

Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in Him, and He shall bring it to pass.—Psalm xxxvii. 5.

A ridiculous application of Bible words is not easily forgotten. When, on some serious occasion, those words are heard, or read again, that foolish use of them will come back to the mind; and so the solemn force of the words may be lessened or lost.

This evil habit, too, is catching. A joke that takes in one company is likely to be repeated in another; and he who uses Scripture thus knows not how many of his hearers he may be encouraging to do the same. On every ground, this habit may be classed with the "foolish talking" and "jesting, which are not convenient," not right or fitting.

X.

[We add our testimony to the baneful effect of such jesting. Many years ago a Christian man, while passing through Montreal, visited the Y. M. C. A. in that city, and in conversation made use of passages of Scripture, changing and applying the same in such a ridiculous manner that from that day to the present we have not been able to use that text with any degree of freedom, for the absurdity of the man's application is ever before us.—Ed.]

THE GREAT MASTER.

"AM my own master!" cried a young man proudly, when a friend tried to persuade him from an enterprise which he had on hand, "I am my own master!"

"Did you ever consider what a responsible post that is?" asked his friend.

"Responsible? Is it?"

"A master must lay out the work which he wants done, and see that it is done right. He should try to secure the best ends by the best means. He must keep on the lookout against obstacles and accidents, and watch that everything goes straight, else he must fail."

"Well."

"To be master of yourself, you have your conscience to keep clear, your

heart to cultivate, your temper to govern, you will to direct, and your judgment to instruct. You are master over a hard lot, and if you don't master them they will master you."

"That is so," said the young man.

"Now, I could undertake no such thing," said his friend. "I should fail sure, if I did. Saul wanted to be his own master and failed. Herod did. Judas did. No man is fit for it. 'One is my master, even Christ.' I work, under His direction. He is regulator, and where He is master all goes right."

"'One is my master, even Christ'" repeated the young man, slowly and seriously; "everybody who puts himself sincerely under His leadership wins at last."

ADVANTAGES.

Advantages possessed by the Christian revelation over all other religions:—

In its perfection. Every system of philosophy has been improved; the Christian, because from God, has always been, and now is, incapable of improvement.

In its openness. There is nothing hidden; no secret mysteries; no shirking from public examination; it openly challengeth enquiry.

In its adaptation to the capacities of all men, of every country and clime, of every rank and age.

In the spirituality of its worship. "They who worship, must worship in spirit and in truth."

In its opposition to the spirit of this world.

In its humiliation of man and exaltation of God. "He must increase, but I must decrease."

In its tendency to eradicate all evil passions from the heart.

In its restoration of God's image to man.

In its vast effects already produced over the world.

Be ye strong therefore, and let not your hands be weak; for your work shall be rewarded.—2 Chron. xv. 7.