

BICYCLE LAMPS.

The other day while visiting a town on the border of U.S.A. and Ontario, I noticed all the bicycles had lamps on, and as they went by in the darkness they looked very pretty. I saw some bicycles without a lamp, but no one could ride them in that town, as a law had been passed to the effect that anyone not having a lamp and riding when it was dark should be fined, as they were dangerous to the public; so I watched the lights come and go, and noticed some whose wheels had no light walking and leading their bicycles by hand, a thought came to me and this was it: "Oh, the power of a concentrated light, a light with a reflector and burning for the Master." As I walked along the streets of that town I said to myself, "Now the bicycles with lamps represent to me the Christian." You see the bicycle lamp has the light inside and it shines out ahead on the path, so as to show the holes and bad places on the road. Christ in the heart is like the bicycle lamp to the bicycle, insures its safety and that of others in the way. Oh how I wish every boy and girl who reads this would become such a lamp, lighted every day and burning with zeal for the Master; soul winners. "He who winneth souls is wise." The lamp is the word of God, Christ the oil that giveth light, as he said, "I am the light," the Holy Spirit the reflector which reflects out the light of salvation into the hearts of sin and darkness. And now only one more thought. The bicycle lamp has two little glass windows on each side, one is red and the other blue, which is to show the side each cyclist ought to pass on to avoid collision; the red for danger and the blue for service, denoting caution and right of way. We as Christians should look out for the signal lights and approach to do His work with caution and prayer. Some we would speak to but for their temper or something, which prevents us. We want to get the blue light of service consecrated, when we will be able to be used as a blessing indeed, having obtained favor of God by His Spirit, whereby He has used us to his glory and

power. Then the red window; we must be careful not to enter his service with bad habits, such as deceit, bad temper, lying, etc., and others I won't mention, but let you think them all over and decide to give up and let the power of God come into our hearts, and say with the Psalmist, "Thy word have I hid in my heart that I might not sin against Thee." So let us come to Christ and say, "Oh use me and let me be used as a helper, as a light, as a power, as a soul winner, that our lives might be earnest and useful, and God, even our own God, will bless us and make us to be a blessing all our days. So let us be consecrated, Lord, to Thee."

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HOW TO SHINE.

By the Rev. F. S. Webster, M.A., Rector of All Souls', Langham Place, in *Home Words*.

The first duty, the calling, the purpose for which the Church exists is to give light. It is set in a dark place. For Christ, the Light of men, is in heaven; so the Church must make up for the Saviour's absence by shining steadily with the light He gives. Such a light is not selfish. It shines not for its own glory, but for the world's good. And every Christian is saved to shine. Then shining is steady, noiseless, unostentatious work. Not by fits and starts, with blast of trumpet and by great effort. A light shines because it is its nature to. It cannot burn without shining. The true Christian is a burning and shining light: the fire ever burning upon the heart's altar—the light ever shining forth into the dark world. Of course the light may be covered over and put under a bushel. But then it is likely to go out. If the light is to keep burning it must be allowed to shine.

But shining is very effectual and conspicuous. Bring a light into a dark room and everybody must know of it. Does everybody about you know you are a Christian? Is your love for Jesus shining clearly, lighting up the gloom and sin, and helping men to see the heavenward way?

A light is not much good unless you can see by it. If Christ were

still upon earth we should have no doubt as to the right course to take. We should just follow His example in everything, doing whatever he did, abstaining from everything that He abstained from. We should see our way by the light of His example. So should it be with all true Christians. Their example should be one which all men can safely follow. They should be able to say with St. Paul, "Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ." There is something wrong with our shining if it does not help others to see the way.

A light cannot help being conspicuous. It might well be charged with setting itself up above others. For a burning candle, though it be only a farthing dip, gives more light than a thousand fireless lanterns. Your Christianity cannot be invisible. It is a false humility which is afraid to shine lest it should seem conspicuous.

THE DAY OF REST.

By the Rev. Prebendary Godfrey Thring, B.A., author of "Hymns and Sacred Lyrics," etc., i.e. *Home Words*.

Hail! Sacred day of earthly rest,
From toil and trouble free;
Hail! Day of-light, that bringest light
And joy to me.

A holy stillness, breathing calm
On all the world around,
Uplifts my soul, O God, to Thee,
Where rest is found.

No sound of jarring strife is heard,
As weekly labours cease;
No voice, but those that gladly sing
Glad songs of peace.

The merry thrush as he sings,
The merrier sings to-day,
The sun shines out from 'mid the clouds
With brighter ray.

The trembling breeze that softly blows
From many a sunnier shore,
More softly seems to blow to-day,
Than e'er before.

On all I think, or say, or do,
A ray of light Divine
Is shed, O God, this day by Thee,
For it is Thine.

I join the quiet thoughtful crowd
That throngs the house of prayer,
And, kneeling on my knees, I reap
A blessing there.

Accept, O God, my hymn of praise,
That thou this day hast given,
Bright foretaste of that endless day
Of Rest in Heaven.