512

CANADIAN CHURCHMAN

All Hands On Time

The second hand,

the minute hand,

the hour hand, run

[August 28, 1902]

Are

Partly, I think, to show men some thing of the likeress of his Son. For it is God's plan that through those who love and trust him, the world is to know him.

The sweet kly bells have faded. They made a bright spot in the lives of these who knew their story; but the flowers in the faces of the truehearted mother and daughter and of the little girl who sold them will blossom on through all time.

It is worth while to cultivate the life which brings flowers to our faces. I wonder if all of us are doing it?

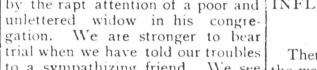
WHEN THE HEART LISTENS

"That was a very agreeable woman you introduced me to. We had a delightful talk. I don't know when I've met anyone more entertaining," said a somewhat egotistical gentleman who had been spending. an evening at a friend's home, as he came to him to say good-night.

The friend smiled a trifle satirically. "She is an agreeable woman," he assented, "though she has the drawback of not being able to speak an audible word. But she makes up for that by being a most entertaining listener.

Whatever may be thought of the truth of the story, there can be no doubt that it illustrates a prominent characteristic of human nature. Everybody loves a listener. To want to talk about myself," revealed confide our perplexities and trials, his own nature in a sentence. We or our hopes and joys, to some do not listen to others because we friendly ear, is as natural as breath-lwant to say our own words or think ing. Even in lesser things we crave our own thoughts undisturbed. To interested attention, and are be selfishly absorbed in ourselves wounded, or perhaps vexed, to find seems vastly more attractive than to that our listener's thoughts are be unselfishly interested in those wandering when we are trying to tell about us. him the plot of the story we have the political situation.

habitually thoughtful about the too, are written in the record of comfort of others, fail constantly in those who have helped others bear this regard. While grandmother is their burdens, conquer temptation, relating some girlhood experience, or keep a brave heart in the midst of father is giving the outline of the trial and make the most of life and



to a sympathizing friend. We see our way more clearly through a tangle of perplexities, if we have confided them to some attentive listener.

Our failure to give a hearing to that which lies so heavily on the hearts of our friends, is due to the same thing which causes most of our failures-selfishness. The man who defined a bore as "the fellow who talks about himself when I

History gives us the names of just read, or to express our views on some great conversationalists, while it keeps silent on the subject of the Even those young people who are great listeners. Yet their names, day's news, their thoughts are so life's opportunities. But such help-

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> Who laugh ai words m hidden rubbish have awa the men davs, lon but it n tender v

wretched

strugglin God h lips the word !

SON

"The

impossible to suspect them of listena moment to spare for the confidences of smaller brothers and it. sisters. They fly from the house on the approach of a neighbour who is inclined to confine the conversation to the details of her own ill health or ill fortune.

These same young people, it is usually in demand at social gather- indifferent. ings, but when one is lonely, or a It is a bad sign when workerslof ing.

Moreover, this faculty for as work well done, and one who fills sympathetic listening is helpful as hand and heart with usefulness, has well as agreeable. Lyman Beecher not time or strength to waste in admitted that he always felt inspired criticizing his neighbours.

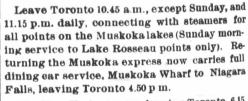
busy elsewhere that it would be fulness is only possible to those who listen with the heart as well as with ing to what is said. They have not the ears, and whose kindly interest both invites confidence and repays

NO TIME FOR CRITICIZING.

The people who do their own more than likely, envy the vivacity work well do not have time to worry and wit which give a charm to the overmuch about the negligence of conversation of some of their friends. others. The little girl who informed They wish that they too had the her father in a shocked voice that ability to talk entertainingly. Yet her brother had not kept his eyes mere dexterity in the use of words is shut during the prayer, illustrates a far less of a charm and is more very common weakness. Those common than the power to listen who are attending steadily to their understandingly and with sympathy. own prayers are unlikely to dis-These clever conversationalists are cover that others are inattentive or

little sad, or in a mood for a comfort- any sort keep complaining that other able, friendly talk, his thoughts turn workers are neglectful. The accustoward that acquaintance whose ation may be true, but one who is intelligence and kindliness are as putting his whole heart into what apparent in listening as in speak. he is doing is not likely to find it out. There is nothing so absorbing

in a glass of water before breakfast and it will keep you well for the rest of the day.



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that when you or I, even in lesser matters, do or say what our conscience condems, we do really make a contribution to that general fund of wickedness which, in other circumstances and social conditions than ours, produces flagrant crime. Especially if it should happen that we defend what we do, or make light of it, or make a joke of the misdeeds of others, we do most actively and seriously augment this common fund or tradition of wickedness.

whensoe God to diligentl exho often re munion our Sav publicly "Whe thereof : of the r "So : a comp Creed, Ten C answer Short brough "All shall ce Day, c hearing taught, in other in acts and so "Wł

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