

or under a bed." Many a lonely heart has been cheered by a very little lamp. Our light may be to some tempest tossed soul what the north star is to one lost in the desert or in the forest, it may guide some weary wanderer to a haven of rest.

Our little duty, small though it be, may be the little leaven in the little lump of some one else, or the mustard seed that, if properly nourished, will grow to be a large plant.

Are we willing to be responsible for the withholding of the talent God has given us? and to return it to him unused? If we do, will it not be taken from us and given to one more faithful?

Our manna may be furnished each day as was the manna of old. If so, it must be used when given, or on the morrow it may be of no account. An opportunity once gone is gone forever, and unless our work is given to another, there is a link missing which can never be replaced. Who can estimate the loss to the world of one little duty left undone?

Do we say, "Send some one else, O Lord, but not me?" and thus rebel against God's command. Do we feel incompetent? Then we are doubting God's judgment or the strength of his sustaining arm.

Perhaps our powers have been weakened by inactivity, or by being used in a way that God does not approve. As the physical strength is increased by judicious exercise, so is the spiritual. The unused muscle is almost powerless, or our supposed inability may be caused by lack of effort. We do not wish to be outstripped by others in domestic or intellectual pursuits, but seem to think it a great virtue to plead littleness and uselessness in society work of any kind. We lead ourselves and sometimes others to think that we really cannot do anything, when by arousing ourselves to action, we and those around us, are often astonished to see what can be done by a very little exertion.

But you say "What is my duty?" In

what line does God wish me to work? I will answer in the language of the Bible: "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not, and it shall be given him." "And all things whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing ye shall receive." "Ask and it shall be given you; seek and ye shall find; knock and it shall be opened unto you." We must not stand idly by. We must ask and seek and knock for ourselves, or we may receive nothing.

And again, "Even so, faith, if it hath not works, is dead being alone." Although we ask in faith and receive, we must work. We must carry out the impressions we have received in answer to our prayers. We must also be careful that we have not given the answer ourselves that we desired instead of waiting for divine directions. Ye ask and receive not because ye ask amiss.

But we say, "I cannot carry out the desire of my heart, I know what should be done but I cannot do it." "Wait upon the Lord and he will renew thy strength." "God is our refuge and our strength." If we do our part, we will have strength for every duty required of us.

Now, with God for our teacher, our refuge and our strength, what more can we ask? Just this, "Lord, heal me of mine infirmity," and he will heal us.

If we have strength and faith and a desire to work, the next step is action.

Then sow, for the hours are fleeting,
And the seed must fall to-day,
And care not what hand shall reap it,
Or if we shall have passed away
Before the waving cornfield
Shall have gladdened the summer day."

Let us not be discouraged if we do not see the fruits of our labor at once. Remember, "Paul may plant and Apollis water but God shall give the increase," and he will do so in his own good time if we are faithful to our trust.

K.

A recent invention is a cradle which rocks by clockwork mechanism and at the same time plays baby tunes.