

### What Can Wealth Do ?

The following story is told of Jacob Ridgeway, a wealthy citizen of Philadelphia, who died many years ago leaving a fortune of five or six million dollars :

"Mr. Ridgeway," said a young man with whom the millionaire was conversing, "you are more to be envied than any gentleman I know."

"Why so?" responded Mr. Ridgeway "I am not aware of any cause for which I should be particularly envied."

"What sir!" exclaimed the young man in astonishment. "Why, you are a millionaire! Think of the thousands your income brings every month!"

"Well what of that?" replied Mr. Ridgeway. "All I get out of it is my victuals and clothes, and I can't eat more than one man's allowance and wear more than a suit at a time. Pray can't you do as much?"

"Ah, but," said the youth, "think of the hundreds of fine houses you own, and the rentals they bring you."

"What better am I off for that?" replied the rich man. "I can only live in one house at a time; as for the money I receive for rents, why I can't eat it or wear it; I can only use it to buy other houses for other people to live in; they are the beneficiaries, not I."

"But you can buy splendid furniture, and costly pictures, and fine carriages and horses—in fact, anything you desire."

"And after I have bought them," responded Mr. Ridgeway, "what then? I can only look at the furniture and pictures and the poorest man who is not blind, can do the same. I can ride no easier in a fine carriage than you can in an omnibus for five cents, without the trouble of attending to drivers, footmen and hostlers; and as to anything I 'desire,' I can tell you, young man, that the less we desire in this world, the happier we shall be. All my wealth can't buy a single day more of life—cannot buy back my youth—cannot procure me power to keep afar off the hour of death, and then, what will all avail, when in a few short years at most, I lie down in the grave and leave it all for ever. Young man, you have no cause to envy me."

### Begin the Day with God.

In one of our recent meetings a young man remarked he had begun to devote half an hour each morning to secret pray-

er; that he found his daily life growing to be more as he desired it should be. When the press of duties precluded this morning communion with the Master, the day seemed to him a failure. We trust there are none of our young men who do not hold secret converse with the Master at the day's commencement. His ear can hear amid the clang of machinery and the hum of voices. No matter what are the surrounding circumstances, the heart can go to God. Wherever Abraham pitched his tent, there he raised an altar to the Lord. So, wherever the Christian heart is, there is also an acceptable altar from which the incense of prayer and praise may ascend. Luther, in his busiest seasons, felt that praying time was never lost. When remarkably pressed with labors he would say, "I have so much to do, that I cannot get on without three hours a day praying." Sir Matthew Hale, said, "If I omit praying and reading God's Word in the morning, nothing goes well all day."

How many of us may find here the cause of many of our failures, and consequent discontent and loss of happiness? Bishop Taylor beautifully remarks, "Prayer is the key to open the day, and the bolt to shut in the night."

### I can't undo it

A little girl sat picking out a seam that she had sewed together wrong. Her chubby fingers picked at the thread, that would break, leaving the end hidden somewhere among the stitches that she had laboured so wearily to make short and close; and though the thread came out, yet the needle holes remained, shewing just how the seam had been sewed; and with tears in her eyes she cried, "O mamma, I can't undo it!" Poor little girl! you are learning one of the saddest lessons there are. The desire of undoing what can never be undone gives us more trouble than all the doings of a busy life; and because we know this so well, our hearts often ache for the boys and girls we see doing things they will wish so earnestly by-and-by to undo. And now where is the bright side? Right here. Let us try to do a thing the first time, so we will never wish to undo it. We can ask our heavenly Father. He never leads us wrong; and anything we do under His guidance we shall never wish to undo.—*E. Days.*