

MY MOTTO.

"With good-will doing service"—
A simple little phrase,
And yet I often find it
A help in weary days,
No work so dull and irksome
But brightens at this word:
"With good-will doing service,
As unto Christ the Lord."

I oft have tried, but vainly,
To summon the "good-will,"
And would have done the service
With heart that murmured still;
But that my little motto
To sweeter mood enticed,
Reminding me that Christians
Should work "as unto Christ."

In roughest toil there may be
A service full as sweet
As going to the Temple
To sit at Jesus' feet;
If we will but remember
This little warning word:
"With good will doing service,
As unto Christ the Lord."

God loves a cheerful giver;
Not one who grudgingly
Yields up a scanty service
For all His bounties free;
Let heart and hand and brain, then,
Each its best work afford;
"With good-will doing service,
As unto Christ the Lord."

—Selected.

THE CHOIR.

In some well ordered churches the conduct of the choir is orderly and reverent, but in others there is great carelessness and apparent irreverence, which seem to indicate that the members have no true sense of their high vocation as singers in the choir. Many of these no doubt desire to do what is right, but err from ignorance. At the request of some of our readers, a few suggestions are here offered which may prove helpful in guiding the well disposed in the right direction. Those who desire it may readily obtain more complete and full directions from their clergy on choir matters.

RULES FOR THE CHOIR.

Books.—Have your books numbered. Always use your proper number. Keep them in good order. *Never scribble in them.*

IN CHURCH.—First say prayer that your thoughts may be kept from wandering during the service. Perhaps this may help you:—"O Lord, let Thine eyes be open, and let Thine ear hearken to the prayer and praise offered in this place; and help us all to serve Thee with reverence and godly fear; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."

2. Your attitude, both kneeling and standing, should be such as best helps to make the singing and responding good. "The position of the body in singing should be easy and natural, the head being held up. There should be no loling, but a well set up, square, upright position, like soldiers on parade."

3. Let there be no whispering, or irreverent, unseemly conduct during the service. These things give a bad impression to the congregation and are a discredit to those who are guilty of them.

4. Try to keep your thoughts on the service, and really pray; and try to live more nearly as you pray.

5. Join heartily in the service, saying or singing your part in a distinct audible voice; do not scream or shout, but sing sweetly and reverently, as in the presence of God and for His glory.

6. When the service is over say a private prayer, asking God to pardon your wandering thoughts, and to help you to lead a good life. "Pardon, O Lord, my wandering thoughts and cold heart; and when I leave Thy house, may I bring no discredit on thy church by any evil words or ways; through Jesus Christ my Lord. Amen."

7. Then stand quietly in your place till it is time to go out, when you will pass out quietly and reverently according to the rule or custom of the church.

THE INSPIRATION OF THE BIBLE.

A Lecture by H. L. Hastings, before the Massachusetts Annual Convention of Y. M. C. Associations.

The question as to the inspiration of the Bible is not a question raised by me. It is a question that is already up for discussion through the length and breadth of the land. What are we to do with the Bible? How are we to regard it? Is it the best book in the world or the worst? Is it a true book, or is it a false book? Is it God's book, or is it man's book?

We find men on all sides of the question. There are persons who tell us this book is a good book—but then, there are others just as good. The Bible is inspired, and so was Plato inspired, so was Socrates, and so is the almanac inspired; in fact, everything is inspired—the book of Mormon, the Koran of Mahomet, the sacred books of the Hindus and the Chinese; they have their Bibles, you have yours; all are good, and one is about as good as the other. Shakespeare was inspired, and everything and everybody is inspired.

It is not worth while to waste time on false issues. When I open Shakespeare's plays I do not read at the commencement, "Thus saith the Lord God of hosts;" when I turn Plato's writings I do not read, "Hear ye the word of the Lord;" when I pursue the almanac I do not read, "The word of the Lord came unto me." Hence, you see that this book must be judged by a standard different from all other books. Over and over again this book says, "Hear ye the word of the Lord." Now, the message is the word of the Lord, or it is a lie. It is the word of the Lord, as it professes to be, or it is a cheat, a swindle, a humbug, a fraud.

To illustrate: A man tells me that Jesus of Nazareth was a good man; but then, there were other men just as good. He was a spiritual medium; but there are other mediums equally powerful in these days. To be sure, I do not remember any spiritual medium giving a public dinner, for nothing, to five thousand hungry people! You may have heard of such a "manifestation," but it has not fallen under my notice. I have not heard of a spiritual medium hushing the winds or calming a storm at sea. I have heard of dancing tables and similar operations. I prefer to have my tables stand still! (Laughter and applause.)

But while you say, "Christ was simply one of many remarkable men," He says, "I came forth from the Father, and am come into the world;" again, "I leave the world and go to the Father." He says, "O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self, with the glory which I had with thee before the world was." Now do you say he was a good man, and yet he told lies? What is your idea of a good man? I do not believe that a good man lies; and I do not believe that a man who lies is a good man. Perhaps you do, but if so, you were brought up in a different way from that in which my father brought me up. So I do not believe that a book packed with lies from one end to the other is a good book; and I do not want any one to come and tell me that Jesus Christ was a good man, and the Bible is a good book, but neither of them tell the truth. I join issue there. This book is what it professes to be, or it is a swindle; Jesus of Nazareth was what he professed to be, or he was an imposter.

Suppose a man comes to town and represents himself as the son of a British nobleman. He is well dressed, has plenty of money, turns the heads of half the young ladies in the town, and makes himself at home generally; but after a while they find out that he is the son of "old Jinkins, the blacksmith," down in the next town. Now I do not want you to tell me how prettily he behaves, what fine broadcloth he wears, or what a perfect gentleman he is in all his deportment. The fact is, he is a liar, a fraud, and a scamp. He has come under false colors, and palmed himself off on the community under false pretences; and the more good things you say about him the less I think of him; because, if he is such a well-educated gentleman, he knows better than to be going around as a fraud, and deceiving the people. So we must accept Jesus of Nazareth and his claims

entirely, or else we must reject the whole gospel as an imposture, and as the grandest, most stupendous fraud the world has ever known.

Now, do not be fooled by this soft talk about the Bible being "a good book," and yet just like many other good books. There is not another like it in the world. Let us look at some of its peculiarities:—

Here is one: The Bible is a book which has been refuted, demolished, overthrown, and exploded, more times than any other book you ever heard of. Every little while somebody starts up and upsets this book; and it is like upsetting a solid cube of granite. It is just as big one way as the other; and when you have upset it, it is right side up still. (Applause.) Every little while somebody blows up the Bible; but when it comes down it always lights on its feet, and runs faster than ever through the world. They overthrew the Bible a century ago, in Voltaire's time—entirely demolished the whole thing. "In less than a hundred years," said Voltaire, "Christianity will have been swept from existence, and will have passed into history." Infidelity ran riot through France, red-handed and impious. A century has passed away. Voltaire has "passed into history," and not very respectable history either; but his printing-press, it is said, has since been used to print the Word of God; and the very house where he lived is packed with Bibles, a depot for the Geneva Bible Society. Thomas Paine demolished the Bible, and finished it off finally; but after he had crawled despairingly into a drunkard's grave, in 1809, the book took such a leap that since that time more than twenty times as many Bibles have been made and scattered through the world as ever were made before since the creation of man. Up to the year 1809, from four to six million copies of the Scriptures, in some thirty different languages, comprised all that had been produced since the world began. Eighty years later, in 1880, the statistics of eighty different Bible societies which are now in existence, with their unnumbered agencies and auxiliaries report more than 168,000,000 Bibles, Testaments, and portions of Scripture, with two hundred and six new translations, distributed by Bible societies alone since 1804; to say nothing of the unknown millions of Bibles and Testaments which have been issued and circulated by private publishers throughout the world. For a book that has been exploded so many times, this book still shows signs of considerable life.

To be continued.

—A clergyman when remitting subscription writes: "I would avail myself this opportunity of expressing my great appreciation of the eminent ability displayed in your editorials, of the noble Christian stand which you have taken on the great question of the day in Canada, and of the true Church tone of all your paper contains. A simple copy of which is sometimes worth more than a year's subscription."

—All our readers who may wish to beautify their gardens should visit Mr. Slight's handsome, well-stocked Conservatories, 407 Yonge St., City. A splendid collection of shade trees, shrubs, graperies, roses, evergreens and fruit trees, may be seen there. The stock is large, qualities excellent, and prices low. A visit will convince all who call, that they have found the right place to make their purchases.

—Woman (to tramp); "You might saw a little wood for that nice dinner." Tramp (reproachfully): "Madam, you ought not to throw temptation in the way of a poor man." Woman: "Temptation?" Tramp: "Yes, madam. If I were to saw some wood, the chances are I would carry off the saw. I'm an honest man now, and I want to stay so."—*Harper's Bazaar.*

—He is incapable of a truly good action who knows not pleasure in contemplating the good actions of others.

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