

"ONE LITTLE THING."

I may not of wonderful gifts be possessed,
Nor can I great victories gain by the sword,
But my spirit to rule and my tongue to control
Is the one little thing I can do for my Lord.

All my goods to bestow that the poor may be fed,
Is perhaps more than honestly I can afford,
But the cup of cold water to give in His name
Is the one little thing I can do for my Lord.

I may not have faith the great mountains to move,
Nor the power to see that my barns are well stored,
But to trust him that he will supply all my need
Is the one little thing I can do for my Lord.

It may not be mine to do wonderful deeds,
But to draw back the stray sheep with love's gentle cord,
And to bid it return to the Good Shepherd's fold,
Is the one little thing I can do for my Lord.

True love is not shown by great actions alone,
Nor the eloquent speech, nor the powerful word;
But to speak the kind whisper, to give the kind look,
Is the one little thing I can do for the Lord.

And then 'twill be seen, when the reck'ning day comes,
And the Master apportions to each his reward,
That the one improved talent, though ever so small,
Was the one thing that all could have done for the Lord.

— Church Missionary Gleaner.

THE ICY END.

In the winter of 1873 a man attempted to cross the frozen surface of the Merrimac. When about ten feet from the shore he broke through. A workman in a saw-mill near by, seized a plank and thrust it out to the drowning man.

Unfortunately one end of the plank was covered with ice, and that end the workman, in his excitement, extended to the struggling man. He caught hold of it several times, and tried to pull himself up on the solid ice. But at each attempt his hand slipped and he fell back into the water. At last he cried out, in the agony of terror:

"For mercy's sake, don't reach me the icy end of the plank!"

A perplexed student once went to a college professor for help in a certain study.

"I am willing to help you," the professor said, with chilling courtesy, "but of course you know that my time is fully occupied, and that I can't give special attention to every student? What is your difficulty?"

The student stated what had perplexed him.

"O, that's nothing!" answered the professor. "You don't need my help to get out of that difficulty. Still, when you really need my assistance, I will cheerfully give it to you. But you won't forget that my time is valuable."

The student bowed his thanks and departed without receiving the help he really needed. The icy end of the plank was held out to him. From that day he bitterly, though unjustly, classed all the professors together as cold and unsympathetic. He carried this prejudice through his college course, because he had been denied a little timely sympathy.

A few years ago, a young minister and

his wife began their work in a growing Western town. Their people were attentive and courteous, the salary was ample, and a new church edifice was erected. But in less than a year the minister and his wife sought a smaller church and a lower salary.

A friend, surprised at the change, asked: "What was the matter? Didn't the climate suit you?"

"Perfectly."

"Well, wasn't your church harmonious?"

"Yes."

"You had a fair salary?"

"Yes, more than I get now."

"Why did you leave, then?"

"Because my wife and I were tired of living in a refrigerator. Every one was kind, but it was a kindness wrapped up in ice, as if they were afraid it would spoil. We had help enough, but not real sympathy."

The icy end of the plank had been extended to the minister and his wife.—Golden Days.

BE MODERATE.

The apostle Paul says: "Let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand." The Lord has constant cognizance of all we do and say. Hence, if prosperity is your lot, do not let it inflate you. If sorrow is your portion, do not despair. If disappointments as to your aspirations befall you, do not allow yourself to sulk and become bitter. Despite all the trials of life's vicissitudes preserve a cheerful, hopeful air, a tender conscience, an ardent, youthful sympathy, and a kindly, brotherly interest in the welfare of others. It will keep you young both in spirit and in action, even when the shadows of life are long drawn out. "The Lord is at hand." He is a stronghold and a safe hiding-place to all who put their trust in him.—Ex.



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