

### Why are you not a Christian?

Is it because you are afraid of ridicule, and of what others may say of you?

"Whosoever shall be ashamed of me and of my words of him shall the Son of Man be ashamed."

"Is it because of the inconsistencies of professing Christians?"

"Every one of us shall give an account of himself to God."

Is it because you are not willing to give all to Christ?

"What shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world and lose his own soul?"

Is it because you are afraid that you will not be accepted?

"Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out."

Is it because you are too great a sinner?

"The blood of Jesus Christ cleanseth from all sin."

Is it because you are afraid you will not "hold out?"

"He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ."

Is it because you are thinking that you will do as well as you can, and that God ought to be satisfied with that?

"Whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all."

Is it because you are postponing this matter, without any definite reason?

"Boast not thyself of to-morrow, for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth."

### Beautiful Anecdote of a Great Man.

UPON KEEPING ONE'S WORD.

Sir William Napier was one day taking a long country walk near Freshford, when he met a little girl about five years old sobbing over a broken bowl. She had dropped and broken it in bringing it back from the field to which she had taken her father's dinner in it, and she said she would be beaten on her return home for having broken it; then, with a sudden gleam of hope, she innocently looked up into his face and said: "But ye can mend it, can't ye?" My father explained that he could not mend the bowl, but the trouble he could, by the gift of a sixpence to buy another. However, on opening his purse it was empty of silver, and he had to make amends by promising to meet his little friend in the same spot at the same hour the next day, and to bring the sixpence with him, bidding her meanwhile tell her mother she had seen a gentleman who would bring her the money for the bowl next day. The child, entirely trusting him, went on her way comforted. On his return home he found an invitation awaiting him to dine at Bath the following evening to meet with some one whom he specially wished to see. He hesitated for some little time, trying to calculate the possibility of giving the meeting to his little friend of the broken bowl and of still being in time for the dinner party in Bath; but finding this could not be, he wrote to decline accepting the invitation on the plea of a "pre-engagement," saying to us; "I cannot disappoint her, she trusted me so implicitly."

### How to Succeed.

A gentleman, who is now a prosperous merchant, in conversation with a representative of the *Economist*, said that his life was changed by a simple performance of duty:

I was clerk behind the counter of a large retail store in Boston, at a small salary. I had been out of work some time, and when I secured the position in Boston I was thankful, and made a mental promise that I would perform my duties thoroughly. I had been working for two days with poor success; trade had been quiet, and it was difficult to get any customers. I felt somewhat down-hearted because my counter had been idle for some time. A customer making his appearance, I tried my utmost to effect a sale, but, do what I might, I could not please the man. Everything was either too light or too dark, and if the color was selected to his satisfaction, the quality was not what he desired. I have a quick temper, and at times during the transaction I felt

that I could strangle the customer; but I quickly curbed my temper and went at him tooth and nail. I felt that my reputation as a salesman was at stake, and it was a question of conquer or be conquered. At last I made the sale, and with it came a great satisfaction; but I was not done with the man yet. I wanted to sell him more. He said something about sending his wife around to look at some dress goods. I promised to send some samples of new patterns as they arrived. The customer thanked me and said:

"It has taken you a long time to sell me a few goods. Are all your customers as hard to please as I?"

"It takes some customers but a short time to make their selections, while others wish to go slower; we are bound to please them all," I answered.

"Does it pay your house to devote so much time to so small a sale?" he inquired again.

"Yes," I replied. "I have taken pains to give you what you want. I know you will find the goods as I say. You will have confidence and come again, and next time it will not take so long."

After getting his package he walked out of the store. In three days I mailed samples of the new dress goods to his wife, and the circumstances passed entirely out of my mind. In about a month I was transferred to another counter, and received a slight advance in wages. Much to my astonishment, I was taken away from this department after only a month or six weeks' trial, and placed in another position. I could not believe that I was not giving satisfaction, because with each change an increase of wages was made. One morning I was informed that Mr. B. wished to see me. I went to the office with surprise and some fear. I was more surprised when I saw sitting beside my employer my customer of a few months back. He proved to be the money partner of the concern, whose other business interests kept him away from the dry goods store almost entirely, and he was known to but a few of his employees, although he knew that I was a new man as soon as he saw me, and thought to see what metal I was made of. That he was satisfied is proved by his making me a buyer of the several departments where I sold goods. My prosperity began with the tough customer, and now I thank goodness that I got him, and that I did not show my disposition to strangle him.

### What is She Doing?

That is the brief question asked of a young girl who is, as we commonly phrase it, "Out of school." It is taken for granted that she is doing something, for it is not to be supposed that, having spent years in study, she becomes an idler so soon as her school days are over. The answer, no doubt, must be a general one. She is taking up new studies, beginning a course of reading, seeking a school, or starting out as a teacher, opening an office as stenographer and typewriter, learning to make bread, or even studying medicine. Any one of these is good. A single one of them, perhaps, is all that a few persons need care for. But for the average girl it is safe to advise that she should, if she has not done so already, give careful attention to household duties, and thus learn to cook, bake, sew, mend—in short, "keep house." And then along with this she should seek such cultivation of her mind as her training in school and her present opportunities make possible.

### Sisters Duties to Brothers.

A ruin woman alone can rebuild is the carelessness with which "brothers" are treated. Some sisters forget that the first, and often most enduring impressions men receive of the sex, come through their sister's actions. Is the girl a vain, petty, selfish being, never considering the brother's needs? Is it any wonder if the brother thinks all girls are like his sister? Sisters should seek to be the friends of their brothers. Their gentle, virtuous conduct may do much to create a right tone in the brother's mind, and will inevitably refine and help him. You, dear girls, can, and you are doing very much in shaping a young man's habits. If

the sister shares his youthful troubles, advises him in difficulties, makes his home attractive, refuses to listen or to mix in any wild conversation, seeks to lead him into the right conception of manhood's privileges, in short, becomes a loving companion, then I am sure that many a youth who now sees in girls only vain, giddy creatures, will have that exalted view of womanhood which will be a safeguard in the days to come. Try to be the angel of the home to the brother. If you have failed here, begin to build this very day. God will give you strength.

### Two Sides.

It is difficult for any of us to realize that we can occupy a ridiculous position. Others are capable of rendering themselves absurd, but as for ourselves, our perfections only are visible to the world, and it must be a flippant person indeed who can find matter in jesting in our absolutely decorous behaviour.

A young man boarding one summer at a hotel was wont to entertain two ladies of his acquaintance with ridiculous imitations of the peculiarities displayed by other guests in the house. They were ashamed to laugh, but it was impossible to help it, in the face of such truthful travesty.

"Well," said one of them to the other after an evening of hilarity. "I hope the others enjoy it as much as we do."

"What others?"

"Why, the people to whom he makes fun of us," was the reply.

"You don't suppose he does that!" was the innocent response. "There is nothing in us to be made fun of!"

But there was, and the young man had seen and made use of it.

Indeed, there is always something reciprocal about the relation of life; there are always two sides to a question, not inevitably similar, but capable of balancing each other. Let none of us forget that we, as well as our neighbors, live in glass houses, and that none of us can claim a monopoly of stone-throwing.

### Hints to Housekeepers.

**APPLE CUSTARD.**—Boil 2 lbs of good apples to a pulp in the usual way, with a cupful of water and sugar, and flavouring to taste. Beat the pulp well with an ounce of butter and the whites of three eggs, well whisked. Beat till the mixture is perfectly smooth, light and firm, then turn it into a well-buttered piedish, and bake in a brisk oven until thoroughly set and nicely coloured. This custard is delightful eaten either hot or cold. Dust a little fine sugar over the top before serving.

**BREAKFAST ROLLS, STUFFED.**—These form a novel and attractive breakfast dish. Take half a dozen small breakfast rolls, made in the form of a sausage about 4 inches long; cut them in half, lengthwise, nearly but not quite through, and scoop out part of the inside so as to leave a good-sized cavity. Fill this with any remains there may be at hand of cooked ham, poultry, or game. The meat should be finely minced, seasoned, and moistened with a little milk. Close the rolls again and arrange them very tastefully on a dish, covered either with a napkin or a dish paper, and serve hot.

**KIDNEY AND BACON.**—Trim away the fat from the kidneys, skin them, and cut each one in slices the round way. Mix together a tablespoonful of flour, half a teaspoonful of salt, and a quarter of a teaspoonful of pepper. Dip the slices of kidney into this and fry them in a little hot butter or dripping for about five minutes. When done arrange them neatly in the centre of a hot dish and place round the edge thin slices of toasted or fried bacon. Pour the fat out of the frying-pan, keeping back the brown sediment which remains at the bottom of the pan. Mix smoothly a teaspoonful of flour with half a teacupful of cold water and pour it into the pan. Add a pinch of salt and a tablespoonful of mushroom catsup; stir the sauce over the fire till it boils, then pour it over the kidneys and serve very hot. The sauce should be as thick as cream.

## Children

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