II. GOOD AS TO ITS EFFECTS.

Produces peace.
 Produces strength, courage.
 Produces joy.
 In affliction, bereavement, trial.

III. GOOD AS TO ITS OBJECT.

Is designed to lift up the soul, elevate the aims of life, and impart courage and strength. "An anchor to the soul," etc.

"Through grace." It is the gift of God, offered in the gospel to all men.

Dear reader, know well of thy hope, whether it be the one well founded and which enters into that within the veil. Pastor.*

Revival Service. The High Calling of God.

I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.—Phil. iii:14.

SINNERS ARE CALLED.—Luke xix: 10; 1 Tim. i: 15.

1. From the wretchedness and pollution of sin.—Ps. xl: 2.

To repentance and acceptance of Christ.—Luke xiii: 3; John i: 12.

2. To adoption as sons and daughters.—2 Cor. vi: 17, 18.

3. To self-mastery.—1 Cor. ix: 27; 2 Cor. x: 5.

4. To a Christ-like life (a) in character—Phil. ii: 5; Rom. xiii: 14; (b) in activity.—Acts x: 38.

To a home in Heaven. — John xvii: 24.

Will you respond to this High Calling of God, and make the securing of it the "one thing" of your life, as did Paul?

ARAUNAH.*

Foolishness of Sinners.

The door was shut.—Matt. xxv:10.

I. WHAT DO WE UNDERSTAND BY "THE DOOR WAS SHUT?" Entrance forbidden.

II. WHO ENTERED WITH THE BRIDE-GROOM? (v. 10.)

III. TO WHOM DID THE DOOR RE-MAIN SHUT? (v. 11.)

They who had no "vessels."

Notice.—"Virgins," emblem of purity.

"Buy" (v. 9).—Salvation of faith, not bought, a gift. (Eph. ii:8.)

IV. WHY WAS NOT THE DOOR OPENED? Time of waiting was up. No stranger admitted.

V. NOTICE THE STATE OF THOSE WITHOUT, COMPARED WITH THAT OF THOSE WITHIN:

Darkness-light;

Sorrow-joy;

Remorse-contentment;

Death-life.

Application.—(a) Christ the door (John x:7), open now but will some day be shut, therefore: Isa. lv:6.

(b) Lamps (profession) not enough, vessels (the regenerated heart) filled with oil (the Holy Spirit) is needed for entrance (or for 1 Peter i:9.)

Lessons.—The coming of Christ, the Bridegroom, will be: sudden "cry;" unexpected "night;" the final test— "they that were ready."

Exhortation. — Are you ready? Have you brightly burning lamps, vessels filled with oil? What will the coming of the Christ be to you? Will you hear the solemn words: "I know you not." Shall you find "the door shut?" CRISPUS.*

Salvation by Faith.

Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved. Acts xvi:31.

THE truth familiar, commonplace, yet must not overlook its vital importance—it concerns the soul's salvation; by "faith"—define. We have grown familiar with this truth because of:

- I. ITS SIMPLICITY.
- 1. Yet men stumble even at this.
- 2. However its simplicity appeals to us; *e. g.*, a noted scientist's confused notion of certain laws was corrected when he perceived the harmony existing in their seeming conflict; so
- 3. We must perceive simplicity of the text before we accept its truth only "believe."
- (a) Opposed to the idea the sinner holds, that he must himself "do" something, "feel," "repentso much." (b) Note the text: "Believe;" and that we have nothing of ourselves to do.