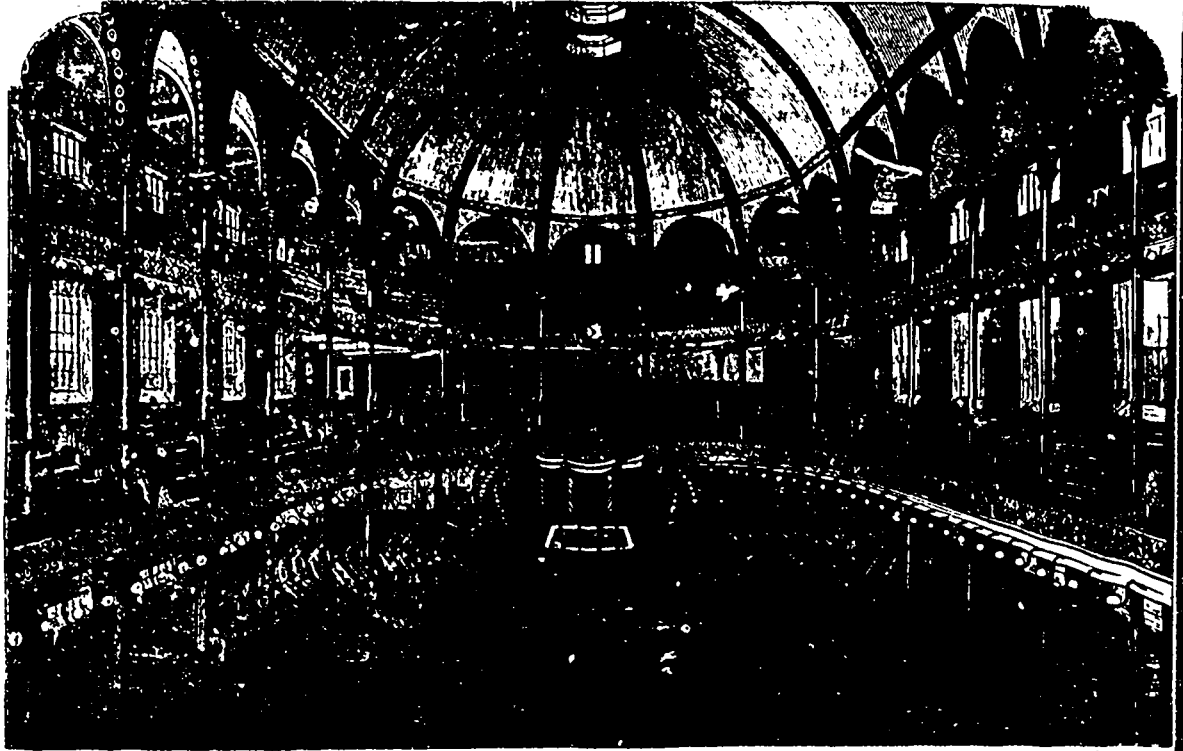


Work and Play.

The boys were waiting in the road
For Joe to come and play ;
" We'd like to know what keeps you so,"
Impatiently cried they.
" We've waited nearly half an hour ;
Do hurry, Joe," they cried.
" I'll be there — when my work is done ;
Not till then," he replied.
" Come on, come on ; the work can wait,"
They urged, " till by-and-by."
" It might, of course, but I don't think
It will," was his reply.
" When I've a task to do, I like
To do it right away ;
Work first, my father says, then fun,
And what he says, I say."
Hurrah for Joe ! such talk as that
Is what I like to hear ;
But many boys will not agree
With Joe and me, I fear.
Play first, and last, and all the time,
Would suit most boys, I know,
But that, I'm very glad to say,
Is not the way with Joe.
When you've a task to do, my boys,
Don't put it off, and say
You'll do it when you've had your fun,
But do it right away.
This " putting off" soon forms, my lads,
A habit to deplore ;
Who promptly does his work enjoys
His pleasure all the more.



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Rev. W. H. WITHROW, D.D., Editor.

TORONTO, MAY 11, 1889.

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SAVED BY A VOICE.

A VERY interesting incident occurred in the early ministerial life of Mr. Spurgeon, and which is attributed to the person who made it public. Thirty years ago or more he was invited to preach in the vast Crystal Palace at Sydenham. Would his voice fill the immense area? Resolving to test, he went in the morning to the palace, and thinking for a passage of Scripture to repeat, this, as he reached the stage, came to mind: "This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners." Pronouncing the words, he felt sure that he would be heard, and then repeated the verse in a soft tone.

More than a quarter of a century later, Mr. Spurgeon's brother, who is a pastor, was called to the bedside of a man, an artisan, who was near the end.

"Are you ready?" asked the pastor.

"O yes!" answered the man, with assurance.

"Can you tell me how you obtained the salvation of your soul?"

"It is very simple," said the artisan, his face radiant with joy. "I am a plumber by trade. Some years ago I was working at my occupation under the dome of the Crystal Palace, and thought myself entirely alone. I was without God and without hope. All at once I heard a voice, coming from heaven which said, 'This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.' By the meaning of these words I was convinced of sin. Jesus Christ appeared to me as my Saviour. He accepted him in my heart as such at the same moment, and I have served him ever since."

God honours his word. Suppose Mr. Spurgeon had used a secular sentence to try his voice. What surprises await the faithful when results are known! In another connection he advises us "get to the root of things," and adds: "The gems of Scripture are not in the top soil; they must open a shaft; the precious diamonds of experience are not picked up in the roadway; their secret places are far down. Get down into the vitality, the solidity, the veracity, the divinity of the word of God, and seek to possess all the inward work of the blessed Spirit."