

free, has scarcely a visitor. But the bull fight—the admission to which is from *fourteen to twenty-five shillings*—is packed, and as much as ten pounds is paid for a seat in the shade.

"It is a terrible fact that the priest and the bull-fighter are the two chief factors of the day. Indeed, they go together, for bull-fights are frequently given in aid of the expenses of public worship, and the proceeds of the revolting exhibitions are called '*pious alms*.'"—*Missionary Review*.

"THEN CERTAINLY FOR ME."

A JEWESS took it into her head she would like to go to a Methodist revival meeting, just to see what it was like. Her husband tried to dissuade her, but she persisted. She went and listened; and as she listened there was a quiet voice seemed to be whispering in her heart all the time, "What if Jesus is the Christ?" She went again, and again the same query was running through her mind, "What if Jesus is the Christ?" "I'll search into it, at any rate," she thought; and she returned to her husband, and said, "You must get me a New Testament. I want to see what it is like." "Nonsense," he said; "the Methodists will make you mad." However, to please her he sent across to a Methodist's house with the inquiry, "Will you be kind enough to lend me a New Testament?" Most gladly was it lent. The Jewess seized it, rushed upstairs, and throwing it down, exclaimed, "Oh, Thou Father of Abraham, Father of Isaac, Father of Jacob, God of my father and mother, *show me the truth*." She opened the Book and read the words in Romans i. 19, "I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth, *to the Jew first*, and also to the Greek." She sprang to her feet at the words "*to the Jew first*," exclaiming, "Then certainly for me; and I accept Him."

Is there any one of you wanting to find the truth, do like this Jewess did; she *willed to know His will*, and soon discovered it.—*H. S. N. in The Friend of Missions*.

LIVING NIGH TO GOD.

THE Christian who will cultivate a close heart-life with God, must manage somehow to find time or make time for feeding his soul as well as his body. I knew of a godly merchant who had a place for secret prayer up in the loft of his warehouse. That was his Bethel. Daniel was a prodigiously busy man in Babylon, but he managed to get a special interview with God three times a day on his knees. That noble Christian philanthropist, the late William E. Dodge, used to rise early and get a good quiet hour with his Bible and his Master before he ventured into the roaring tumult of the day. He came out from this communion with God with his face shining. Such an early hemming of the day with prayer has a most potent influence to keep the whole day from ravelling out into frivolities, and worldly compliance, and grasping covetousness. Mr. Garret N. Bleeker—whom many of my Baptist readers will recall as a shining light in their denomination—made it his practice to

go home at noon and dine with his family. He took that time to "cool off" from business and to get a nooning with God in a short season of secret prayer. Every follower of Christ who would maintain a strong and holy life, must not only commune with his Lord every day over His Word, but should have his Bethels or his Olivets, or some set place and time for locking his soul in with Jesus. Martin Luther affirmed that during the heats of his great life-battle he "could not get on without two hours each day in prayer"; it was his tremendous grip on God that enabled him to vanquish the powers of darkness.

Here, too, lies the secret of the genuine higher life. It is simply *living nigh to God*—on the Sabbath in God's house, and through the week in our own houses and places of business. It is keeping our citizenship in Heaven and our eyes above the wretched mists that lie near the ground, and our hearts in close touch with Christ. They that thus wait on God shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles. They out-fly the petty vexations that worry the worldling, and the grovelling cares and lusts that drag selfish sinners down into the mire. Their outlook is broad; their spiritual atmosphere is bracing; their fellowship with Christ is sweet; they rehearse a great deal of Heaven before they get there. Living nigh to Him whom their souls love in this world, they need not spend a thought about dying. Being always ready to exchange their home with God which they found here, for a higher home in Heaven, they have nothing to do but to enter the door of pearl as soon as it opens, and go in to be *forever with the Lord*.—*T. L. Cuyler, D.D.*

ITALY AND MISSIONS.

ITALY was for centuries the great battle-field for Christianity. No soil, save, it may be, that of Jerusalem, is so sacred to the Church as that of Italy. It has been the great crucible of Christian experience. Nowhere else has it been so tested, on so large a scale, and, at the same time, so triumphantly vindicated, as here. For these and other reasons it is of the greatest interest to the Church to redeem this land from the blight which has covered it for so many centuries.

Besides, it is the citadel of that spurious Christianity—a kind of Christianized paganism—which has, for hundreds of years, stood directly in the way of the progress of a pure Christianity. Hence, any indication of real progress in Italy is a matter of special joy among all Christians. It is, therefore, a matter of rejoicing to know that, in this land so long cursed by Romanism—that greatest obstacle in the way of this world's redemption—there are many things to encourage.

The Waldensians, that little church of grandest heroes, who have clung to the mountain valleys during all these fearful years of darkness, have come out from their mountain fastnesses and are carrying the pure Gospel of Christ all over this beautiful land. Other Christian organizations have gone in and are joining them in this work. One of the most hopeful signs, however, is the fact that the people are losing confidence in the Pope and priests, and are breaking away from the confessional and the church. The best authorities say this is true of a majority of all the