

GOD'S BURDENS.

I long had borne a heavy load
 Along life's rough and thorny road,
 And often-times had wondered why
 My friend walked burdenless, while I
 Was forced to carry day by day,
 The cross which on my shoulders lay:
 When, lo, one day the Master laid
 Another cross on me. Dismayed,
 And faint and trembling and distressed
 I cried, "Oh! I have longed for rest
 These many days. I cannot bear
 This other heavy load of care.
 I pray thee, Lord, behold this one—
 Shall I bear both while he has none?"
 No answer came. The cross was laid
 On my poor back, and I was weighed
 Down to the earth. And as I went
 Toiling along and almost spent,
 Again I cried, "Lord, have I been
 Untrue to thee? Is it for sin
 That I have done, that I must still
 Carry this cross against my will?"
 "My child," the Master's voice returned,
 "Hast thou not yet the lesson learned?
 The burden thou hast borne so long
 Hath only made thee grow more strong.
 And fitted thee to bear for me
 This other load I lay on thee.
 Thy brother is too weak as yet
 To have a cross upon him set.
 God's burdens rest upon the strong,
 They stronger grow who bear them long,
 And each new burden is a sign
 That greater power to bear is thine."
 So now no longer I repine
 Because a heavy cross is mine,
 But struggle onward with the prayer,
 "Make me more worthy, Lord, to bear."

—Sel.

SYMMETRICAL DEVELOPMENT.

The symmetrical development of a tree is an agreeable thing to watch. Its growth in size, in height, in beauty, from a little sapling till its altitude and its circumference tempt the birds to build nests in its branches, while its shade is grateful to every passer-by—all this is a very pleasant thing to observe.

And even more delightful thing is to watch a character developing and strengthening through successive years.

You knew a sweet child, a school girl. She was distinguished for fidelity, for diligence, for amiability, for conscientious attention to every task.

Then the child went away; one day, you couldn't tell the exact moment, but you remember it, there was a bright, blithe maiden in her place. A maiden whom everybody loved, at whose feet the youthful knights laid their trophies.

It came to pass, in the natural order of events, that one of the most persistent knights won the lady's heart. You were at the wedding. The bride was bewitching, radiant; the husband proud and happy.

There followed in the bride's wake the fair young matron. She was as charming as at any earlier period, bringing to bear on her new duties the same characteristics which were hers in earlier life. These were halcyon days, serene and tranquil exceedingly.

By-and-by the matron was numbered among the blessed among women, who bear babes and cradle them in rejoicing arms. Never was she so sweet, so winsome, so tender, so discreet, as now. And still her character is going on, beautiful with the beauty of a rarely symmetrical development.—*Christian Intelligencer*.

THE LORD WAS HIS HELPER.

A MERCHANT in New York had pledged to the Lord a certain portion of his business receipts as fast as they were collected. He called this the Lord's insurance money. "For," said he, "so long as I give, so long will the Lord help and bless me, and in some way will give me the means to give. It is a blessing to my heart to keep it open in gratitude; a blessing to dispose of it to gladden other hearts, and the surest way to keep the Lord's favor with me."

The results of his experience were blessed, indeed, as he said, "I never realized before how he helps me in all my business plans."

"Things happen daily which show me that someone who knows more than I is protecting me. Bad debts have been paid that I did not expect. Errand boys getting into sly and bad habits have been discovered ere their thefts had proceeded far. As I needed competent help in my business, it has come just as it was wanted."

"When customers were about to fail somehow their debts to me were paid although they failed to pay others."

"A severe fire came to my office and seemed to have swept all my valuables away. But it was stopped at just the right moment, and not one thing valuable was lost. The insurance companies paid me enough to replace every damage, and the office was renewed better than before. The Lord sends me business enough to pay my debts, while others are dull."

"I cannot tell why it is except that I always pray for my business, and ask the Lord to bless it for the good of others, and that the means which come from it may be used for his cause."

"When I stop giving, business stops coming. When I stop praying for it, perplexities arise. As long as I pray for it, all moves easily, and I have no care or trouble."

"The Lord is my banker, my insurer, my deliverer, my patron and my blessed guardian of temporal things as well as spiritual."—*The Wonders of Prayer*.

By every Scripture prophecy and promise, and by every unfolding of Providence, Christ is just now saying to his church, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature!" He buttresses up the command and commission by the declaration, "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth," and by the promise, "Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the age." His omnipotence, omnipresence, eternity, are on our side. And if this world-wide work were but taken up by the church with the determination that no creature should be left without the gospel, it would again be written, "And they went forth and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following. Amen."—A. T. Pierson, D. D.

It is scarcely a figure of speech to say that "woman is the corner-stone of heathenism." Notwithstanding their degradation, heathen mothers have immense power over their sons. The fear of a mother's curse prevents many Chinamen from listening to the claims of the gospel. An intelligent Hindu exclaims: "It is the women who maintain the system of Hinduism." Christ and his gospel are the only levers that have raised the nations. But in all the Orient only a woman's hand can adjust these levers to the corner-stone.—*Mission Studies*.

He that hath light thoughts of sin never had great thoughts of God.