

LATIMER.

It is related of Latimer, that when he once preached before that tyrant, Henry VIII., he took a plain, straightforward text and in his sermon assailed those very sins for which the monarch was notorious, and he was stung to the quick, for truth always finds a response in the worst man's conscience. He would not bend beneath the authority of his God; but sent for Latimer, and said: "Your life is in jeopardy, if you do not recant all you said to-day when you preach next Sunday." The trimming courtiers were all anxious to know the consequences of this, and the chapel was crowded. The venerable man took his text, and after a pause, began with a soliloquy, thus:

"Now, Hugh Latimer, bethink thee, thou art in the presence of thy earthly monarch—thy life is in his hands, and if thou dost not suit his fancies, he will bring down thy grey hairs to the grave; but Hugh Latimer, bethink thee, thou art in the presence of the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords, who hath told thee, 'fear not them that kill the body, and can do no more; but rather fear him who can kill both body and soul, and cast thee into hell forever!' Yea, I say, Hugh Latimer, fear him."

He then went on, and not only repeated what he had before advanced, but, if possible, enforced it with greater emphasis. After he had finished, Henry sent for him, and said: "How durst thou insult thy monarch so?" Latimer replied, "I thought if I were unfaithful to my God, I could not be loyal to my King." The King embraced the good old Bishop, exclaiming, "There is yet one man left who is bold enough to tell me the truth."

LORD, WHAT WILT THOU HAVE ME TO DO?—"Whatsoever thy hand findeth," of all the varied forms of kindness and of good. Stand in your lot and work around you; in your own home; in your own neighborhood, your own town, county, or State, and if God enlarge the ability and opportunity, "break forth upon the right hand and upon the left;" but don't wait for a large field; cultivate the spot you have and help your neighbors.

Don't forget the prayer-meeting and the Sabbath school; nor "to do good and communicate," for "with such sacrifices God is well pleased."

Remember that to put a sound Gospel tract into a family, is like giving them a draught of the water of life; to put there an evangelical volume is like furnishing them a "water-pot of two or three firkins;" (nay, some volumes might rather be likened to a reservoir) but to supply them with the Bible is to open a fountain of living waters by the very hearthstone. It is like planting a perennial spring in the travellers track across the Great Sahara.

Do any of all these, and a blessing shall return into your own bosom and God shall be glorified in you.

I know no evil under the sun so great as the abuse of the understanding, and yet there is no one vice more common.