

Sunday Reading.

THE WISDOM.

True wisdom shows a peaceful road,
The secret, the pleasant path,
Which leads to life and joy and God,
And saves from guilt and woe.

True wisdom is to love the Lord,
And trust His loving grace;
To do His will, and love His word,
And long to see His face.

Waiting.

There's a child, an infant in the cradle,
His face just looking out from the blanket,
His eyes sparkling with health,
A mere nothing—only a baby. But he is waiting.
Some day he will be a man, and he will take a part in the battle of the great world's business life. Years are before him, long life is his, hands tender will guide over rough places until he has man's years and man's independence. Only waiting.

There's an old man seated in the nook of the hearth-stone, his head white as snow, his form trembling, his life almost gone. He is waiting. Though he hears not your kind words, there are voices from his own voice, so softened, gentle and sympathetic, that tell him: "Wait a little longer, old man—a few days more of this life, and then we will carry you safe over." And the old man waits and listens for the glad news. He has been young, old, has traveled, thrifty paths and flowery meads, seen bright suns go down in the midst of dark and cruel storms, and now he knows that a few more days will see him home—see his spirit hovering over earth—up there where the old are young, where the young are blessed. Only waiting.

All of us are waiting. We may go far from home, seek the bustle of business, seclude ourselves from the world, be good or bad, amass fortune or live in poverty, and our day must some time come—must soon come. The thought is with us, we cannot make it stay away. Death, death, and yet live as if it would never come. The infant in the cradle may not live a year—the old man in the corner may see our grave before his comes. Cannot the world change? Cannot we all be better men and women—just better, nobler thoughts, give more heed to death—seek a safer road to heaven? Are there any so good that some evil has not crept in? Are there any so bad that they could not be reformed?

Life, oh, what is life—a day—an hour! A rough journey, tears, sighs, sadness, and then the voice bids us come over the threshold of death for eternal judgment.

Secret of Happiness.

An Italian bishop, who had struggled through many difficulties without repining, and even had supposed without manifesting impatience, being asked by a friend to communicate the secret of his being always so happy, replied: "It consists in a single thing, and that is, making a right use of my eyes." His friends, in surprise, begged him to explain his meaning. "Most willingly," replied the bishop. "In what manner, I am, I first of all look up to heaven, and I never forget that my business is to get there. I then look down upon earth, and call to mind how small a space I shall find in it. I then look around in the world, and see what multitudes are, in all respects, less happy than myself. And thus I learn where true happiness is placed, where all my eyes must end, and how little reason I have had to murmur, or to be otherwise than happy. And to live in this spirit is to be always happy."

One Drop at a Time.

Have you ever watched an icicle as it formed? Have you not noticed how it froze on, a drop at a time, until it was a foot long or more? If the water was clean then the icicles remained clear, and sparkled brightly in the sun; but, if the water was but slightly muddy, the icicle looked foul and its beauty was spoiled. Just so our characters are forming. One little thought or feeling at a time adds its influence. If each thought be pure and right, the soul will be lovely, and will sparkle with happiness; but if impure and wrong, there will be final deformity and wretchedness.

Sunshine and Clouds.

Ah, this beautiful world! I know not what to think of it. Sometimes it is all sunshine and gladness, and heaven itself lies not far off, and then it suddenly changes, and is dark and sorrowful, and the cloud's shut out the day. In the lives of the saddest of us there are moments like this, when we feel as if we could take the great world in our arms. Then come gloomy hours, when the fire will not burn on our hearths, and all without and within is dismal, cold and dark. Believe me, every heart has its secret sorrows, which the world knows not, and oftentimes we call a man cold when he is only sad.—Longfellow.

Sectarianism.

The Rev. Dr. Norman Macleod says: "There is a great deal of cant and nonsense talked about sectarianism. You might say a man is sectarian if he likes his own house and family better than any other in the same street. The man I call sectarian is the man who is not content with the blessings of number one in the street, but who is always throwing stones or mud at number two; who is not content with his own wife and family, but talks and writes about other people's families. The man who is sectarian is the man who has honest convictions about his own Church, and I extend to him the right hand of fellowship. Love your church, and do all you can for it; but try and imagine, at the same time, that other men are as conscientious as you are, and give them the right hand of fellowship when they do all they can for the church."

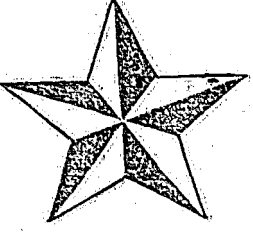
Earth not Heaven.

The loveliest valley has a muddy swamp, and the noblest mountain a piercing thorn, and the prettiest face must undergo some trouble, and the fairest face must undergo some trouble; and the handsomest girl is apt to be proud; the most sentimental lady loves cold pork, and the gayest mother lets her children go ragged. The kindest wife will sometimes overlook an absent child's button, and the best husband forgets to kiss his wife every time he steps outside the gate, and the best dispositioned children in the world get angry and squall, and the smartest scholar will miss a lesson, and the wisest essayist write some nonsense; and the stars will fall, and the moon suffer eclipses, and men won't be angels, nor earth heaven.

Seven Fools.

The angry man, who sets his own house on fire in order that he may burn that of his neighbor. The envious man who cannot enjoy his own because others do. The coward, who, for the consideration of a few pence, gives the world liberty to hang him. The hypocrite, whose happiness consists in making himself miserable. The jealous man, who poisons his own banquet, and then eats of it. The miser, who starves himself to death in order that his heirs may feast. The slaver, who takes for the sake of giving their enemies an opportunity to prove them slavers.

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question? The Astrologer. All who are in

distress, who have been unfortunate, who have

been seduced by false promises and deceit, who

have been deceived by false promises and deceit,

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