

sister of the King of Sweden, became the possessor of a great fortune. Instead of personal indulgence in the use of it, she sought to bless her fellows. Orphan asylums, poor houses, schools, and hospitals were built and supported by her. One day when ready funds were low, she sought the advice of friends and paring with her jewels. They thought it too much to give up possessions, and counselled against her plan. Yet the large-hearted princess followed the promptings of her generous nature, and finished the hospital. One day, when passing through one of the wards, she was welcomed with expressions of great gratitude, and when she saw the tears of sincere thankfulness flowing down the cheeks of an invalid sufferer, she said, with a happy smile, "Ah, now I have found my jewels again." Brighter than any of earth's coveted gems were those tears, shining with heaven's love-light reflected through them, and she was fully repaid. The principle holds good everywhere, and any devoted soul busy in Christian ministry may prove it true.

RELIGION does not cost the average person a very large sum yearly, and if all who are in arrears would pay up, there would be a marvellous increase in the Lord's treasury. "What does your religion cost?" was the question asked by the Bishop of Liverpool during a Lenten sermon at Burnley. He pressed the matter home, and the next day received a letter from a man who said, "I came to your church on Sunday morning for the first time for many a day, and heard your question. I reckoned up that my religion cost me \$8. 7d. last year. I herewith send you a cheque for \$50 to show that henceforth, in God's help, my religion shall cost me something." His was a wise action, a right resolve, and doubtless he will prove as the years go by that his possessions are increased rather than diminished by the larger investment he makes in the work of God. That which costs us nothing we value lightly, and too many have impoverished themselves spiritually by a vain effort to realize the largest returns without any proportionate outlay. We can't get something for nothing, and the more we put into the enterprises of the church, the more we may expect to get out of them. "How much owest thou unto my Lord?" is a pertinent question to the majority of us.

THE slow yet repeated droppings caused by a loose washer in a faucet were shown to entail much loss by the American Builder some time ago. It was calculated that fifty drops or more fall every minute. A quart contains about 4,500 drops, so that this measure of loss would be sustained every hour and a half that the leakage continued. This would mean four gallons every day, or upwards of 1,500 gallons per year. Such calculations in this case have great losses follow the repetition of little ones. An analysis of this character demonstrates the large accumulations that gather from the aggregate mass of small things. "A little leak will sink a great ship" is an old truism that would be verified thousands of times if the wrecks that lie embedded at the bottom of the ocean could tell their story of wreckage and death. Let us take heed. Many a thoughtless youth has learned spendthrift habits that have ultimately brought him to beggary, by the misuse of little cents. But there is a more disastrous waste than that of money. Flagrant prodigality of precious minutes has been fraught with sad loss of both knowledge and character to thousands. Careless indifference to passing opportunity has

entailed irrecoverable loss of privilege to many who might have been useful in the service of God and their fellowmen. By such methods is poverty surely induced. "Economy is half the battle of life," and "he that dealth with a slack hand shall never be rich," are both true. And what an old maxim well says of money, "take care of the pennies and the pounds will take care of themselves," may be said in like manner of the little things that are often cast aside as valueless because of their very smallness. Riches, learning, skill, virtue, all human possessions of real value are attainable to those who wisely and patiently economize.

THE majority of men who have accomplished mighty works for God and humanity, succeeded because held in the grip of an untrusting purpose. Their outstanding characteristic has been constancy, their one sustaining and compelling quality perseverance. The records of human achievement abound with instances of men and women of such unswerving fidelity to truth and duty. They have proven what Milton said, and what we will do well to remember, that—

"Patience is the exercise
Of saints, the trial of their fortitude;
Making them each his own deliverer,
And victor over all
That tyranny or fortune can inflict."

But not only in passive endurance of wrong has this grace triumphed. It has

SPECIAL NOTICE!

Your attention is called to the stirring Epworth League chorus on page 139 of this issue. Study it. It is rendered by some of our best singers after they have mastered it. It will greatly please you and its use will be a stimulus and inspiration to your League. In order to place this splendid song within the reach of all our Leaguers, we have arranged to supply it, printed on good heavy paper, at the nominal cost of ONE CENT each, postpaid, in numbers of not less than ten copies. Get 50 or 100 for your League, and you will greatly profit by the small outlay. Address all orders to REV. S. T. BARTLETT, 35 Richmond St. West, Toronto.

been equally strong in sustaining God's people in active labors for His Kingdom. No one can ever well succeed without it. Steady, but constant and well continued labor will accomplish the greatest results. The men of steady toil who labored unselfishly and with unflinching zeal in days gone by, sowed the seed of harvests now being reaped. If we so apply ourselves to-day, not only will we be benefited by the toil, but future generations will be blessed. We need consecration, that we may be not only attracted to a beautiful ideal, but committed to a lifelong apprenticeship of toil.

A young Christian who merely comes under the attractive spell of a sweet sentiment toward Christ, can never develop the character or accomplish the service of one who is impelled by an inward heroic resolve to go forth and labor till the evening. Consecration is more than delicious sentimentality. It is committed to a high purpose, and is proven not so much by smooth words of affection as by brave deeds of loyal daring. Only such doers of God's will and work grow strong. Williams, the

martyr missionary, was massacred at Erromanga in 1838 at the age of 44 years. Of him his biographer says, "He was a man of unswerving perseverance. Nothing deterred him from doing works of mercy; and yet he could wait patiently. He knew that the time would come when the seeds he had sown would spring up and flourish. His works lived after him. Even the cannibals of Erromanga at length abolished idolatry, and received the truths of Christianity with gladness."

In place of so much feverish haste and nervous hurry to see immediate results, let us do our best with a loving heart, a resolute will, an unflinching purpose, and steady zeal for God, to whom our all is due, and we shall prove that our "labor is not in vain in the Lord," when the ultimate results are made manifest.

NOT by occasional spasmodic efforts are the greatest tasks performed.

Not by an exhaustive spurt once in a while are life's prizes won. Resolute, steady, persistent and painstaking must be he who would accomplish well the work assigned him. It matters little what his talent, nor what his place of toil, he only may expect to achieve who applies himself regularly and patiently to his allotted task. Nor can he perform the highest service to his Maker or his fellows, or realize the greatest good for himself, who fails to recognize in his very possession of life a sacred trust committed to him by the Creator. Only he who humbly yet gratefully accepts the responsible stewardship of life, with all its daily activities, is likely to seriously consider its problems or studiously apply himself to his correct solution. The source of all faithfulness in duty is here, for in proportion as one becomes conscious of the Divine trust reposed in him by his Maker in the very gift of life, will he diligently set himself to the proper execution of its mission, according to the will of God. This sense of trust and consequent responsibility has made men great and has called forth an active, heroic spirit from within them to make them strong and courageous in sustained right-doing. Its absence has made them ignoble, mean, selfish and base. It was a beautiful reply made by the wife of General Havelock when she was asked how her husband fared amid the troublous times in India. "I know not," said she, "but I know he is trusting in God and doing his duty." Such noble principle interpreted by constant, consistent practice from day to day, will reach of us all and will make life anywhere one of glorious achievement. With it earth will be enriched and Heaven assured. Present blessing and eternal good are for those who practise it.

MANY are the things we intend to do sometime. "When I have more time," is a common but very indefinite promise. Yet we have all both thought and spoken it, to our shame, and the loss of others about us. I saw a striking sentence in an old hymn-book the other day. It was a simple yet true statement by Bishop Mant. "That which is good to be done cannot be done too soon; and if it is neglected to be done early, it will frequently happen that it will not be done at all." The kind word postponed, the helpful deed delayed, the good thing intended may be entirely forgotten, and some heart be sad, some life be poor, in consequence. Both wise and happy is the one who cultivates the habit of promptness in the performance of all daily duty. It is one of the most commendable as it is one of the most profitable good things to do—day is of far greater value than a hundred most excellent intentions that are never performed.