keep you where you will be the greatest honor to Him, and where you will do the most work for Him."

"But, Mrs. Sanford, I can't do any work for His cause here. If I had my health I could do so much," said Fannie.

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As the sun sinks, he makes color; so it is toward the evening of life that we find the rarest and sweetest type of womanhood—mothers and wives, for whom all the fountains of life have been unsealed, who have drained the mixed cup of love and joy, and been acquainted also with the bitter wine of affliction.

We know, alas! that there are married women of middle age, who grow about the gray places of the world, dressed in youthful fashion, with their thin hair dyed and crimped, their faces painted and powdered, with no kindly draperies to conceal the breadth of their maturity, or to soften the shadow of their leanness—dreadful women who will not consent to grow old, though they are evidently long past youth.

Such women are as melancholy an exhibition of human fall as can be seen.

But the ideal woman of middle age is a very different person. She has not been unloved, perhaps, at her coming gray hairs; she has, indeed, recognized in them a manifest decay; the first touch of a chill hand which must finally prevail. But she knows how to grow old gracefully and modestly, and, surrounded by her children's youth, she feels a purer, worthier pride in their beauty and success than ever she felt in her own.

She is a pleasant woman, with a happy face and a loving heart. She has her own special favorite and pet, and yet, being naturally of an extremely reserved disposition, she had never spoken one word to her on the subject of religion. Looking down into the thoughtful, loving eyes, under a sudden impulse she asked the question: "Maudie, my darling, do you love Jesus?"

To her astonishment the child stopped abruptly, and drawing her into a room which they were passing, she shut the door, and clinging closely to her, burst into a flood of tears. Looking up at last with a glad, happy face, she said: "Miss Alice, I have been praying for six months that you would speak to me of Jesus, and now you have! Every time I have been to your house I hoped you would say something, and I was beginning to think you never would!"

It was a keen reproach to her friend, and one that she never forgot. Little Maudie is now an earnest young soldier in Christ's army. No one who knows her doubts the reality of her religion, and certainly it gives her character an attractive grace which nothing else can give.

How many are under the same spell! Little Maudie would wish Christians never speak to them of the things nearest their hearts! O Christian, why do you neglect to let your light shine, and guide these weary wanderers home to God?

"There were two." "People say something, I shall take my chance with the dying thief. Ah! but which one of them? There were two." These were the words I heard from some one preaching in the open air as I passed the railway station.

Reader, "there were two." With which of them will you spend eternity? Ah! ponder the solemn thought, the awful alternative: an eternity of unmitigated bliss with Jesus, or the blackness of darkness forever with the devil and his angles.

Learn to be working Christians. "Be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only: deceiving your own selves." It is very striking to see the usefulness of many Christians. Are there none of you who know how to be a Christian? You have seen a selfish child go into a secret place to enjoy some delicious morsel undisturbed by his companions. So it is with some Christians. They feed upon Christ and forgiveness; but it is not some of you who know how to be a Christian, while your dearest friend is not, and yet you will not speak to him? See here, you have got work to do. When Christ found you, he said, "Go to work in my vineyard." What were you hired for, if you were not to spread salvation?

Will find through all its salvation by works. They all say that salvation must be purchased, must be bought with a price, and that the sole price, the sole purchase-money, must be our own works and deservings. Our own Holy Bible, our sacred book of the east, from beginning to end a protest against this doctrine. Good, works are, indeed, enjoined upon us in that sacred book of the east, but they are only the outcome of a grateful heart; they are only the thank-offering, the fruits of our faith. They are never the ransom-money of the true disciples of Christ. Let us not shut our eyes to what is excellent and true and of good report in these sacred books, but let us teach Hindus, Buddhists, Mohammedans, that there is only one sacred book of the east that can be their mainstay in that awful hour when they pass all before the unseer world. It is the sacred book which contains that faithful saying worthy to be received of all men, women and children, and of all merely of us Christians, that Christ came into the world to save sinners."

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Why Not Speak to Them? A young lady called to see a friend who was ill, and on leaving, one of the children, a sweet, intelligent little girl, took her down stairs. She was her own special favorite and pet, and yet, being naturally of an extremely reserved disposition, she had never spoken one word to her on the subject of religion.

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