

## Christian Miscellany.

### "ALMOST A CHRISTIAN."

"Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian."—Acts  
xvi. 28.

Oh, what a countless host there are that stand  
Among the "almost Christian," halting band !  
Whose knowledge of the way of life seems clear,  
And yet no fruits of righteousness appear.  
That cold, dead faith that rests but in the head  
No living influence can ever shed ;

'Tis WITH THE HEART the child of God believes,  
The gospel tidings gladly he receives.  
His faith its heavenly origin can prove,  
It triumphs o'er the world, and works by love.  
Profession's empty lamp will not avail  
When the great Bridegroom comes His saints to hail :

Those foolish souls that have not loved Him  
here

Will not among that favoured band appear  
Who grace the triumph of their Lord's return ;  
They have no oil. Ah ! whither shall they turn ?  
In vain will they entreat the wise in heart,  
No portion of their oil can they impart ;  
Their lamps were kindled first by power divine,  
And, fed by grace, will never cease to shine.  
Alas ! eternal darkness and disgrace  
Await those souls that lack the oil of grace !

M. A. H. N.

### FAINT NOT.

Weights thy cross heavily,  
Dear child of God ?  
Treadest thou wearily  
Under its load ?

Think of that heavier cross  
Once borne for thee !  
Forget thy pain and loss  
In Calvary.

Let not thy heart despond ;  
Strength will be given.  
Think of the rest beyond :  
Sweet rest of heaven.

God will His child sustain.  
His Word is sure ;  
He'll make all loss thy gain ;  
Through Him endure. C. I. C.

### THE WIDOW'S CANDLE.

A poor widow in her penury allowed herself the one luxury of a half-hour's candle-light after her toilsome day was done ; and this was that she might read her precious Bible. Experience had taught her how far it would burn in a half-hour. So it was her custom to

light it for a few moments, and read such a portion as she thought she could remember ; then to blow out her light and think over what she had read. So she continued to do until the mark on her candle was reached.

Such meditations, joined with humble prayer, could not fail to extract the pure honey from the precious honeycomb. The joy of the evening feast more than made amends for all the day's ills. She lived the truths she had thus made her own ; and was truly "mighty in the Scriptures."

We can never gain the Gospel gold except we delve for it. Careless reading over a chapter or two will never secure it. Better one verse with meditation, than the whole book read thoughtlessly.

### THE COST OF MISSIONS.

Prof. Max Müller, in a lecture some time since delivered in England, on Missionary and Non-missionary Religions, showed conclusively the error of those who claim that missionary efforts are too expensive. He said :

"What, it may be asked, is the use of missionaries ? Why should we spend millions on foreign missions, when there are children in our cities who are allowed to grow up in ignorance ? Why should we deprive ourselves of some of the noblest, boldest, most ardent, and devoted spirits, and send them into the wilderness, while so many laborers are wanted in the vineyard at home ?

"It is right to ask these questions ; and we ought not to blame those political economists who tell us that every convert costs us \$1,000, and that at the present rate of progress it would take more than two hundred thousand years to evangelize the world. There is nothing at all startling in these figures. Every child born in Europe is as much