

the presence of Christ has so hallowed rocks, and hills, and streets, and walls, how much more has He hallowed the human body in which His divinity dwelt? How is human life exalted in Christ? In Christ we see that men may act and feel along the same lines in which God himself is acting and feeling.—*Rev. William Durant.*

### SUSPICION.

The safest and shortest way to ruin a character is by creating a suspicion. "Suspicious," in Bacon's words, "are like bats amongst birds, they ever fly by twilight." If your neighbor in business or social life be the object of your dislike, let it be carefully whispered that his affairs are not quite as safely managed as they might be, or his habits a little questionable. If a woman hate her fair rival, a well aimed word will as surely as the touch of an infected hand, blacken her beauty and leave her helpless. Who does not know the power of such insinuation? Who does not meet every day the victims of these unseen wrongs? But it is not necessary for this style of slander to use articulate words at all; nay, the most inarticulate language is best for its ends. A whisper dropped carelessly in some corner among the combustibles—a look, a shrug of the shoulder, a sneer, a laugh, may serve the purpose. There is not a sadder feature of human nature, than the readiness with which men accept such insinuations, and the rarity with which they have the manhood to repel them. Rumor with most minds is presumptive evidence, and they will say with a knowing air, "There must be some fire in so much smoke."—*Washburn.*

### THE SON OF MAN.

Nothing could better illustrate His perfect manhood than His identifying himself with the humble incidents of private life. He had grown up under the common ordinances of human experiences as a child, a son, a brother, a friend, and a neighbor. As a Jew He had shared in the social, civil and religious life of His nation. His presence at this marriage (of Cana) showed that He continued the same familiar relations to His fellow-men after His consecration as before it. Neither His nationality, nor education, nor mental characteristics, nor natural temperament narrowed His sympathies.

### A COMMANDMENT WITH PROMISE.

"Honor the Lord with thy substance, and with the first fruits of all thine increase; so shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst with new wine." (Prov. iii. 9, 10.)

Bishop Beveridge's famous saying on the subject of giving was:—"Always observe this rule: even to proportion your charity to your estates, lest otherwise God should partly proportion your estates to your charity; and if ye do not give as much as ye are able, make you able to give no more than ye do."

While it is our bounden duty to give freely to the support of the Gospel, we must be careful also not to omit to minister constantly, as far as we are able, to the wants of the poor, and especially to those who are of the household of faith. He that giveth to the poor lendeth to the Lord.

How many Christians are there whose righteousness equals that of the Pharisees? They gave to the Lord's service tithes of all they possessed, and they were commended by our Lord for doing so. But they neglected "judgment, mercy and faith." Is it possible for Christians to perform judgment, mercy and faith, and at the same time refuse to bring God's tithes into His storehouse? And yet we are warned by our Saviour Himself that unless our righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the Scribes and Pharisees, we shall in no case enter into the Kingdom of Heaven (Matt. v. 20).—*Register, St. Luke's Parish, Salisbury.*

### OUT OF SORTS.

Dr. John Todd says:—"Some people are always 'out of sorts.' The weather is always just what they don't want. I met one of these men awhile ago, a farmer who raised all manner of crops. It

was a wet day, and I said: "Mr. N., this weather will be fine for your grass crop."

"Yes, perhaps; but it's bad for the corn, and will keep it back. I don't believe we shall have a crop."

A few days after this, when the sun was shining hot, I said: "Fine sun for your corn, sir."

"Yes, pretty fair; but it is awful for the rye. Rye wants cold weather."

Again on a cold morning I met my neighbor, and said: "This must be capital for your rye, Mr. N."

"Yes; but is the very worst weather for the corn and grass. They want the heat to bring them forward."

The world is full of such complainers. They keep society in a ferment. Every one that comes in contact with them is made unhappy. Their faces are long, their spirit is sour, their words are doleful. With such people everything is "out of sorts." Whether the weather is hot or cold, dry or wet, whether the sun shines or is obscured by the clouds, under all circumstances, there is the same gloomy outcry. If the weather is good for the wheat, it is bad for the rye; if it is good for the corn, it is bad for the wheat. Thus they drag through their lot of complaining, and nothing that God can do for them, nor the whole realm of His providence, renders them at all comfortable.—*Church Light.*

### MANNISHNESS AND MANLINESS.

As soon as a boy begins to be a boy he begins to imitate the men around him. And that is all right; it is the only way he has of ever becoming a man himself. But, oh! what mistakes some boys make about it.

Boys are all anxious to imitate the pleasures of men. They want to ride a horse like a man, shoot a gun like a man, and dress like a man, and even this would not be so bad, but many boys have a dreadful propensity for copying the frivolities and vices of men. They wish to smoke and chew tobacco like a man, to drink liquor like a man, to swear like a man, to fight like a man, to sit up late at night like a man, to swagger and bluster like a man, to read vile books like a man, to be obscene in conversation like a man, and, in short, to copy everything from men that is easy to copy, and that will be a curse after it is copied. And this is what is called mannishness.

Then there are some boys who delight in copying the noble traits and actions of the men around them. They are ambitious to be as brave as a man at a fire or in a battle, to be as cool as a man in the midst of danger and excitement, to show the fortitude of a man in enduring great physical pain, to have as much physical strength as a man, to run as fast as a man, to do as much business as a man, and be as shrewd in a bargain as a man, to write like a man, and speak as correctly and as wisely as a man, and in short, to copy everything from men that is noble and useful. And this is what is called manliness.

And, oh! what a difference there is between the fruits of mannishness and manliness in boys. The mannish boy develops very soon into a fop, or a drunkard, or a loafer, or perhaps a thief. He is fortunate, indeed, if he retains his reputation, his purse, his employment, his liberty or his life, to the years of mature manhood. He has a good start on the road to ruin for body and soul, for time and eternity. But the manly boy can confidently count on an opposite career. He will grow every day in the confidence and esteem of his superiors, he will be promoted in business, he will enjoy good health and long life, and when he is dead his very memory will be fragrant and blessed.

Various means of preventing mannishness may be recommended to boys. Among others, let them keep as much as possible in the company of their own fathers, and of other good and true men. Let them give earnest heed to what their elders and superiors admire and condemn in boys. And, above all things, let them studiously avoid the company of mannish boys. Mannishness is very contagious, and every manly boy should avoid a mannish boy as he would the pest.—*Church and Home.*

### A BEAUTIFUL PRAYER.

In a little book by Francis R. Havergal she tells us about her dying mother's words to her when she was only a child. She said:

"Fanny, dear, pray to God to prepare you for all that He is preparing for you."

The words were spoken very feebly, but out of the depths of a great heart of love, and as she went away they seemed to sound over again as if she could never forget them.

"I wonder what He is preparing for me?" she thought. "O I do hope He is preparing one of the many mansions for me! How I wish to know whether He is. But I don't think He is preparing me for it, else I would not feel naughty so often."

These words from her mother's trembling lips never ceased to repeat themselves in her thoughts. Nearly twenty years afterward, when she was a busy woman, she wrote:

"I have just been praying words from my own mamma's lips when I was a little girl: 'Prepare me for all that Thou art preparing for me.'"

Then, thirty years afterward, she said that the little prayer her own mother taught her—"O Lord, prepare me for all that Thou art preparing for me"—had been her life-prayer. Again, only a little while before she died, she said:

"The words mamma taught me in 1848 have been a life-prayer with me. This preparing goes on; it is as when, gaining one horizon, another and another spreads before you."

This one single sentence spoken by her precious mother just before she went to God was not only remembered along all her busy years and amid all her many sorrows and sufferings, but it helped to shape all her own life. What a beautiful sentence it was! I am sure it would be a very sweet prayer for every child to learn and to make every day:

"Lord prepare me for all that Thou art preparing for me."

You cannot tell what God is preparing for you. It may be a deep sorrow. He was preparing sorrow for *this* dear child. In a little while her mother lay very still and cold in death, and the rest of her years she was motherless. You do not know what grief or loss may be preparing for you. God knows. Ask Him to prepare you for it if it is coming.

Then you do not know what important *duties* He is preparing for you. Perhaps you have a great mission to fulfil. Sometimes ships are sent out in war times with sealed orders which are not to be opened till they reach a certain place. All of us go out into life with sealed orders; until we come to the place where the duty is to be performed we do not know what our mission is. You may have to stand in a very important place and do a great work. Ask God every day to prepare you for the work He is preparing for you.

Then there is another way to think of this prayer. Jesus said He was going to His Father's house to prepare mansions for His disciples. Think of that every day—He is preparing a *mansion* for you. It is a very beautiful and holy place. It is where Jesus Himself is. Surely we need a great deal of preparation before we shall be ready for that place. Our prayer every day ought then to be that God would prepare us for the home that our Master is preparing for us. Let us ask Him to make us new hearts—hearts to love Him and love one another—to make us like Christ Himself. That is the way we need to be prepared for the heavenly mansions.

A little boy was gazing very intently up into the skies one summer evening, and his mother asked him what he was thinking about.

"I was thinking," he replied, "how far away heaven is, and how hard it must be to get there."

His mother replied:

"Heaven must first come down to you, my child. Heaven must come into your heart."

Her words were very wise and true. We can never get into heaven until we get heaven into our hearts—that is, we must be made holy and pure and good by Christ's grace. No one with a bad heart can ever enter heaven.

Will you not pray every day, "Lord, prepare me for the mansion in glory which Thou art preparing for me?"—*S. S. Visitor.*