

He that maketh haste to be rich shall not be innocent.

Proverbs xxviii. 20.



TRY IT THE OTHER WAY.

CMOVABLE window over the door of a bedroom in a Swiss hotel had been lifted into its place, but the fastenings would not secure it. Pushing and pulling was of no avail, and it seemed rather likely that the window might one day fall, and perhaps do a mischief to some one near. It was advised to turn it round, and *try it the other way*, and the experiment succeeded. Each fastening fitted in, and the window remained in its place firm and safe, until, for purposes of ventilation, it might be again removed.

In two or three directions we may apply the thought.

You have been for years searching for happiness, but in vain. You have gone here and there, and have sought your pleasure in amusement and society and light reading, and have spared no pains to secure something which might gratify and please you. But hitherto you have failed. You are not really happy. You never say, "It is enough." You are always trying to find pleasure and satisfaction from something in the world, but it always flies from you.

But "TRY IT THE OTHER WAY." Seek your joy in Jesus and His Salvation. Go to His mercy-seat. Start at once on a new track. Taste and see that the Lord is good. It will not be in vain. You will find comfort in a Saviour's love. His presence will cheer you in dark hours. His peace will be far better than the world's pleasures.

On a wooden cross in Watton churchyard, there is this inscription:—

"I pursued this, I followed that,
And was filled with nothing.

I found Christ,
And I desired nothing more."

But let us apply the word in another direction. You have wished to live a Christian life, but you cannot succeed. You have been striving to overcome your sins and to do right, but you fail, and are ready to despair. You try to repent, and overcome the world, but your heart is hard and stony, and the world keeps its hold of you. The more you try, the further you seem to be off from the peace you seek. But I would say, "TRY IT THE OTHER WAY." You have been mistaking God's plan. You have been looking for the fruit before the tree was planted. You have been putting the cart before the horse. But now follow a better plan. Put things in their right order. Acknowledge that your sins are more than you can number, and that your nature is corrupt and evil, and that you cannot change it. Then cast yourself on Jesus, and in your heart look up to Him, and expect that He will do all for you. Trust Him simply, fully, and at once. Wait for no better feelings or dispositions, but go to Him as you are.

Then your efforts and doings will fall into the right place. You will work *from* salvation, not *for* it.

One other lesson. You have been trying to benefit the soul of one you love. But as yet there seems no result. Perhaps you have not been acting wisely. You have been severe and harsh in your tone. You have been too often speaking about religion. If so, TRY IT THE OTHER WAY. Speak

They that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare.

1 Tim. vi. 9.