

and contentment as choice duties. The pleasures and the luxuries of life await them on every side, and they wonder vaguely what makes some people so unthankful or so gloomy! They enjoy their own charities and generousities, forgetting that neither have cost them an effort. They are bright and happy from sheer force of circumstances.

On the other hand, how many really good Christian people are sour, fretful, despondent, almost faithless, under the pressure of adversity. They cannot forbear worrying and anticipating, and so they appear at a great disadvantage too often, if they do not cast an absolute reproach upon the Master whose name they bear.

To the unconverted soul, adversity is likely to be an unfavorable experience, for, when the sunshine is withdrawn, the unstable goodness, evoked by its warmth, must vanish away. But to the child of God this must not—cannot be. Faith is commanded to look beyond the cloud and see that “the sun is still shining.” The consciousness of God’s love and care and sympathy can outweigh the present trial—can and will outweigh all trials if we hold fast to it.

That it is easier to be good when life is all brightness, we admit, but it is impossible to be better when the light is overshadowed, and we reach out through thick darkness for his loving, guiding hand. And the reward is not promised to those who find life easiest or pleasantest, but to “him who overcometh!” And the strength to overcome may be ours for the asking.—*Christian Intelligencer.*

Pleasure-Seeking.

Pleasure-seekers are dreary mortals. They are worn without work. They have lost their strength, and got nothing in return.

One reason of this seems to lie in the fact that pleasure is not something which exists of itself, and can exist apart from other things. It is generally overlooked, that thought can be without pleasure, and so can effort of any kind, physical or moral; but there can be no pleasure without thought, or without exertion