

Better is the poor that walketh in his integrity, than he that is perverse in his lips, and is a fool.—Prov. xix. 1.



THE CROOKED STICK.

JAMES THERROL, an old carpenter on Salisbury Plain, once reproved a young Christian, who complained that she was unworthy to serve the Lord—"I used," he said, "to think as you do, but the Lord taught me by a crooked stick. One day my son went to a sale of timber, and in the lot he bought was a piece so twisted and bent that he said sharply, 'It will be of no use.' 'Wait a bit,' said I; 'don't fret; let us keep a look out, there is a place somewhere for it.' Soon after I was building a house. There was a corner to turn in it; not a stick in the yard would fit; I thought of the crooked one and fetched it. It seemed as if the tree had grown for the purpose. Then," said I, "there was a place for the crooked stick after all, and without doubt there is a place for James Therrol as well."

What a sad thing it is not to have found one's own place! There is yet one thing sadder, and that is to feel that

one has not a place at all, that one is of no use and no good in the world.

How many young men are apt to think that because they cannot do what a friend of theirs does, therefore they are of no use. They want to accomplish great things, and failing that, they sorrowfully say that they cannot do anything.

The thing is that so many of us are not willing to be individually guided of God. We think we ought to be in the same position or standing as So-and-so, and we fret and worry and make ourselves completely unhappy because we cannot reach that position. And it may be that God has quite a different place and work for us to that of the one we envy, and yet one not a whit less useful or blessed. Oh, if each one of us were more content to be led by God, if we were trustful enough to know that His plan for us is best, then we should have fuller, richer lives, and should find that after all there was a place for us.

There is a place for you, friend, and a place for me, somewhere, even if we are only like a poor crooked stick; there is a niche that only we can fill, and if we do not fill it, it will be left empty. How many an one has felt, "I cannot speak for the Saviour here; when I am in other circumstances then I will work for Him." Ah, but it is just where God places you that you can best work for Him.

EVANGELISTIC BIBLE CLASS

HELD

EVERY SUNDAY AFTERNOON,

AT 3 O'CLOCK.

All We come.

He that followeth after righteousness and mercy findeth life, righteousness and honour.—Prov. xxi. 21.