

the plank platform which projected inward, and over which his hands could not be drawn without losing their hold of the rope. The father reached one hand over, and said, 'Let go the rope with one hand, my boy, and take my hand, and I will save you.' Sequel: mental struggle, *faith*, and deliverance.

"I was very much impressed," said my informant; "but in the afternoon of that same Sunday I went over to another town and heard another evangelist, who told the same story of the same thing happening to *him* when *he* was a boy. Then I made up my mind they were both liars, and I wanted nothing to do with either of them."

In these days of rapid communication the thing is even unsafe. Let us "dare to be true," and hold it good pulpit oratory to be as impersonal as the Master when we relate an experience not our own.

TRUTH-LOVER.

### The Dusty Books.

As I sit in my study-chair and look at the case of books before me, I cannot but notice some standard works that have dust on them. They are on the higher shelves, which often escape the notice of the dustcloth. Every minister who reads this article will be able to tell the reason for the dust. It is because I have not the time to read as much as I should like and do justice to the many details of an active ministry. There is dust on some of the volumes of Schaff's "History of the Christian Church." Certainly such a work should be read by every minister many times. I am reading it when opportunity is afforded for the purpose of preaching a series of evening sermons on the life and progress of the Church. But two hours a day to read, in addition to study for sermonizing, is too little for the mastering of such an excellent work.

A little dust on the works of John Owen. I know many ministers are not fond of the above-mentioned author. At times he is very dry and verbose. But I like John because he goes to the

bottom of a subject and leaves it. It is easy to put the top on a subject.

I notice a little dust on the works of Charnock. They are good for a minister to read. The author was a fine student, and gives an excellent explanation of the subjects treated. Such reading makes one fat.

A little dust on the Hebrew Bible. There is no question that if one would obtain a knowledge of the Old Testament, he must be a student of the Hebrew. Those who have studied the language know that it is one of the most charming. I will keep the dust from it by using it more than ever.

The Greek Testament has a little dust on it. Some say that it is more important to have a knowledge of Greek than Hebrew. I cannot assent to that. I think that one is just as necessary as the other. Happy is the man who has the time to read both.

Strange to say, there is no dust on my working Bible. A minister's Bible, above all others, should be kept free from dust. I am very fond of outlining the books of the Bible and making references of different kinds. While many other books get dusty and remain so for a time, this one is kept clean. No active minister of the Word can read as much as he would like: all he can do is to read what he can and let the rest go; but time should always be found for the reading of God's Word, for the study of that Book. From it we get, or should get, our sermons. It is the rule of life. The more we keep the dust from it by hard study the easier it will be to prepare sermons and deliver them, the more joy we shall find in God's service, the more satisfaction in life. Dear brother minister, let no dust be found on your working Bible. Get one that you can use, and use it. A wide margin is the best.

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### The Free-Few System.

I SEE by the press that Rev. Dr. Lindsay Parker, rector of St. Peter's