

to learn the lesson. They were brave enough in some ways, but very timid in others. It requires a strong faith to keep from fainting under the trials of this life. Jesus came to supply this strength. Leaning on him we may safely go into any danger. Human nature may quake, but the soul is safe. No ship can sink with Christ on board.—Christian Advocate.

New Year's Resolutions.

Sometimes people get discouraged about making good resolutions at the beginning of the year because they have broken so many of them in the past; but never to resolve is never to "rise on stepping stones of our dead selves to higher things."

In the Household there appeared last year the New Year's resolutions of a great many celebrated people, and from these I have selected and given in other words and in condensed form the thoughts that seemed most helpful:

Hizkiah Butterworth, so well known as a popular writer for young people, says that every good resolution that he has made and kept has made him stronger to make and keep others. One that he made early and always tried to keep is to listen to and obey that still, small voice in his soul that he has come to know as the voice of the Spirit of God. Helen Keller, the wonderful girl who, without sight or hearing and until recently without speech, prepared herself to enter Radcliffe College, says that the keynote of her life has been the resolution not to be discouraged or dwarfed by any or all of the fetters that were placed upon her by illness in her babyhood.

The popular writer for girls, Laura E Richards, had made a little resolution that should give her a warm place in the hearts of all young folks who have felt themselves unjustly snubbed. She says she has resolved never to let a child's letter go unanswered.

Mrs. Mary A. Livermore, a woman who has always attempted large things for humanity and borne heavy burdens, and who is now above eighty years of age, says that years ago she resolved to cultivate constant cheerfulness, and now in the sunset of her life she does not feel that she is going down hill, but that it is brighter and better farther on.

A college student has resolved to think of what it is his duty to do and not of the consequences, to consider what is possible rather than what he would prefer, to work diligently in the present rather than dream about or fear the future, to criticise himself rather than others and to be guided by his own sense of right and not by the consciences of others.

Louise Chandler Moulton is holding to the resolution never to be guilty of unkindness or to write a word that shall do any one harm.

Edwin Markham, the author of "The Man with the Hoe," has chosen for the guiding north star of his journey of life, the denotation to seek not his own but the common good.

The governor of an eastern state records the resolution to wear a cheerful face and not burden other people with his cares or troubles. Faith Latimer has formed a similar determination, not to wear her personal thorns so that they will prick other people.

A famous pastor resolves every morning to keep first things first; never to let the near and trivial crowd out the more remote and the eternal. A famous author expresses a similar thought when he resolves to rise above little things.

The author of "Peloubet's Notes" is determined to be a little farther along tomorrow than today; to make each day a stepping stone in the journey to the heavenly heights.

A wonderfully successful merchant selected the last clause of Heb. 11:6 to be the keynote of his life. Look it up for yourselves and you will remember it better.

Our contributor, J. L. Harbour, has gotten a great deal of peace of mind out of the resolution not to contract debts that he cannot pay.

A famous and now aged woman has resolved not to mourn over blunders nor fear the future, as it is wholly in God's hands.

You see that in each resolution is a thought that will bear thinking over again by each one of our boys and girls.—Young Reaper.

Do You Mean It?

Do you really mean it when you say to every one you meet on New Year's Day, "I wish you a Happy New Year?" Or are the words a mere matter of form, forgotten almost as soon as they are spoken? If you really mean it, then why not do all that you can do to bring your wish to pass? If every man, woman and child who wishes another person a Happy New Year would only do all that it is possible for him to do, really and truly, to give that person a Happy New Year, there would be a delightful and tremendous increase of happiness in the world.

Of course you wish all of your friends a Happy New Year. You are generous and kindly enough not to want misfortune or unhappiness to come to any of them, but, at the same time, you do not feel any special sense of responsibility regarding their happiness. I am sure that the boys and girls who may read this would quickly resent it if any one told them that they did not really mean it when they wish their fathers and mothers and brothers and sisters a Happy New Year. But I have heard children wish their parents a very Happy New Year, and before the day was done they would do something that would make their parents unhappy. How, then, could their good wishes have been really and truly sincere? It would be more to the purpose if you said to your parents, "I wish you a Happy New Year, and I am going to do all that I can to make you happy."

It would be more to the purpose if you said right out of the bottom of your hearts, "I wish the whole world a happy new year, and I will do all that it is possible for me to do to make the world happier this year."

It is of no use to wish your friends a happy new year and then make no attempt to bring happiness into their lives.

There is so much unhappiness in the world that never would be in it if all the "happy new years" one hears on the first day of the year were uttered with an added and faithfully kept resolution that the wish should be brought to pass.

I know of a good and generous man who on last New Year's Day sent to each of his 100 or more employees a brief but kindly letter, wishing each of them a "Happy new year," and inclosing a ten-dollar bill "to help to make it happy." Now we cannot all supplement our good wishes with gifts of ten-dollar bills to prove our sincerity, but we can supplement our good wishes with many words and deeds of kindness to prove that we are in earnest.

If you have not done so before, supposing that you start out on a new tack this year, and follow up every good wish you make by a sincere, prayerful endeavor to make it a happy year to all.—Selected.

Does the Bible Forbid Gambling?

Does the Bible forbid gambling in so many words? That is one thing that it does not do. But it does forbid the spirit that leads up to it, the aims that enter into it and the passions that result from it. Disguise it as one may, covetousness is the soul of gambling. Take away the stake and "you have taken away all interest from the game." Whether it is a sin to bet on a horse race, or a game of cards, depends simply upon the question whether the tenth commandment, which forbids to covet, means what it says. The question often occurs, What becomes of the immense sums staked and lost in gambling? Why does the successful gambler die poor, as well as the unsuccessful player? Simply because no man regards the money obtained by gambling as he looks upon the wages of his toil. The first thing a successful gambler thinks of is to "have a good time." Success in gambling begets folly in spending. The loser loses, the winner squanders. The whole is gone. Both die poor. Those not buried by the county are usually buried by passing round the hat." Gambling is to-day the most prevalent and meanest of all vices. It has not one single redeeming trait in it. It has not one generous impulse behind it; not one beneficent result from it. It honeycombs the soul with the basest of passions. The confirmed gambler is always a deceiver and the young man infatuated with its excitement is on the sure road to destruction. The gambler is first a fool and last a scoundrel. Does the Bible forbid gambling? Well, if there is anything that it does forbid, it is the vice whose root is greed, whose trunk is cruelty and whose fruit is fraud.—Interior.

A Good Man.

It is thought by some that learning is the thing that makes life rich and grand. But one may be learned without making much of life. Learning is a good thing. The study of science affords wonderful satisfaction. Few things contribute more to the enrichment of life than a well-stored and well-disciplined mind. But knowledge and learning are not the principal things. Some men are wiser and stronger without learning than others are with it. Jesus was not a learned man according to the standards of this world, yet when he opened his mouth and spake, such streams of truth and wisdom proceeded from his enlightened mind that his learned enemies said, "Whence hath this man these things, never having learned?" Peter and John were unlearned fishermen, yet they made the world richer by their wisdom. John Bunyan was not a learned man according to the standards of this world, yet what scientist or philosopher ever did so much as he to enlighten the world? The wisdom that cometh from above is superior to the wisdom of this world. It is not the scientist, but the saint, that lives that life which is dead indeed. It is not the philosopher, but the Christian, that is the light of the world. It is not the scholar, but the good man, that makes the most of life.—Christian Advocate.

God is Light.

"God is light." That is positive. He is all that light implies, and involves, and effects. Light stands with all men for intelligence, and holiness and truth. It speaks to the scientist at least, of power. To all eyes it symbolizes happiness. As to its ubiquity and glory also, it sets forth the great and glorious God. A better, fuller definition could not be. The all-pervading light, the source of light, and health and charm, diffusing its benefits with unbiassed benevolence, and conquering all unwholesome influences, is a fair, if faint, emblem of Israel's good and gracious God. What we know as the light is the best comparison we have to the incomparable Jehovah; yet when we have reverently contemplated him under that image, we remember that the Holy Ghost saith not that he is like the light, but that "God is light." He is the source and centre of all that light typifies. With him are the treasures of wisdom. God sitteth upon the throne of his holiness. A God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he. He is the happy as well as the holy Lord God. He has set his glory above the heavens, and the whole earth shall yet be filled with it.

Agreeably with this doctrine, we note the suggestive fact that God has seen fit to reveal himself as light. The fiery pillar and the bright Shekinah declare that "God is light." The illumined face of Moses and the glittering garments of the transfigured Saviour say, "God is light." The light above the brightness of the sun that felled Saul of Tarsus to the ground, and the dazzling glory of him who walked among the golden candlesticks, repeat the truth that "God is light." Moreover, it is written of the city where God doth dwell, "And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light."—Selected.

The Work That Is Undone.

It is the work that is undone that brings distress and disaster in its train. The task that is promptly achieved, the duty that is fairly met and discharged is wholesome and tonic in its effects. It is to the soul what athletic exercise is to the body. It toughens its fibre, it hardens its muscle, it heightens capacity, and broadens the area of endeavor. The work that is done at its appointed time becomes the legitimate forerunner of its successor. Hence it is that the busy man is the one to whom you can always successfully appeal. Systematic promptness rarely says no, and as rarely breaks down. It is the work undone that harasses and destroys. It is that which makes the system flabby and is the precursor of nervous prostration. Over-work kills less frequently than under-work. Not the task done, but the one undone pesters our reflection and haunts our dreams. The sermon that is prepared early in the week rests us, it is the one postponed until the last moment that makes us tired. A good thing for us to remember is that it is easier for us to keep up than to catch up, and that it is within the confines of the unperformed task that unknown terrors hide. In himself as well as in the plaudit of the Master the servant who did his work shall find his reward.—Commonwealth.

What Makes a Great Life.

Do not try to do a great thing; you may waste all your life waiting for the opportunity which may never come. But since little things are always claiming your attention, do them as they come, from a great motive, for the glory of God, to win his smile of approval and to do good to men. It is harder to plod on in obscurity, acting thus, than to stand on the high places of the field, within the view of all, and do deeds of valor at which rival armies stand still to gaze. But no such act goes without the swift recognition of Christ. To fulfill faithfully the duties of your station; to use to the uttermost the gifts of your ministry; to bear chafing and trivial irritations as martyrs bore the pillow and stake; to find the one noble trait in people who try to molest you; to put the kindest construction on unkind acts and words; to love with the love of God even the unthankful and evil; to be content to be a fountain in the midst of a wild valley of stones, nourishing a few litchens and wild flowers, or now and again a thirsty sheep; and to do this always, and not for the praise of man, but for the sake of God—this makes a great life.—F. B. Meyer.

The New Year's Welcome.

Ring, bells, ring! for the king is here;
Ring, bells, ring! for the glad New Year.
He mounts his throne with a smiling face,
His scepter lifts with majestic grace.
Ring for the joy his advent brings;
Ring for the happy songs he sings;
Ring for the promises sweet and true
With which we gladden our hearts anew.

The new-born year is a happy fellow,
His voice is sweet, and low, and mellow;
With the Christmas holly his head is crowned,
With the Christmas blessing well' wrap him round,
Then ring, bells, ring! for the joyous day—
The past lies silent, the present is gay:
Ring out your merriest, cheer after cheer,
To welcome the birth of the happy New Year!

—Selected.