

DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF RELIGION AND MORALITY, GENERAL AND LOCAL NEWS, AND TO THE ADVOCACY OF THE PRINCIPLES OF THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH.

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SELECTIONS.

To Young Men. There never was a time that demanded of young men their every energy more than at the present, and he who rests on his oars as if there was nothing to demand his attention but to consume the substance of others, must fall into contempt ere long with those who wish him well.

Look around and see how many old men, who are well to do in the world, when young were poor, and at the same time, see if you do not find some old men who were well to do when young, but whose condition is to be pitied in the decline of life.

We feel interested in young men, for upon them depends the success of this country; we know there is but little use in writing or talking to old men, for their habits were formed under different circumstances altogether from what yours should be.

We commenced life under adverse circumstances, feeling that if we should ever attain to a comfortable home we would be as content as the wealthiest in the land.

Sowing and Reaping. He that observeth the wind will not sow; and he that regardeth the clouds will not reap.

In spiritual as well as in material things divine illustration holds good. To a lucid comprehension of Scriptural analogy we must realize that its indication is true.

Sowing and reaping are the order of the seasons, the life work and employment of men; while the elements are in God's hands to dispose and modify.

The Harvest is Past. Such are the words which prophet Jeremiah put in the mouth of a "disobedient and gainsaying people." To us it seems strange that summer should be mentioned after the harvest, but this may be easily explained.

Rich Without Money. Many a man is rich without money.—Thousands of men with nothing in their pockets, and thousands with not even a pocket, are rich.

It is better than land estate to have had the right kind of father and mother. Good breeds and bad breeds exist among men as among herds and horses.

Charity gives itself rich, but covetousness hoards itself poor. Do good to others.

The Wondrous Relationship.

For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and my sister, and mother.—Mark iii: 35.

As if no earthly type were enough to image forth the love of Jesus, He assembled into one verse a group of the tenderest relationships. Human affection has to focus its love in a single point, but all is too little to afford an opponent of the depth of His.

Believer art thou solitary and desolate? Has bereavement severed earthly ties? Has the grave made forced estrangement, stendered the closest links of earthly affection?

And who are those who claim the blessedness spoken of under this wondrous imagery? On whom does he lavish this unutterable affection? No outward profession will purchase it.

No Passport. It was a cold day in December, when a vessel was leaving one of our seaports, bound for a distant land.

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This, then, is the passage expressed: "The grain harvest is past, the fig harvest is also ended, and we are not saved."

If man or woman wishes to realize the full power of personal beauty, it must be by cherishing noble hopes and purposes; by having something to do and something to live for, which is worthy of humanity.

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Sin's Recompense.

It pleases God sometimes to come upon men who have been living lives of high-handed wickedness. He quickens their moral sense. That is done sometimes by afflictions.

But sometimes it is too late. I have known men who looked back on their youth, and said, "I would give all the world if I could wipe out ten years of my early life."

Another common obstacle to prayer is overwork. A certain restfulness and quiet is the condition of the highest state of prayer. The old monks were so far right; but when they imagined they must retire from life altogether, they were wrong.

The commonest obstacle to prayer, however, is that which Christ intimates—the delay of God's answer. We grow discouraged, disheartened. We think He has not heard, or hearing, will not answer.

But I am not going to leave the country," he said; "I only wish to see my friends comfortable before leaving them."

Oh, what a disappointment it was to that chilly winter's day! It struck home to his heart more chill than the frosty air.

Do not be like the foolish virgins, who let their lamps go out, and then, when they came and knocked, saying, "Lord, Lord, open unto us," the Master answered, "I know you not," and the door was shut.

There are no fragrances so precious as those of time, and none are so heedlessly lost by the people who cannot make a moment and you can waste years.

Truthfulness is a corner stone of character; and if it be not firmly laid in youth, there will always be a weak spot in the foundation.

Persevering Prayer.

One would not suppose, theoretically, that there could ever be any difficulty in praying, or that there would be any need of exhortation not to faint in prayer.

One obstacle to prayer is our mood.—We do not feel like praying. Sometimes, doubtless, this is to be yielded to, and prayer is to be intermitted.

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If you ask why we should go on praying, why our asking does not suffice, I do not presume to answer. It is enough for me that God has not forbidden, but encourages my importunity.

The argument which Christ here adduces for importunity in prayer is derived from a contrast. A judge who neither fears God nor regards men is of all men most lost to moral consideration.

The contrast is heightened by the fact that the widow is nothing to the judge; while the praying Christian is one of God's own elect children.

The meanness of the earthen vessel, which conveys to others the Gospel treasure, takes nothing from the value of the treasure. A dying hand may sign a deed or gift of inestimable value.

Little Sins.—A hole in a ship sinks it; a small breach in a sea-band carries all before it; a little stab in the heart kills a man; and a little sin as it is often improperly called, tends to his final destruction.

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Still Enough To-day.

It made my heart ache, yesterday, when you struck the child, because he made so much noise.

Last night, when he put up his sweet, rosy lips for a kiss, he thought came to me, how Christ-like is a little child, though all unconsciously so; he forgives seventy times seven, times the unjust words and blows of a thoughtless mother.

The dear baby was a noisy child. It seemed to be inherent in his nature to pound and upset things; to shout at the top of his sturdy lungs; to improvise all manner of whoops and yells; but it was only the working of the forceful nature that God gave him.

He is still enough to-day! Last night, a strong angel came in the mid-watch and he took your noisy baby out of your way.

His hands are exquisite in their fold; every dimpled firmly marked, every tiny nail like eluded pearl, every lash on that softly rounded cheek distinct as perfect repose can make it.

I dare not stay in your home—I dare not. Its silence would almost madden me, remembering as I do how harshly you dealt with the noble soul God gave in your keeping.

I have often pitied the little creature, but it is you whom I pity now. You never knew the worth of the treasure lent you, but you are counting it to day with bitter tears.

You can knit, and sew, and read and visit; there is nothing to hinder, save, perhaps, the memory of what will draw a bitter tear from your eyes as ever clouded mortal vision.

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"A person converted in youth," says John Angell James, "is like the sun rising on a summer's morning to shine through the long, bright day."

Never subdued an impulse in obedience to a principle. He who never sacrificed a present to a future good, or a personal to a general one can speak of happiness only as the blind do of colors.

Desires no infirmity of mind or body, nor any condition of life, for it may be your own lot.

FARM AND GARDEN.

Lime as a Fertilizer. In response to a correspondent who asks us to say something about the uses of lime on land, we give some of the principles which should govern in its application.

Lime exists in all fertile soils, and its presence is considered indispensable to the growth of vegetation. The need of supplying it to the soil will be seen when we reflect that every crop removes a quantity.

The effect of lime is both mechanical and chemical. It opens and renders freer such soils as a stiff and clayey, while it increases the porosity of such as are already light and sandy.

The effect of lime is greatest when it is well mixed with the soil, and kept near the surface. On new soils, or those containing much valuable matter, its effect is strongly marked, also on subsoils brought to the surface.

As lime requires some time to produce its effects on the soil, it should be applied as long as possible before the crop is sown and worked in.

The use of lime in heavy doses acts partly as a stimulant to the soil, and enables the farmer to extract much more from it during three or four years following than he would if no lime were applied.

To make good, dry walks that may be used with pleasure and comfort at all times.

Take three parts screened gravel, one part flour of lime (previously riddled), add as much coal tar as will make it of the consistency of stiff mortar.

Smooth and beat the surface with the back of the spade, as the work proceeds. If the black color be an objection, take three parts of sand and one part of lime, mix well together, add sift a little over the surface while still moist and roll well.

SNENB not at old clothes. They are often made holy by long sacrifices by careful folding away, that they may last until the dear ones are provided for.

Does not effect them. Where gravel is scarce and expensive, very good walks may be made with sand, lime and tar, in same proportions as above; but this takes much longer to set before it is fit to walk upon.

Fattening Hogs.

In regard to the number or time per day hogs should be fed, when put up for fattening, my experience in the matter is this: When hogs are as old as they should be, after putting them in pen and feeding them somewhat plentifully for six or eight days, they will then bear full feeding, and they should have all that they eat.

Turning hogs into a cornfield I consider a wasteful way of feeding. Still, I think I have never seen hogs fatten faster than when they were feeding themselves in this manner.

I do not think it best to give full feed to hogs at an early age as some do. Putting them to pasture and giving them grain to keep thrifty, I regard as the best plan until they are twelve to sixteen months old.

Pure Water For Cows. There is no doubt that impure water has an injurious effect on the flavor of milk. It has been found that the milk from cows which were compelled to drink stagnant water from ponds, when brought to the cheese factory was tainted, and gave a bad flavor to the making of cheese into which it had entered.

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Economy in Long Furrows. A German agricultural journal observes that farmers pay very little attention to the length of the furrows to be plowed in a field, and yet great waste of time and labor is the necessary consequence of unsuitable arrangements in this respect.

The turning of the plow and the commencing of a new furrow requires more exertion in the plowman and the team than continued work on a straight line, and how great may really be the loss of time from frequent interruptions in short turns may be shown by the following calculation:

In the evening, take lukewarm water, and mix dough as for bread, adding yeast, salt and shortening, the latter in the proportions as for soda biscuits; knead well, and then put it in a warm place for the night; in the morning dissolve a teaspoonful of soda (for dough made with a pint of water) and strain it, or it will settle in colored spots in the bread; work it into dough, and then roll it out and cut with a sharp biscuit cutter, and set them to rise five minutes; or put them directly into the oven if moderately heated; these biscuits should be baked slower and longer than soda biscuits. These will be found very nice.

Particular care must be taken that they are mixed stiff enough at first, not to require the addition of flour, as this would render them heavy in proportion to the amount of unleavened flour.

CURE FOR DIPTHERIA.—A simple and successful treatment of diphtheria may be found in the use of lemon juice. Gargle the throat freely with it, at the same time swallowing a portion, so as to reach all the affected parts.

Stick to your business if you expect to succeed.