

For the Quiet Hour

"The Value of Thankfulness."

THE keynote of the happiest life is thankfulness. So let us be thankful! The years that we are here are few and fitful, but the spirit of thankfulness will make these years fragrant and beautiful. It is this spirit of thankfulness that fills us with the consciousness that God loves and cares for us even to the least event and the smallest need of life. As the magnet that is drawn through a dish of sand finds the particles of iron in it, so the thankful spirit goes through the day and finds, in every hour, some heavenly blessing. And every gift that comes to the thankful-hearted brings forth a song of praise. Thankfulness keeps alive the daily converse with our heavenly Father, "He speaking to us by the descent of blessing; we to Him by the ascent of thanksgiving." Thus our whole life is blessed by the light of His countenance, and is filled with a gladness and a peace which only thankful hearts can know.

"Where We Belong."

AS we look upon Calvary, we may get a new conception of the value of a soul. Here the price of our redemption was paid. Here we find the remedy for sin. Here we are born from above. The crimson blood flowing from the great heart of Jesus cleanses our life and washes away the stains of sin.

As we behold our Lord hanging and bleeding upon the cross, we get a clearer glimpse of the wondrous love that throbs in the heart of hearts. The bleeding side and the pierced hands lay bare the secret springs of infinite compassion. They teach us the meaning of heaven's sacrifice to save a soul.

Dear reader, your place and mine is close to the broken heart and bleeding side of our compassionate Lord, and as we find refuge there, we may get a worthy conception of life; a motive power possesses our hearts that we gladly tell His message abroad to others, thus leading them to acknowledge the Saviour and rejoice in His redeeming love, "for the love of Christ constraineth us."



"Preachers' Sons."

THERE is a legend, which is oft repeated among those who delight to deride religion, that the sons of preachers are usually scapegraces. The scoffers sometimes use this as an argument against the cause which the Christian ministry represents in the earth.

Like many other legendary tithbits, this one is found to be absolutely without foundation. Albert Edward Wiggam, who is by no means an apologist for Christianity, but a psychologist and sociologist of eminence, makes this declaration in a recent publication: "Preachers' children, we know, are among the most fortunate persons in the world. Ten of the first fifty-one names in the Hall of Fame are those of the sons and daughters of preachers; and one-twelfth of all the persons in 'Who's Who' are children of ministers. I have found that the son of a preacher has nearly fifty times as many chances of fame and fortune as the son of ordinary parents, taken at random.

"Part of this is due, no doubt, to their fine environment, but beyond question a great part is due to their extraordinary heredity of intelligence and character."

The life of Christ taught and lived in the home is mightily conducive to the formation of upstanding men and women of integrity

and character. It is therefore inevitable that the parents of ministers should rank higher, on the average, than their fellows. If such were not the case, then, indeed, the enemies of Christianity would have good ammunition to hurl at our battlements.

The religion of Jesus Christ is a practical and a livable thing. It transforms the life. It molds, character. It lifts men up and refashions them nearer the divine pattern. It helps us to be children of the infinite God. It makes us better men and women in this life, and makes us fit to live again.

"Home Influence."

A CHILD can read a parent's character before he knows the alphabet. Home is the station of greatest responsibility.

The child is the canvas upon which the father and mother paint their own portraits.

"I'll take what father takes," was a boy's unconscious testimony to the truth of this principle.

Parental and family ties form one of the most potent means God uses in converting souls.

Home is the nearest and most promising field of Christian service. Nowhere will consistent Christian living and godly example go so far as there.

Millions could trace their religious faith to a mother's or a father's godly living and earnest prayers.

We must bear in mind that home life is the best test of Christian character. Home is the hardest place to play the hypocrite.

A godly home life is one of the best proofs of a true hope in Jesus Christ.

Let us, then, foster "home religion." Let the family altar be strengthened. Let our homes be like the home in Bethany, where Jesus loved to be a guest.

Let kindness, gentleness, and forbearing love make home more dear and precious. Keep the atmosphere pure and sweet. Do not reserve your best looks and kindest words for strangers, but make home brighter by them. Thus "home" may be made "heaven" on earth, as God intended every home to be.