

Words of the Wise.

HEAVEN will be the sweet surprise of a perfect explanation.—*Dr. R. Price.*

WHEN thou prayest, rather let thy heart be without words than thy words without heart.—*Bunyan.*

PRAYER is a golden key, which should open the morning, and lock up the evening.—*Bishop Hopkins.*

THE greatest sense of humour a well-bred man has, the more delightful he is; the greater sense of humour a vulgar man has, the more intolerable he is.

OUR dependence on God ought to be so entire and absolute that we should never think it necessary, in any kind of distress, to have recourse to human consolations.—*Thomas à Kempis.*

WEALTH has now all the respect paid to it which is due only to virtue and to talent, but we can see what estimate God places upon it, since He often bestows it upon the meanest and most unworthy of all His creatures.—*Dean Swift.*

ON the whole, it is good, it is absolutely needful, for one to be humbled and prostrated, and thrown among the pots from time to time. Life is a school; we are perverse scholars to the last, and require the rod.—*Thomas Carlyle.*

It is a great thing when our Gethsemane hours come, when the cup of bitterness is pressed to our lips, and when we pray that it may pass away, to feel that it is not fate, that it is not necessity, but divine love for good ends working upon us.—*Chapin.*

THE longer I live the more I am assured that the business of life is to understand the Lord Christ. Nothing else is to be called the business of life at all. I am extreme, you may think; but this is liberty and life to me—to know Christ.—*Gro. Macdonald.*

CHRISTIANITY insists, first of all, on a real faith. Whatever else it has or lacks, the soul, to be saved, must obey an honest purpose. It must believe with the affections heartily. With the heart man believeth unto salvation before confession is made with the mouth.

WHEN God has a great work for any one to do in the world, He usually gives him a peculiar training for it; and that training is just what no earthly friend would choose for him; and sometimes it is so long continued that there seems to be but little time left to work.—*Mary Lyon.*

"I CANNOT decide," is the answer of many on whom the claims of Christ's services are urged. Ah! but you do decide whenever the subject is brought to your thought. To say, "I cannot to-day choose the service of Christ," is only another way of saying, "I can and will to-day refuse the service of Christ." A choice is made one way if not the other.—*S. S. Times.*

FAITH enters the Gospel ship, and seeking a city that hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God, is waited over the raging seas to the harbour of rest. Scepticism, unwilling to trust itself to the ship, and demanding certainty for its foothold, wades into the water as far as it can feel with its feet. It isn't going anywhere where it cannot touch bottom, and so, of course, it doesn't go very far.

DUTY is an angel, tenderly beloved, that walks beside the man, with solemn steps; and common life is a path shining before him more and more; and the future is a mist which he will pass through, and so be nearer God; and it to-day the world feels round him like a temple for worship, in, then to-morrow there will be a further world for him to pass on into, and it will be the holy of holies.

LIFE force may go into words or it may go into deeds. The power of steam may extend itself through the cylinder or through the whistle. Steady living, under the sweet pressure of genuine love for God, is vastly more eloquent than the most rhetorically sweet-sounding declaration by the human voice. There may be a religion without words; there can be none without deeds. The old proverb puts it well: "None preaches better than the ant, and she says nothing."—*Dr. Cuyler.*

IN commerce and trade Christianity has its indispensable place, and God's people their sphere of usefulness. The Golden Rule is the true Christian's yardstick; commerce becomes a cheat if it is disguised or broken. When a Church member defaults or swindler, he repeats the sin of Judas. Christ is betrayed, and men's faith in Bible integrity is so far shattered. A Christian merchant, manufacturer, or mechanic, has a call to serve Christ and save his fellow-men as much as any Gospel minister.—*Dr. Cuyler.*

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