

to whom the chance of success is of moment, and the goodness or badness of the cause is of no account, then no good man can be an opportunist. But there is a sense in which every good man will regard opportunity as a sacred thing, a Heaven-given chance. The man who buys up the opportunity is the merchant who knows what he wants, and sees the occasion when he can secure it. He is not the man who is just ready to buy anything and everything. He is the man who knows his own mind, and the market; and who, therefore, by the possession of a clear and trained sagacity, understanding the real value of merchandise, is able to buy wisely and promptly. He does not merely buy because things are cheap. He is no mere accumulator of bargains. His house is not crowded up with things which he never wanted, but only bought because they were going so cheap. Rubbish is dear at any price. The immoral opportunist buys only rubbish.

What is required that we may be good and wise purchasers of every opportunity is a due understanding of the value of things—some knowledge of the market of the world, some clear appreciation of what is worth having and what is not.

A few words will clear our minds on this point. Success is very pleasant, but

we may pay too high a price for it. Money is useful, but we may pay too much for it. And the reason is simple; neither money nor success are the end of life. Truth is worth any price. Therefore buy the truth, and sell it not. Wisdom is more precious than rubies. Therefore, with all thy getting, get understanding. It is clearly some high purpose which the Apostle feels must possess the breasts of his hearers when he says, "Buy up the opportunity." The high purpose is the pursuit of the highest good. "Buy up the opportunity," "Redeem the time," he says, "because the days are evil." He sees the conflict between the evil and the good. He urges his disciples not only to pursue the good, but to exercise a vigilant care, so as to lose no opportunity of advancing the good. Push forward what is good on every occasion. Watch your opportunity; seize it. You are soldiers of Christ, disciples of Him who is good. Do not be outwitted, outbought by any evil; for it is not only important to love that which is good, but—

"The means that Heaven yields must be embraced,
And not neglected."

The servant of Christ whose eye is upon the things eternal cannot afford to neglect Heaven's golden *now*.

THE REAL OWNER OF SWALLOWDALE.

BY RUTH LAMB, Author of "*Katie Brightside*," "*Look on the Sunny Side*," etc.

CHAPTER I.

A COTTAGE HOME AND ITS INMATES.



"T'S coming, Susan, as sure as I am here," said Andrew Fowler, in a doleful tone, as he paused on his threshold one morning in June.

"What's coming?" asked his wife, as she joined him in the doorway.

"Look up, and then you'll not need to ask. Anybody with half an eye can see that rain will be pouring down in bucketfuls before an hour's over. I may as well put away my tools and make up my mind to a lost day. If I go to the hayfield I shall just have to march back in the rain, with only the double walk for my pains. It is hard that when a man is so willing to work, and wants his wages so badly, something should happen to hinder him from doing one and getting the other."

Whilst Andrew was speaking, his eyes were turned Heavenward, and his finger was