

SELECTIONS.

All misery is God unknown.—Geo. Macdonald

A cradle, a cross, and a grave, all of His father's appointing, must Jesus have, in order to open a fountain of living water to the world.—Christmas Evans.

That we are opposed in our gospel work may be a good sign. It may be the best of all proof that we are doing something to some good purpose, that our power is felt.

So long as a man lives in this world, he has to consider others than himself in all questions of pleasure or of toil. Not until the soul has left the body is a man's body in a dwelling-place "just his own measure, long enough and broad enough to hold himself, with room for no one else." While the soul is in the body, its sphere is larger than a coffin's size.—S. S. Times.

Inclination may run in the same direction as duty; but the direction of inclination does not in itself decide the direction of duty. When duty runs in the opposite direction from inclination, the only safe thing to do is to go in the opposite direction from that of inclination. In other words, it is often the case that one must have a care to do what he doesn't want to do, and not to do what he does want to do.—S. S. Times.

It is narrated of two Jewish patriots—Pappus and his brother Julian—that, knowing their firm resolve not to drink Pagan wine lest they should seem to sanction idolatry, Rufus, the Roman governor, ordered water to be served to them, but in glasses so colored that it should look to the multitude as though they were drinking wine. Seeing at once the object of the deception, they sternly refused the water, and faced death by terrible martyrdom rather than taste it. This was a noble spirit: it is one more of the many illustrations from the lives of the truly brave and heroically good, that they will not only refuse to do wrong—but that they will not even suffer it to be imagined that they countenance wrong, when their actual conduct is right.

VALUE OF READING.

"Reading is an educator; whether it is a good or bad educator depends on what you read. Read good literature. The best books are within the reach of the most meagre purse. Your trouble is perhaps not want of money, but want of time. No! We all have time enough to learn if we have wisdom enough to use the fragments of our time. Henry Ward Beecher used to read between the courses at the dinner-table and, when he got interested in his book, would take it for his dessert. Hugh Miller lay prone before the fire studying while his companions were whiling away the time in idle jest and stories. Schliemann, as a boy, standing in queue at the post office and waiting his turn for letters, utilized the time by studying Greek from a little pocket grammar in his hand. The man who uses his fragments of time has nearly one month more in the year than his neighbor who is wasteful of the precious commodity."—Irish Advocate.

LIVING CHURCHES.

The wish to spread the knowledge of the love of Jesus Christ is a strong overmastering impulse in every man, in every woman, who really knows and loves him. The absence of any kind of anxiety for the spread of the truth implies spiritual death. The man who knows the happiness of "peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ," cannot but desire that other men should share it; and this desire, in its higher, its stronger, its more heroic form, is one of the greatest gifts of God to his church. Churches are generally living churches in exact ratio of their missionary anxiety.—Canon Liddon.

Every person is, in one way or another, changed by his accidental or his purposed contact with external forms of evil. If he resists or rebukes them, he is purified, strengthened, and ennobled. If he countenances or yields himself to them, he is weakened and degraded. It is not the stone in our pathway that throws us down; but it is our own blindness to it, or our disregard of it, that causes us to stumble; for the stumbling is only a part of our own motion. We would do well to consider that external evils do not harm us, but that we harm ourselves by our attitude toward, and our conduct with relation to, them.—S. S. Times.

OCCUPATION IN HEAVEN.

The enterprising "interviewer" of The New York Herald has been improving his time by extracting information from eminent divines on what may be the way in which people will be employed in Heaven. Instead of honestly telling the young man that they did not know, and that idle conjectures on the subject were both profitless and perplexing, the reverend gentlemen visited talked over the whole subject with all the readiness and all the confidence to be expected in a discussion of the rooms and revenues, the duties and delights of the old home-stead in which they had lived for sixty years. Dr. Talmage was specially copious in his remarks and confident in his descriptions. He evidently carries a ground plan of the entire place in his vest pocket, and there was not an incident in the home life of all these upper regions with which he was not entirely familiar. Who told Talmage that the scholar "would know more in a second after getting to Heaven than Faraday or Newton ever learned during all their earthly lives"? Who told Dr. Paxton that there would be "no eternal loafing round the throne"? The fact of the matter is that all such oracular talk is idle trifling. The Bible has a better plan. What it says of Heaven is more by negatives than in any other way, and both reporters and divines might be better employed than in mooning, dreaming and speculating about that of which, beyond the few hints given in the Scriptures, they know and can know positively nothing.—Toronto Globe.

DANGER POINTS IN MARRIAGE.

The number of divorces and separations occurring in different periods of married life tells its own story plainly, clearly. The blending of two lives, the harmonizing of two different temperaments, the adjustment of personal incompatibilities in marriage is a thing of time. In true love-marrriages the parties have at least a good start, and it counts for much in favor of happiness. But, even in marriages of love based on esteem, there is more or less of disillusion, especially, perhaps, to the wife, and, when the glamour is gone, danger to the family begins. It is then that the sense of duty is all in all to the wedded pair. If they remember for a while that in marriage love is a sworn duty, they will by-and-by have less need to remember it. The first five years of marriage are dangerous; the second lustrum is still more dangerous; and the moral rents and strains which lead to subsequent disasters are apt to take place during those first perilous years. As time goes on the danger lessens, and perhaps we may believe that happiness, more real if less exuberant and buoyant, is increased. The last years of married life are probably the best. Even the last years of marriage, as the French statistics show, may end in turmoil, but not, we think, unless there has been turmoil all along. The habit of happiness and peace is not likely to be broken up after thirty years of dutiful behavior.—Churchman.

I have seen beneath a microscope a seed three thousand years old start into instant germination when touched with a drop of warm water. So a human soul apparently lifeless begins to grow when touched by the immortal water of life.—Canon Wilberforce.

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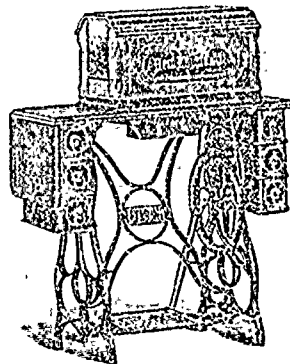
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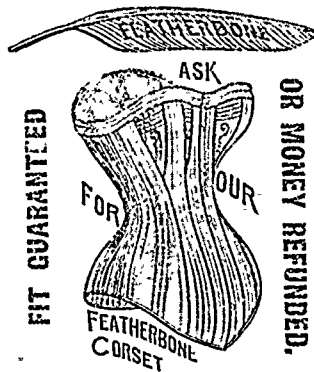
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NOTE.—The above DIAGRAM illustrates the comparative worth of various Baking Powders, as shown by Chemical Analysis and experiments made by Prof. Schedler. A pound can of each powder was taken, the total leavening power or volume in each can calculated, the result being as indicated. This practical test for worth by Prof. Schedler only proves what every observant consumer of the Royal Baking Powder knows by practical experience, that, while it costs a few cents per pound more than ordinary kinds, it is far more economical, besides affording the advantage of better work. A single trial of the Royal Baking Powder will convince any fair-minded person of these facts.

* While the diagram shows some of the alum powders to be of a comparatively high degree of strength, it is not to be taken as indicating that they have any value. All alum powders, no matter how high their strength, are to be avoided as dangerous.