

means, however, this intention of his came to the knowledge of Kosroes, who took counsel with his ministers as to what was to be done. All unanimously declared that the king should lose no time in seizing and binding in chains so dangerous a traitor.

In this opinion the king appeared to acquiesce, and, as soon as his ministers had retired, he caused Rustem to be summoned to his presence. Instead, however, of loading the discontented general with fetters, he loaded him with new benefits, and conferred upon him fresh honors. Kosroes expressed sorrow for the offence he had unwittingly given, extolled Rustem's services, and assured him repeatedly of his favor.

This confidence and magnanimity on the part of the king so greatly touched the proud man, that he not only abandoned his seditious plan, but was thenceforth the king's most devoted, unswerving adherent.

"See!" said Kosroes to his ministers, "I have taken your advice, and have bound Rustem with strong bands. For the hands and feet of a man several chains are required, but the heart needs only one. The chain of love, thrown around a noble heart, shall endure forever!"

May not this little story be to us a parable? As the Persian king treated Rustem, so has God dealt with us. When he beheld men, notwithstanding His goodness to them, rebelling against Him, He did not in wrath and indignation sweep them off the face of the earth. He did even more than Kosroes did for his misguided servant. Kosroes summoned Rustem into his presence, but our heavenly King came down into ours. He became one of us—a feeble infant, a working man, a patient sufferer, that thus he might win the love of us, His estranged subjects. In His own Person He has shown us that "even power itself hath not one half the might of gentleness." He has bound us for ever to Himself with the bright chain of love!

And, as God has treated us, so let us treat others. Taking our Master's easy yoke upon us, let us learn of Him. Forgiveness of injuries, gentleness, patience, kindness, are graces that spring up at the foot of the cross. "Be'oved," says St. John, "if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another." Love is the secret of success—the strongest power, the greatest thing in the world!

Life is a school—a training place,
Wherein we're taught by God's good grace.

One lesson is before us set,
Which we must strive by heart to get.

No other love than this we need;
Of all good things it is the seed.

In earth below, or heaven above,
There is no greater thing than love!

Hope Thou in God.

When David wrote the forty-second Psalm he was in great spiritual depression. Twice within the compass of those eleven verses he thus interrogates his soul, "Why art thou cast down, O my soul?" and "why art thou disquieted within me?"

It is well to inquire after the cause of our spiritual as well as of our bodily disorders, that we may seek and apply the appropriate remedy. That remedy in the case of the Psalmist was "hope in God." Twice, in reply to his interrogations, he says, "Hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise Him, who is the health of my countenance, and my God." And this is our best remedy in all our spiritual troubles. In Him we should make God our refuge and trust. We should hope in Him.

We should hope in His mercy. He is "very pitiful and of tender mercy." "His mercy is great unto the heavens." He is "full of compassion." A precious attribute is this of the infinite God; and by it we should be encouraged to hope in Him at all times, and to pour out our hearts before Him.

And we should hope in His grace. We are sinners, and it may be because of our sins that our troubles have come upon us. David was a sinner, and because of his sins he came into the deep waters. But where sin abounds grace much more abounds. The Lord is gracious as well as merciful, and He will abundantly pardon all penitent, broken-hearted sinners.

We should hope in the faithfulness of God. Exceeding great and precious are His promises. They are adapted to us in all our needs. And they are the promises of a God who cannot lie. We may depend on Him for their fulfilment. They have been spoken and recorded for our comfort! Whatever our trouble may be we need not despair. However cast down we may be, we need not yield to discouragement. We may still say to our soul: "Hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise Him, who is the health of my countenance, and my God."

And we may hope in the power of God. We may be in trouble, out of which we can see no way. To human view it may seem as though there were no way. The people of God have often been in such troubles as were Joseph in the pit, and Jonah in the belly of the whale, and Peter in prison. But we are never straitened in God. Out of the deepest depth we may cry unto Him, and He can hear and see and save. He is the "Almighty God," and however hopeless, to human view, our circumstances may be, we should still hope in Him. Do this, and we shall yet praise Him for sustaining and comforting, if not for delivering mercy.—Clericus.

Looking Forward.

Would I were as the fluttering leaf
That hangs on yonder tree,
My life as bright, and if as brief,
The dearer far to me.
I would not live till youth decay,
And all my fond hopes pass away,
No! I would be as yon frail leaf,
As lovely and as brief.

Or I would be the cooling breeze
That floats at sultry eve
To fading flowers and drooping trees,
And bids them cease to grieve;
That comes with healing on its wings,
And cheers each little bird that sings.
Yes! I would be the zephyrs sweet,
As welcome and as fleet.

Or rather let me bide my lot,
Whate'er that lot may be,
Seeking, craving, murmuring not,
But waiting patiently.
What matter if our youth decay,
And all our fond hopes pass away.
The longest life must have its close,
And death brings sweet repose.

How to Avoid Temptation.

A man once asked an Eastern king if he could tell him how to avoid temptation.

The king told the man to take a jug brimful of oil and to carry it through the streets of the city without spilling one drop. "If one drop is spilt," said the king, "your head shall be cut off." And he ordered two executioners with drawn swords to walk behind the man and to carry out his orders.

There happened to be a fair going on in the town, and the streets were crowded with people. However the man was very careful, and he returned to the king without having spilled one drop of the oil.

Then the king asked, "Did you see anyone whilst you were walking through the streets?"

"No," said the man, "I was thinking only of the oil—I noticed nothing else."

"Then," said the king, "you know how to avoid temptation. Fix your mind on God as firmly as you fixed them on the vessel of oil. You will not then be tempted to sin."

The Cathedral of the diocese of North Queensland, at Townsville, is making rapid progress. The walls are now up in most parts twenty feet above the ground, and some idea of the proportions of the building can be obtained. The wall is double throughout, with special arrangements for securing a thorough circulation of air. The building will soon be a prominent object of the town, and from the sea. The Bishop of North Queensland is returning to his diocese in the British India Steamship Company's ship, *Tara*, which sailed recently. His Lordship is accompanied by a clergyman, and another will shortly follow.

Hints to Housekeepers.

To make a good apple pie is an art, but here is a carefully prepared receipt: Stew some tart cooking apples until perfectly tender, and rub through a sieve. To one quart of apples (which will make two pies) add sugar to sweeten to taste. Three gills will be sufficient if the apple is not too acid. Stir in a half pound of nice butter and flavor with nutmeg, or lemon if you prefer. Line a pie plate with puff paste, fill with apple and put on a top crust of the same pastry; pierce it with a fork and bake a pale brown. All pies and puddings should be removed at once from the tin plates on which they are cooked, to white ware plates which have been heated, to prevent the pastry from gathering moisture by being put on a cold plate.

ESSENTIALS OF GOOD COFFEE.—To have the perfection of coffee these things are essential: the best quality of coffee and plenty of it, boiling water, just fifteen minutes to cook, loaf-sugar and cream, and serving at once. Take two gills of Java coffee, ground not too fine, mix it in a bowl to a smooth paste with the white of half an egg and a little cold water. Put it in the coffee-pot that has been well scalded, and pour in one quart of boiling water. Set it on an oil-stove and boil briskly just fifteen minutes. Take off and let it settle for a minute and pour at once in your coffee-cups, in each of which you will put loaf sugar and rich, sweet cream in quantities to suit your guests. Serve it immediately. Its virtue departs in steady ratio with its heat.

CREAMED OYSTERS.—One quart oysters, one cupful milk with a tiny pinch of soda dissolved in it, one cupful of oyster liquor, three tablespoonfuls of butter, two tablespoonfuls of flour, one egg, juice of half a lemon, pepper and salt. Cook the butter and flour together until they bubble; add the milk and oyster liquor, and stir until you have a thick sauce. Into this drop the oysters free from the liquor. Have ready an egg beaten lightly in a cup, mix some of the hot sauce with it, turn all back into the saucepan, stir one minute—no longer—and take from the fire. Season with pepper, salt and lemon juice. Have ready buttered scallop shells, fill them with the creamed oysters, sprinkle lightly with crumbs, dot thickly with bits of butter, and brown delicately in a quick oven. Eat very hot.

ALMOND BLANC MANGE.—Boil a quart of milk with half a pound of sifted sugar, adding either vanilla or bitter almonds to flavor it. Remove from the fire; have an ounce of gelatine previously steeped in cold water for two hours. Add this to the still hot milk and set over the fire for one more boil-up. Then pour it into a cold, wetted mold to set.

WHEN NATURE SMILES AGAIN.—When nature smiles again in the mild spring days, mankind often groans from the effects of bad blood and kindred troubles engendered by the long hard winter. Remove the cause of all the trouble by purifying your blood with nature's remedy, Burdock Blood Bitters, the best blood searcher and tonic ever discovered.

HAVE YOU SEEN IT?—The new Egyptian Dream Book is creating quite a stir. Whether you believe in dreams and visions or not, it will interest and instruct all who read it, as it contains full interpretations of a complete list of dreams with other attractive features. Sent by return mail on receipt of 3 cent stamp; T. Milburn & Co., Toronto, Ont.

FOR YOUNG OR OLD.—Gentlemen,—One of my little girls (aged 4 years) had been troubled with costiveness in its worst form since infancy. We tried different remedies which gave relief while using, but as soon as discontinued she would be worse than before using. She lost her appetite and was growing weak and delicate. A friend of mine who had used B. B. B. with grand results for the same disease, advised me to try it, and also the Burdock Pills, which we did. She did not take the contents of one bottle before it relieved her, and not only relieved her but permanently cured her, for she has not been troubled once since, and she is now eight years old. Henry Reynolds, Sarnia, Ont.