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CALLED OF GOD.

No man taketh this honor unto himself, but he that is called of God, as was Aaron.-Heb. V.: 4. As the Lord hath called every one, so let him walk.-1 Cor. vii.: 17.

Thank God for the willing hands That are honest, and brave, and true, That lie not folded, but labor hard

To do what there is to do. Rich gems of the world are they, Where fancy is drowned in fact, Where time is a thing in reality, And to live is to think and act.

Thank God for the willing hands That pull at the load of care; That lend themselves to a weaker

friend. And are eager everywhere; Whose touch is a touch of gold, That kindles not one regret, Whose duty it is to toil along And never a thing regret."

I have received the following letter rom one of our readers :

Dear Hope,-I have just been reading one of your sermons, and it is a pleasure to write to you how much I enjoy and appreciate it. Please don't ever give up your good work, for you have done far more than you knew. For myself, it has made life seem more worth while living, or, in other words, it has made me more worthy of life. But I am anxious for help about matters that have perplexed me for some time, and, if it were not an imposition, would like to ask you to sermonize on a couple of topics. One is about idle words: "Every idle word that a man shall speak he shall give account thereof in the day of judgment," in connection with, "A merry heart doeth good, like a medicine.' What are these idle words ? Secondly, whether it is, or is not, honorable for a girl to work out. The Bible says, "If a man will not work, neither shall he eat." By this I infer if work is honest, it is honorable.

Do you not think that if we work at any kind of honest work, and do our best, that we are as much honored of God, even if we do it in someone else's kitchen ? Hoping to see an answer soon, A sincere friend, I remain,

Crosby, Ont. LUCY LEGGETT.

Thank you very much for your letter, my dear "sincere friend," I am always of active Christian work. They thinkglad to know something of the difficul- or try to think-that only those who ties of our readers. I don't want to are set apart by Holy Orders are called waste the opportunity given me each to be missionaries. But we are all set week of talking about "live" subjects- apart by the holy orders of our King, the matters which will really affect their set apart to do some special work that lives. I shall not say much to-day no other person on earth can do as about the idle word. except that the second text quoted helps to explain the first. An "idle" word must surely be a word that does not serve any useful purpose. The bright joke or clever repartee-if it does not wound or stinghas a very useful purpose indeed. Anything that adds to the gladness of life is far from being "idle." I fear we are all guilty, only too often, of the sin of "idle " words-words which would never be spoken if we had engraved on our hearts and memories the thought: "Christ is the silent Listener to every conversa-As for the second question, there can only be one answer: "Whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; and whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant: even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister." How often, do you suppose, did the young village Carpenter work in the kitchens of other men? Is there any story in the whole Bible more tender and beautiful than that one of the Lord and Master washing the tired feet of His wondering disciples ? And think of that other cene, when the Great Conqueror of Death stooped to make a fire on the beach and prepare breakfast for seven hungry fishermen. One who is called of God to the high position of a servant, may well rejoice n the glorious opportunity given him of making the lives of the whole household nore happy. If he throws himself with bering that his real Master is the Lord Christ-a Master who never overlooks

any faithful act of service, and lever fails to pay royal wages of joy and peace-then he may well glory in his high vocation. The great and important thing for each of us is to feel quite sure that we are "called of God, as was Aaron." Then the position of the High Priest will be no more a position to be coveted than the lowliest office in a home. Christ was "called of God" to become a village Carpenter-could any calling be grander than the vocation of the Saviour of the world?

The child of a village doctor was once "Where is your asked the question: father ? "

"I don't know," was the ready answer, "but he's helping somewhere." What a revelation of character is contained in that short statement. If you are earning such a reputation as that for yourself, then you must surely be following in the steps of One who went about do-ing good. We are given our parts to play, as though we were actors on a stage. One is dressed in crown and royal robes, and expected to play the part of a king; another is dressed in common clothes and set to sweep a room or wait on table. The thing which will win praise from employer and spectators is not the part that is played, but the way it is played. The "king" may stammer through his part, showing that he has given scanty attention to its preparation, while the "servant" may win renown for himself as a splendid actor; though he may go on taking the part of a servant to the end of his days. Possibly, if he insisted on taking the part of a king, he might make a dead failure of his part. The wise stage-manager places each performer according to his natural ability.

" Despise not thou small things ; The soul that longs for wings

To soar to some great height of sacrifice, too oft

Forgets the daily round, Where the little cares abound,-

And shakes off little duties while she

looks aloft."

But there is another calling, another vocation, which is-even in our eyes-a grand and glorious thing. We are all called to come "to the help of the Lord, to the help of the Lord against the mighty." God does not need our help, He can win the battle without us, but He allows us to help Him; and it is, or should be, a joyful privilege to be "laborers together with God."

People are very apt to shirk this duty not that inspiring thought We are all called to witness to the wondrous fact of an ever-present God, revealing Himself through the lives and in the faces of men, women and children. We are all bound to pray "Thy kingdom come ! " and to lend a hand to our own prayers in the place and manner which is, in a peculiar fashion, our own We can't escape responsibility in this matter, for everyone who hears Christ's call himself is not a loyal disciple unless, like St. Andrew, he tries to bring at least one other hungry soul to the satisfying Master he has found. "Let him that heareth say, "Come." You may not be able to preach sermons, or write books, but even showing one's color boldly, when occasion demands it, is sure to help somebody. . The old woman who once started out to attack the enemy, armed only with a poker, did not expect to be of much assistance; but, as she said, "I can show them, which side 1 am on." One such daring recruit might easily inspire a great many more capable people, and so give far more valuable help than she dreamed of. On the other hand, one who is ashamed to own his faith, afraid to confess his Master before men, does far more deadly harm than he knows. It was not without good reason that the Israelites were told to prepare for battle by issuing this command to the army What man is there that is fearful and faint-hearted ?-let him go and return to his house, lest his brethren's heart faint as well as his heart." If we are not " helping the Lord against the mighty," then let us be very sure that we are



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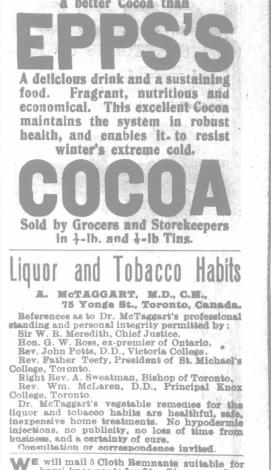
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