

A BED TOO SHORT AND A COVERING TOO NARROW.

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“For the bed is shorter than that a man can stretch himself on it; and the covering narrower than that he can wrap himself in it.” Is. xxviii, 20.

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A. SURELY you will not say that I ought not to do the best I can?

B.—I would be very sorry to hinder you from doing well, but what do you mean by doing your best, and what profit do you expect to draw from it?

A.—Well, to please God and reach heaven at last. But you seem to want to throw cold water on all the efforts that one can make.

B.—That depends upon your particular point of view, but I assure you that I would be only too glad to see anyone really occupied with the question of their salvation; only, it seems to me, that you are trying to do what God for many long years has declared to be “in vain,” for “if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain” (Gal. ii. 21). A comparison will show you the purpose of the law. When a mason wishes to build a wall, he constructs it of stones, or bricks and mortar, but as his work advances he tries it often with his plumbline. Now, he does not build the wall with the plumbline, but with stones and mortar. The man would be senseless who would pretend to construct a wall of a plumbline, whilst he would make very poor work if he should construct one without it. As everyone

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