

extended to other prisons, and ultimately tending to the improvement of prison discipline in several of the States of Europe."

UNSELFISHNESS, OR GEN- EROSITY.

Prepared by Stella Way, and read at the Young Friends' Association, Sparta, 12th mo. 30.

The word Unselfishness covers a great many broad meanings. One of them is generosity. Now, generosity means in bounty, or liberality of soul. If a man has a family of little children, or even grown up children, he is rich or in bounty in that direction; or if a farmer has a farm well stocked, and a good bank account, he is also called in bounty or rich.

The best example of liberality of soul is the life of Christ. All through his life, although very short, he was doing some act of kindness, or being unselfish, not thinking of himself.

One Sabbath Day at church the minister spoke about his visit to certain homes in England. He then told of one in particular. At this home he spent a few days, and he could not help but notice how kind every person was to each other, trying to make one another's tasks easier, never thinking of themselves. There were no cross words, no ordering of servants, but all seemed to live in an atmosphere of love, which so attracted his attention that he determined to ask his host the secret of such a happy home life. Before breakfast, next morning, he had the opportunity, and he said to him, "I do not want to be inquisitive, but would you mind telling me the key to such a happy home as this." His host replied, "Certainly not," and, pointing towards the mantle-piece, he said, "There it lies." I looked, and there was the motto, "Even Christ pleased not himself." He then said, "All the inmates of this home are guided by that." Is it not better to be guided by that motto, and be not afraid of doing a little more than our

share of the work, and, if we do that, we are less selfish and more like Christ, because he pleased not himself, thus making

"Life, death, and that vast forever,
One glad, sweet song."

If each person would be less selfish, and try to help one another along, would it not make a happier world?

The first place to begin is at home, because it seems harder to be bright and cheerful there than it is to be bright and cheerful before people. It might not be so, but yet it is so, when we are all alone, and there is no outsider in, we are apt to speak sharply to a little brother or sister, but if any person is in, how different. It is so much easier to practice the little courtesies of life before people, but is it right? Let us always bear in mind that little verse, "Even Christ pleased not himself," and it will help us, because we know that some person else did not always think of himself; and see what a beautiful example he has made for us.

We are all sure to have our faults, but why can we not be less selfish and not keep the largest half of the apple, but give it to our friend, and remember that "It is more blessed to give than to receive," and by our example we may help someone else who is striving to walk in the same path.

Any good thought which we have read, anything striking which we have heard, we commonly enter in our diary; but if we would take the trouble, at the same time, to copy out of our friend's letters the remarkable observations, the original idea, the hasty words so pregnant in meaning, which we might find in them, we should then be rich indeed. We lay aside letters never to read them again, and at last we destroy them out of discretion, and so disappears the most beautiful, the most immediate breath of life, irrevocably for ourselves and for others. I intend to make amends in future for such neglect—
Goethe.