

THE QUIET HOUR

IDEAL FAITHFULNESS

Moreover, they reckoned not with the men, into whose hand they delivered the money to be bestowed on workmen: for they dealt faithfully.—2 Kings, xii.: 15. (See also xvii.: 7.)

When the Temple was repaired in the days of Jehoash, and later in the days of the good king Josiah, a remarkable fact is preserved in the records, viz.: that the men who handled the repair funds were not required to give any account of their stewardship because their trustworthiness was a self-evident fact. Strange that such common honesty should be worth remembering for thousands of years!

But, when we are striving to win great virtues and graces for our own possession, let us not overlook this glorious grace of faithfulness—a grace which is valued very highly by both God and man. Those who are faithful in the little everyday details of life, will not be likely to fail when a great test comes, for "He that is faithful in that which is least is faithful also in much." It was a great and important office to be given full charge of the Temple repair fund, but the character of the faithful stewards was not tested when the money was fearlessly trusted in their hands, it had been tested during many years of quiet, everyday faithfulness. How do I know that? Why, if men were wanted for such a responsibility now, those who would be implicitly trusted by the people who paid the money, could only be men who had won confidence by years of unswerving rectitude in trivial things.

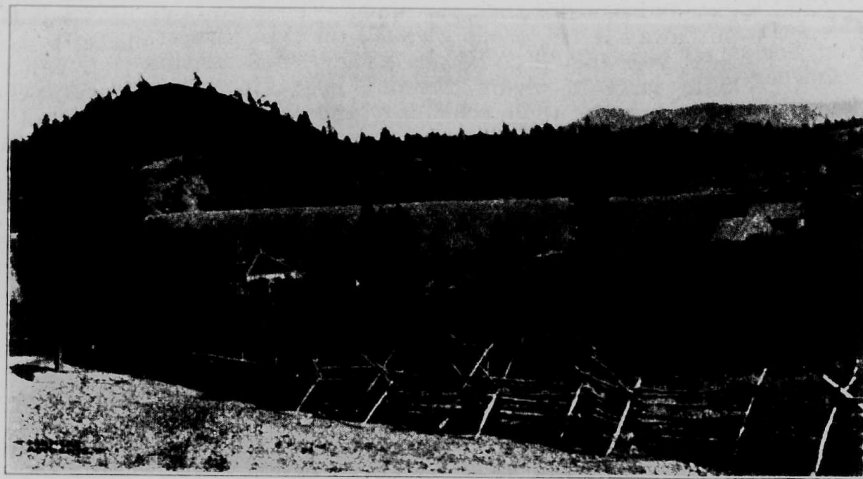
Faithfulness is a matter of character, it cannot fail to color the whole life, if it is the real article and not a veneer put on for outward show. The people who are satisfied to give only "eye-service, as men-pleasers," are dead failures, and are usually distrusted instinctively, as they deserve to be. People who only work diligently and thoroughly when they expect their work to be inspected by men, are certainly giving "eye-service." A lad once found a job with a gang of men to shovel snow. The foreman was called away for a few minutes and all the men stopped work immediately; only the lad worked on the same as before. "Why don't you take your chance of a holiday?" said one of the men, "we are paid by the day, not by the job." "I don't intend to cheat!" was the boy's indignant reply. "This is the first time I have had a man's wages and I intend to do a man's work."

Who can doubt that a boy who was so thoroughly reliable on one occasion had already formed the priceless habit of faithfulness in little things?

A business man said that he owed a great deal of his success in life to a trivial incident. His wife had sent a small order to a large store and received her parcel safely. A day or two later a letter from the firm arrived, stating that a mistake had been made, causing an overcharge of three cents. The stamps were enclosed, with an apology. The lady was much amused to think that a firm which was daily doing a business of thousands of dollars should treat three cents as of so much importance, but her husband took the incident as a model and prospered accordingly. In business, of course, it is a well-recognized fact that the only way to succeed is to pay attention to the smallest details, whether they are likely to be noticed or not; and it would be a very good thing if people were as particular and trustworthy in their family and social relations. Christians are bound to glorify God and to see to it that no one has a chance to sneer at the way those who pray and sing fervently on Sunday can be shift or

dishonestly careless and forgetful on Monday. One who scamps work, thinking it will not be noticed, or tries to gain advantages which are not rightfully his, is deliberately bringing dishonor on the Master he professes to be serving. It is a shame and a disgrace that the general impression has taken root in the world that a professed Christian is not to be trusted as confidently as a man who makes no profession of being swayed by the love and fear of God.

We should, as the Duchess in "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland" declares, "take care of the sense, and the sounds will take care of themselves." If we are careful to be true and holy in thought and determination, the "sounds," or outward expression of character in word or act, can safely be left to take care of themselves. God's love of beautiful thoroughness can be seen as plainly in a snowy star which melts as soon as it touches the ground, as in a magnificent landscape. So also a successful departmental store is one where the strictest attention is paid to an order for a spool of thread or a paper of needles, as well as to the attractive arrangement of expensive goods which will catch the eye of millionaires. So also a doctor or a nurse, who will faithfully watch the faintest symp-



FARMING COUNTRY IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

toms of a patient hovering between life and death, should be just as particular to keep the lightest promise to a little child; unless it should interfere with higher duties, when, if possible, the child should be told that his disappointment was not simply caused by careless neglect, but was unavoidable.

Sometimes people are far too particular about trifles. They are fussy and irritating, becoming a nuisance to all their friends. Ian Maclaren describes a man of this sort, who made such a fuss about petty details of housekeeping that his wife was ready to insist on a separation, if he had not found out his mistake in the nick of time.

Ideal faithfulness is faithfulness to God. Those who are trying to pour out all their powers of soul and body in His service will be quick to see where a thing that is really trifling should be sacrificed in order to gain a greater advantage. It is a far more important duty to establish pleasant relations with one's fellows, so that one can influence their outlook and ideals and perhaps color their lives for all eternity, than it is to clear a thousand dollars in a speculation or dust the tops of windows and doors, in the determination to be strictly faithful to household details where no one but God can see. Many a splendid housekeeper makes a reputation for herself and is altogether too busy to ever spend an hour or two in happy social intercourse with her husband and children. If visitors are spending the evening with her, she can

take time for pleasant conversation, or even relax her devotion to her idol—"work"—long enough to play a game. But she considers it would be waste of time to lay aside her work in that fashion just to give pleasure to her own family or to get into touch with husband and children. Faithfulness in small matters should never crowd out great opportunities of fellowship with other souls, neither should it be allowed to stand in the way of the rest and recreation which are needed to keep these complex natures of ours fresh and vigorous. Those who, without absolute necessity, allow their bodies and minds to become dull and faded; or let their souls run thin by allowing prayer and reading to be crowded out by things of infinitely less importance, are not being ideally faithful to the greatest opportunities God has entrusted to them as stewards.

"We may fill our hands full of larger work and be constantly extending our interests and be giving our aid to all good causes; but if our own soul is all the time growing arid and lifeless, our service will lose its point and all our activities become hollow." HOPE.

THE MASTER'S CALL

"I asked the Lord to let me do
Some mighty work for Him,
To fight amidst His battle hosts,
Then sing the victor's hymn.
I longed my ardent love to show,
But Jesus would not have it so.

"He placed me in a quiet home,

Whose life was calm and still,
And gave me little things to do,
My daily life to fill.
I could not think it good to be
Just put aside so silently.

"Small duties gathered round my way,
They seemed of earth alone;
I who had longed for conquests bright
To lay before His throne,
Had common things to do and bear,
To watch and strive with daily care.

"So then I thought my prayer unheard,
And asked the Lord once more
That He would give me work for Him,
And open wide the door—
Forgetting that my Master knew
Just what was best for me to do.

"Then quietly the answer came:
'My child, I hear thy cry;
Think not that mighty deeds alone
Will bring the victory;
The battle has been planned by Me;
Let daily life thy conquests see.'"

FRIENDSHIP

I do not pray that useless stores of
golden treasure,
Beloved or not,
Nor yet that one unbroken round of
earthly pleasure,
May be your lot;

But rather that your faith and love
no dross possessing,
As gold may shine,
And all your path be lighted up with
heavenly blessing
And peace divine.

I cannot ask that naught of bitter
pain or sorrow,
Thy cup may hold,
Or that you may not feel the shock
to-day, to-morrow,
Of conflict bold;
But that the sanctifying power of
furnace trial,
Though burning hot,
May leave your soul, as gain for
every self-denial,
Without a spot.

I would not seek to rescue you from
grief's grim clutches,
Nor cry to spare,
When God, with His own loving,
skillful master touches
Thy heart lays bare;
But I would wish to see thee rich in
heavenly treasure,
Full well refined,
Yes, rich as God alone His bounte-
ous gifts doth measure,
Nor fall behind.

I do not, cannot ask for you a lesser
blessing
Than God's own love;
To dwell with Him, and all His
boundless wealth possessing,
In heaven above.
For you and I are only waiting here
as strangers,
Still bound for home,
Abiding 'mid earth's darkening shades
and many dangers,
Till God says come.
—Frank Willoughby, in N. Y. Ob-
server.

LITERARY SOCIETY

BERMUDA*: AN INTERESTING BRITISH POSSESSION

BY ANNIE P. DOBIE.

Our Canadian winters are bracing and delightful, but we had experienced a good many, and the prospect of dropping a few of the winter months off the calendar—losing them, as it were, in some warmer climate—was decidedly attractive. The geographies had so often described the climate of Bermuda as "mild, genial and salubrious," that we made up our minds to try it.

Crowds of tourists, in straw hats, white shoes, and full summer regalia, awaited the arrival of the steamer. After we had gone through the formality of having our baggage examined in the Customs, we took one of the carriages lined up, and had our first drive over the dazzling white roads to our destination in Warwick. The hedges of hibiscus in full bloom, the fragrance of narcissus, made that drive seem like the realization of a fairy tale. It took us a week or two to adjust ourselves to such novel surroundings. Each day we saw something new and beautiful to wonder at. Naturally, the flowers and trees first claimed our attention. The chief industry of the people is, of course, farming, or, to be more accurate, gardening; and one of the first things that strikes the visitor as strange is the irregularity of the fields. They are of no particular shape, and seldom fenced off. There is comparatively little soil on the islands, and wherever it is silted down into the hollows there are the "fields." Often, when driving, we came upon a field on a level with the road, but just as often the next one would be up on a hillside, or many feet below the road-level.

Onions, potatoes, and Easter lilies, are the principal crops, and we noticed far more laborers at work in the fields than we ever see on the Ontario farms. Lettuce, parsley and cassava are also largely cultivated. The cassava is a shrub, whose root is grated and used like tapioca. The common or "Irish" potato, as Bermudians call it, is very fine, and po-

tato fields in Bermuda are seen. The Colorado demands the eternal vigilance of the Canadian farmer, has Bermuda, and the foliage is really beautiful. "pine" was a curiosity. tables. It was of a with a scaly rind, and pineapple. It was about a small muskmelon, and tasted as insipid as it imply. Custard apples with a soapy flavor will not relish.

One of the commonest of the fruits was "paw," which grows on six to eight feet high, at the top like a palm about it is that the fruit times up at the top, and or it may develop a coup the ground on the main s exactly like a tiny water side there are hundreds o seeds, like peas, covered w substance. The paw-paw a specific for stomach tr best results are said to b swallowing the seeds who told this so often that w was a stock-joke of the I

The loquat was another. It would be hard to des tree is straggly, and the pearance, not unlike a sm It is very juicy and ta pleasant. This and the "ry" are made into jam mudian housekeepers.

Speaking of the Surinam calls the Surinam toad, v most formidable creatur Bermuda. It was largt and was introduced into destroy an insect of some successful in its mission, b such an extent that it is starvation. It makes noise, like the bellowing of

We saw both oranges growing, but of such poor they were scarcely wor All fruits of this kind ar from Barbadoes and Jam or twenty years ago orange pomegranates were raised but the trees were all de pest of some sort. Whil Bermuda, we noticed a fly loquats, but no attempt made to check its ravage reason—it may be fatalis be indolence—the people make no fight in the w trees, as we do in Cana; drift along, and take eve comes. The soil is very climate perfect. Frost and yet the people are p of cultivating his land, lets it to a Portuguese, w crops a year from it. In the Portuguese will go wealthy, leaving the soil so impoverished that cr grow without expensive f There are about 18,500 in Bermuda, two-thirds negroes. This means ch in Bermuda; but, as a m two negroes will not do v adians would call a day's man. Until recently, a work for three shillings a day, but agitators are now to demand more.

The Bermudas consist islands, of coral formation ogists believe that they r craters of submerged vo ago extinct. The largest muda, is only about three at its widest part, so that everyone's door, as it w muda's greatest charm. I ly changing, taking on the ful shades of blue.

The islands are cover cedar, and against the dar of its foliage the white hou in beautiful contrast. have been made for gener the coral rock, quarried f and sawed by the worki blocks, like cream candy, becomes very hard, and pels householders to w roofs of houses every ye several old buildings, said