

of life." If there is anything wrong with the main-spring, you can't trust the watch, even though it has a solid gold case. And human nature is very like a watch in many respects, but chiefly in this. If a man's heart is not right you can't trust the man. The culture of his manners, the size of his bank account, the breadth of his knowledge will not compensate for an ill-affected heart. The influence of education, the restraint of environment, the fear of his associates, may be forces which, in their combined effect, will produce a man of absolutely unquestionable reputation; but put his manufactured character under pressure, remove any one or more of these factors in its making, and the unchanged heart of the man will assert itself, and show what in reality he is. So many popular idols, by a subsequent fall into the slough of passion and dishonor, have proven the truth of this statement that I do not need to quote examples. What the Old Book says is forever coming true, "As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he."

A tendency of the age is to lay too much stress upon externals. The folly of ritualism is not confined to the Church of Rome or our High Church Episcopalian brethren. It is to be found wherever a man conforms to a certain standard of living merely for the sake of appearances, and I fear the Presbyterian, Methodist, and other evangelical bodies harbor not a few of such. But God looketh not on the outward appearance, and has little regard for externals; He judges men by hearts, and needeth no man to tell Him, for He knows what is in men. This, then, is the important matter with which to concern ourselves. Public opinion will not be accepted as verdict on our characters when God sits to judge. I do not minimize the importance of our attitude manward; but the chief thing is to be right, and true, and approved in our Godward attitude. This is the thing that should give us thought. It is the only care a Christian has right to possess, but it is a care the weight of which he ought to feel—"Is my relation to God in this matter right? Does He approve?" Until these questions are settled there are no others that need to be considered. But how often, as a matter of fact, do they have first place and supreme weight in the judgments we make concerning plans and purposes? To what extent are our daily life, our business, our social relations, our religious duties shaped and moulded by them? The trivial arguments we weigh and measure with infinite care. Shall I? or, shall I not? Convenience, inclination, appearance, profit, what "they" will say: these things count high. Do they? They are absolutely worthless apart from the first supreme question, "Does God want it? Will God approve?"

One of the best remedies for this very common and very sad condition is the keeping of the Quiet Hour. In the silence of the morning, with mind still free from the cares and business of the day, it is possible to turn one's thoughts toward the eternal and to be in heart-touch with God as at no other time. While other sounds are hushed, He is able to speak and to reveal Himself and His purposes for us in the still, small voice of Divine communication. It is in this way that we can find our place in God's plan, and get in tune for the work of the day. Here upon our knees we can see things in their true perspective, and realize how trivial are many of the matters upon which we are apt to lay much stress, and from which we too often derive vexation and worry. In contact with the Eternal the mind grows

clear, and our spiritual vision is quickened to penetrate the mists of the material, to see beyond the unrealities of the temporal and to apprehend in some measure, however imperfect, that the only abiding thing is the doing of God's will—that nothing else is of any importance. To grasp this truth, to build upon it, to weave it into one's life of thought and action, is to become established in heart, for it is written, "He that doeth the will of God abideth forever."

Heart Harmonies.

"Acquaint thyself with Jesus," "O, Saviour teach us," "Jesus, I am resting," "On Thee my heart," "There is a place," "Blessed assurance," "In Christ is love," "On Christ, the solid rock," "Out of my bondage."

Foundation Stones.

A man is just as great as the purpose of his heart. The heart life is the only life upon which God sets any value.

God's scheme to save the race does not emphasize change of conditions so much as change of heart.

An established heart is one that has aligned itself with the will of God, and throbs in harmony with the Father's heart of love.

Whether there many be who thrive
In their vast suit for that vast love
Truly I know not,—this I know:
That love lives not in outward show;
That but to seek is not to strive;
That thankless praises, empty prayers,
Can claim no bond for will of theirs
His court to move.

A Heart in Tune With God's Will.

There are several wrong ways of trying to make God's will our will, and young Christians are apt to make mistakes in this.

One wrong way is the way of agonized striving. We set our teeth, so to speak, and seem to say, "I will be reconciled to God's will; I will give up; I will choose God's way." Instead of actually and absolutely giving up and yielding, we strive and struggle and groan about it, and do not actually do it. . . . Another wrong way we may call the partial way. We offer in our hearts to give up to God almost everything, to accept His will in all but one particular, to open every door of our heart but one. But God never enters to take full possession until He can have the whole. . . . The right way of making God's will our will is, as usual, Christ's way. "Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus." . . . Take this matter to the Lord Himself. In your morning watch to-morrow (I hope you keep it every day) sit alone before God for fifteen minutes; lay aside every ambition, every pride, every thought of pre-eminence; empty yourself (there is no other way for it); open your soul and your spirit thus emptied for the infilling of Jesus Christ; and you will get, I believe, a blessed glimpse of what it is to put God's will in place of yours, a glimpse which you will wish daily to repeat until it becomes a lifelong vision.—*Dr. F. E. Clark.*

"EARTH'S crammed with heaven,
And every common bush afire with God;
But only he who sees takes off his shoes."

"THOUGH we may never climb those hills,
Nor see that valley fair,
There's not a scene we look upon,
But we may feel Him there."