

## The Quiet Hour

### Looking Back and Ahead

When it is hard to see any brightness in the present, let us find it in yesterday or in to-morrow. A trusting Christian woman whose life has been one long service of love for others, and whose dearest earthly companion was recently called on ahead into the life beyond, said in a letter written on Easter Sunday, "I am at home all day and entirely alone—a lonesome feast day. But I have precious memories and blessed hopes." There is treasure that no present blackness can take from us: what God has done, and what God will do. If our memories are precious, our hopes ought to be still more cherished: for we have His promise that the past is only an earnest of the future. *Sunday-School Times.*

### Nothing But God

David Grayson, in his autobiographical serial "Adventures in Contentment," tells about interviewing a scientist on his belief in God.

"I have been a botanist for fifty-four years," said the scientist. "When I was a boy I believed implicitly in God. I prayed to Him, having a vision of him—a person—before my eyes. As I grew older I concluded that there was no God. I dismissed Him from the universe. I believed only in what I could see, or hear, or feel. I talked about Nature, and Reality." He paused, the smile still lighting his face, evidently recalling to himself the old days. I did not interrupt him. Finally he turned to me and said abruptly: "And now—it seems to me—there is nothing but God."

### The Rest of God

Ruskin has said: "There is no music in rest, but there is the making of music in it." In our whole life melody, the music is broken off here and there by "rests," and we foolishly think we have come to the end of the time. God sends a time of forced leisure, sickness, disappointed plans, frustrated efforts and sudden pauses in the choral hymn of our lives, and we lament that our voices must be silent and our part missing in the music which goes up to the ear of the Creator. See him beat the time with unvarying count, and catch up the next note as if no breaking place had come between. Not without design does God write the music of our lives. Be it ours to learn the tune and not be dismayed by the "rests." They are not to be omitted. If we look up, God will beat the time for us. Psalm 46. 1, 10.—*Home Herald.*

### Making To-Morrow's Character

To-morrow's character is determined by to-day's action. Therefore, it is not only possible to control the future—it is our positive duty to do so. Whether we will or no, we are making or unmaking character to-day, for "character is habit crystallized." To recognize this ought to help us to take the higher ground always. No man can safely say that he will "take things easy" to-day, and to-morrow do differently. To-morrow may not come; but if it does come, he is less likely to do well than he was to-day, if to-day he has shoved character a peg downward. We have the privilege of looking at our every act as typical of our real and final character; and we have a duty to do so while each act awaits our decision. What is left of to-day may still be so regarded and so controlled, if the control is given to One who alone can overcome the past.

### No Time to Pray

There is many a business man to-day who will tell you he has no time to pray; his business is so pressing that he cannot call his family around him, and ask God to bless them. He is so busy that he cannot ask God to keep him and them from the temptations of the pre-ent life—the temptations of every day. "Business is so pressing." I am reminded of the words of an old Methodist minister: "If you have so much business to attend to that you have no time to pray, depend upon it you have more business on hand than God ever intended you should have."

But look at this man. He had the whole, or nearly the whole, of the king's business to attend to. He was prime minister, secretary of state, and secretary of the treasury, all in one. He had to attend to all his own work, and to give an eye to the work of lots of other men. And yet he found time to pray; not just now and then, nor once in a way, not just when he happened to have a few moments to spare, but "three times a day."—*D. L. Moody.*

### Arrows From Gipsy Smith

If you want to beat the devil you must fight him with the cradle.

There is a tremendous difference between thronging Jesus and touching Jesus.

Wrath is anger with the lid off. Malice is wrath cooled down into hatred—murder.

There are duties which when done faithfully are prayers.

I noticed when I was a boy that good gleaners had to be good stoopers. If you are going to help anybody you will have to stand a little higher than they are, or you won't lift them far.

Hot saints are sure to make lukewarm folk mad.

If you and I only had the vision of Calvary, we should never weary, we should never tire, we should never lose heart, we should never lose life.

The devil is like God in this, he is no respecter of persons. It is a good thing to kneel. It is not a weak thing or a mean thing to kneel. It may be child-like, but it is not childish.

If you don't mind, Jesus Christ will have to say, "I did all a God could do to save you, but you would not let me."

### Our Needs for To-Day

How significant, how exhilarating are these words! Not the life when we have passed the gate of pearl, but the life that is now; not our life when we stand on the brow of the transfiguration mount, but the life at home, or in the daily walks and common places of existence. It is possible that there is a life to be lived in the common round and the daily task, so royal, so radiant, so blessed, that those who live it may be said to reign in life.

Do you reign in life? If not the reason may be that you do not distinguish between *praying* and *talking*. There is a profound difference between entreating for a thing and appropriating it. You may admit that God's abundant grace is near you through Jesus Christ, and yet you may not quite see the necessity of learning how to take. Some people are always telegraphing to heaven for God to send a cargo of blessing to them; but they are not at the wharf-side to unload the vessel when it comes. How many of God's richest blessings for which you have been praying for years have come right close to you, but you do not know how to lay hold of and use them! Mark, "They which receive the abundance of grace shall reign." The emphasis is not on grace, not on abundance, but on *receiving* it; and the whole grace of God may be round your life to-day, but if you have not learned to take it in, it will do you no good.—*F. B. Meyer.*

### All There Is of It

Read with me Matthew vi. 22: "If thine eye be single, thy whole body shall be full of light." The single eye means a right choice as the controlling force of the life. The whole body means all that belongs to that life. First, we shall think right. Secondly, we shall feel right. Thirdly, we shall do right. This is the true religion. And this is all there is of it.

Religious processes under the Gospel are very rapid. Light travels at the rate of one hundred and ninety-five thousand miles in a second. The grace of God travels with a rapidity infinitely greater. Where heaven is, we know not; but we may be sure that communication with it is instantaneous to the responsive soul. The whole Bible illustrates this tremendous truth. To Christian experience it is a truth demonstrated. Light never travelled as swiftly as did the love of God that came down into the believing soul whose single eye was fixed on Jesus. Light never sped as fast as does the comfort poured into the trusting heart in the time of trouble. Material light in its motion would seem to be dull