CHAPTER VIII. Continued.

Then one man whose arm she grasped in her eagerness, said "Yes," as he shook her off, and she made for a carriage; but another said "No" to her on the way, and she stopped when another declared he didn't know, but thought it was, which made the matter doubtful once more, and again she began: "Is this the Southampton train?" but before she received an answer she was almost lifted off her feet by the sudden swaying of the crowd to make room for a porter with a mountain of luggage on a truck, and was carried from the door of the carriage, beside which she had been standing, over to the book-stall, against which she was pinned for

some seconds. The swaying of the crowd in the opposite direction released her, only, however, to force her back the next moment, back, back, struggle as she would, through the nearest entrance this time, to the place where the booking offices are. Here the pressure relaxed, the crowd thinned, she could move again of her own accord.

A porter hurried past her, gumming a printed label on a new-looking Gladstone bag as he went. These were two black letters on the bag. She looked away after seeing them. before the fact struck her as significant. Then she looked again, hurrying forward to read them, and just succeeded as the porter handed the bag into a first-class carriage.

The doors were shut by this time; she could not see through the winday; but the letters on the bag were L. S., and she made a frantic dash for the carriage. The bell rung; the whistle shrieked; a voice shouted "All in!" the buzz of the crowd became a roar; there was a rush of rough men from the refreshment room; they elbowed her to one side -"the weak must go to the wall"and gained their own seats; the train began to move.

Conscious of nothing but her object she pressed forward again-any carriage would do now-she tried to catch the handle of a door; it passed

"Look out there!" "Stand back!"
"She'll be killed!" a dozen voices roared, yet she tried again.

But now her arms were grasped on either side. She put forth all her strength to release herself, but was held as if in a vise. Then, womanlike, she sent up an exceeding great and bitter cry, and then all was still.

The train had slipped from sight; the crowd had melted away; a strange hush had fallen, a lack of life, where her arms.

She pressed her handkerchief her lips; her mouth was full of blood. The guard who had held her on one side looked at her pityingly, while the gentleman who had caught her cn the other spoke severely:

"You've nearly killed yourself, young lady. Couldn't you let the train go when you saw you had

missed it?" "That's the way they do, sir!" the

guard exclaimed, "and we gets blamed when accidents happen." "Oh, sir!" Gertrude moaned, clasping her blood-stained handkerchief

only knew how much depended on my catching that train!" The gentleman took her hand and

drew it through his arm.

"Come," he said, "before a crowd cab. And forgive me if you think I by a lady. Ah! them wommin!" am taking too much on myself, being a stranger to you. I have a the first man laughed. daughter about your age. I am shock. You can hardly walk. Try room, at all events, and lean on me will revive you."

self to his ministrations with perfect room behind the bar.

# CHAPTER IX.

What with the refreshing quiet self after the hideous nightmare of she had just passed, Gertrude rapidly time for the peroration. revived. Her new protector only waited, however, till he saw that she was able to take care of herself again, and then he left her.

He had a train to catch himself and had waited till the last moment subject of his discourse, he himself on her account. And surely it was a heart of gold that thus befriended tage, his own conduct being described, an unknown girl, because he had, forsooth, a daughter of his own at home about her age! Gertrude had not the slightest recollection of his face.

She would not have known him again had she met him anywhere. She would not even have recognized the gin the good man Moon, ordinarhis voice. Yet she remembered him ily so taciturn, so unimaginative, always gratefully, but always with a pang.

In her preoccupation she feared that she had let him go without a word of could only hope that if she had, he, in his haste, would not notice the omission; but still, when she rememsource of discomfort to her as long as

It was not at the moment, how-

ing missed the train.

was very grievous, but the feeling that every moment was taking him further and further away from her, and whither she knew not, was simply maddening. Yet it was the right

thought to arouse her. She had little or no imagination. Her mind was pre-eminently active and practical, and consequently, instead of following her husband in fancy, as nine out of ten women would have done under the circumstances, she began at once to consider how she could follow him in

It seemed easy enough at the first glance. She had only to take the next train, and behold her!

But then came the question, When she arrived, where in Southampton would she find him, if he stayed there. which was not at all likely? What was it they told her at the hotel? Oh, that he had said he was going out as English consul to San Francisco.

Poor fellow! That, then, was his delusion, and was it not also her clew? A man bound for San Franvia Southampton—they had cisco mentioned the P. & O., too-would surely be easily found.

And then there was the name he was traveling under, Lawrence Soames-it occurred to her the moment she wanted it-L. S., his own initials. They were on the purse he had in his pocket that fatal morning. and probably, like that poor clergyman, he had forgotten what they stood for, or was under the impression that the two first names that occurred to him beginning with those two letters were really his.

That new Gladstone bag, too, he must have bought in London; and what a lucky chance! for without it, she must have lost all trace of him here. No, though, now she thought of it, for she knew he was going to Southampton, and wherefore. And accordingly to Southampton she must go with all possible dispatch.

She therefore left the quiet little to the station, half expecting to find herself in pandemonium again; but it was quiet enough there now. The ly. ly a passenger hung about the sta-

The officials sat on trucks or stood in groups chatting with coarse laughshe met, and found that the next train for Southampton-a fast oneleft in one hour's time exactly.

She had leisure to loiter, too, and she strolled on down the station, findall had been uproar and hurry a mo- ing the next few seconds interminably ment before. Her captors dropped long, and wondering how she could Moon exclaimed, crossing himself deothers to think of as well as herself. with all she knew of London cabmen

There was her sister-in-law also in as to make Gertrude smile. suspense, and doubtless wondering uneasily what was keeping her so long. There would not be time to go turned to the station much relieved. and return, so she must send her a note.

She procured pen, ink and paper desk. He also advised her to send a on delivery, and she went to find one. As she approached the stand she saw a crowd of porters principally round was standing up on his box talking at the top of his voice.

"What's up now?" one greaser called to another just behind her.

"It's old Moon," the other ancollects. Allow me to see you into a swered. "He ses he's bin deceived

"H's a tender-'arted one, is Moon, "He's a full Moon now, or I'm afraid, though, you have had a severe much mistaken," the other rejoined. And indeed it was only too true.

and get as far as the refreshment Poor Moon had been indulging in gin to beguile the weary time of waiting, as much as you like. A glass of water and also to keep up his strength, for he had not had an hour's rest in the With her usual good luck, Gertrude last twenty-four, nor a single meal; had found another kind friend to help but the treacherous spirit, instead her in her need, and she resigned her- of comforting him, had only sufficed to distort his view of things in genconfidence, as she sunk exhausted eral, and of what, in his right mind, into the deep, luxurious plush arm- he had considered a great piece of chair to which he led her in an inner luck, in particular-this "engagement by the day to parties to whom money was no object."

The evil spirit showed him to himseif as an ill-used man, and prompted of the room in which she found her- him to proclaim his woes, moreover, with a loud voice from the box of his turmoil and trouble through which own cab. Poor Gertrude arrived in

> She had forgotten the man's existence and could hardly believe her ears when she heard him now, and found her own adventures of the previous night, much misrepresented, the appearing in them to the best advarin fact, as little less than heroic.

> The crowd was delighted. Cheers, Hear, hears!" and loud applause greeted him at every pause; and under the influence of this genial sympathy and the exhilarating effects of waxed eloquent and glowed with a poet's fancy.

"What do you suppose ud 'a become uf 'er," he wanted to know. thanks. She never knew, and she "alone i' Lunnon town at night, de- the hot creosote and then in the serted by that wagabond, with ne'er a place to go to, ef it 'adn't a bin for are given to applicants for informa-Moon? She ses, 'Drive me 'ere, bered the incident, the dread was a Moon,' an I druve 'er 'ere. An' she ses, 'Drive me there,' and I druv 'er there; an' wot's more, I druv 'er back again when she told me, cos why, it ever, that this fear began to trouble didn't 'urt me, an' I knowed it v's her. Just then she could think of comfort to 'er, for she keeps on think- the greater success in life consists in nothing but her one object, and how in ef he's not 'ere 'e'll be there. to accomplish it; feel nothing but the But I know'd what the old wagabond bitter disappointment caused by hav- meant when e 'ailed me in that there station at 2 o'clock this werry morn-The thought of having been so ire, an' I goes to 'im an' I ses, 'You're is now seven years longer than it was near to him without even seeing him the h'Earl of Wartlebury, ain't you?' sixty years ago.

ses I, 'and I'm Moon the cabman; but ef you don't come at once and do wot's right and honorable,' I ses, 'by that young thing,' I ses, 'which 'er bright smile haunts me still,' I ses, I'll advertise you on my own cab all over Lunnon town,' I ses, 'you old villain,' I ses. And his lordship up at that, an' he ses, 'Moon, you're an 'onest man,' 'e says, 'an' I'll take you're advice,' 'e ses, 'an' I'll take a sovereign,' 'e ses. 'Now, go your ways,' 'e says; 'wot man could do fur 'er you've done,' 'e ses. But 'No! my lord,' I ses, 'I'll not leave these premises,' ses I, 'till you sits yourself down in that there cab of mine,' ses I; 'fur when I goes to see a wrong righted, sees it right, and my name's Moon, ses I." Here he was interrupted by vociferous cheers, and it was some minutes before he could make himself heard again. "It's no use telling me they're a warm family," he went "Do you suppose I've lived my life in Lunnon town an' don't know that? It's not me pocket, it's me 'art that's touched. She brought me 'ere an' she left me without a word, an' arter what I'd done for 'er and all to be deserted-to be left to die like a dog in a ditch." ("Oh, you'll not die this time!" and "Cheer up, old bloke!" various voices shouted in the crowd.) "And she's all my fancy painted 'er; she's lovely, she's divine!" the old vagabond was proceeding, when, to Gertrude's horror, his wandering, watery eye rested on herself with an instant gleam of recognition

She had been rooted to the spct by the subject of his discourse, and now, not knowing what the consequences of the recognition would be, she wished that the ground might have

swallowed her. She need not have been alarmed, however, for the sight of her, or perhaps of a policeman coming up behind her, had a curiously sobering effect upon Moon; and all he did when he saw her was instinctively to make the sign of his calling with his whip while he gathered up the reins and sunk on his seat, looking, because his great featureless face was too fat for expression, as if nothing

had happened. The crowd hooted and jeered and called to him to go on, but he was deaf to their entreaties; and presently they began to disperse. Then Gertrude went up to him, and after reading him a severe lecture, to which he listened in solemn silence, somewhat rashly dispatched him with the note.

"Do you think you're sensible enough to be trusted with it?" she parlor behind the bar, and returned asked. "It's of great improtance. You'll be well paid when you arrive.' "Trusted!" he answered, scornful-

"Why, miss, I've druv this cab principal trains of the day had gone. when I've been so drunk I couldu't There was a lull in the traffic, scarce- hev stood on the ground; an' I'm not so drunk as that now," he added, regretfully. "Oh! I niver went wrong in me life.

"Well, I suppose it's better to trust ter, or else they loitered about, as if to a half-drunk man I know someloitering were their business, like the thing of," she said, dubiously, "than police. Gertrude applied to the first to a sober one of whom I know nothing. Here, Moon, take this note to Miss Somers. And, Moon," she added, solemnly, "mark my words if that note goes wrong you'll have no more luck as long as you live."

"Now, the saints preserve us!" endure to wait. But happily she had voutly, an act so utterly inconsistent But she perceived that that last

abjuration was a lucky hit, and re-On arriving in Southampton she drove straight to the Peninsular and Oriental Steamship Company's office, from the man at the bookstall, and and asked if Mr. Lawrence Soames was allowed as a favor to write at his had been there that day. "Oh, yes," the clerk told her. He had taken a cabman with it who would be paid passage to Yokohama, and was bound for San Francisco; but the next mail did not leave till that day week, and Mr. Soames had said he would go and convulsively to her breast, "if you one of the cabs, the driver of which do the Channel Islands, St. Malo, St. Helier and the country round about them while he waited.

"Did he say which boat he would

go by?" "No, but he asked when the next boat for Jersey left, and went off in a hurry when I told him."

"When does it leave?" Gertrude asked.

"At 3 o'clock," the man replied. It's well on its way by this time." Her heart sunk at this. What a misfortune the missing of that train had been.

#### To be Continued. Preserving Shingles.

The Forest Service has studied the shingle problem along with that of the preservation of farm timber. It is found that shingles treated with creosote by a special process which the service has invented warp but little and decay slowly, because water is kept out of the tissues of the wood. One such roof will outlast two or three left in the natural state to curl, spring leaks and fall to pieces. The creosote used is nothing more than dead oil of coal tar, but it keeps water from entering the pores of the wood and render it immune to decay for a long time. A roof of that kind costs a little more at first, but it is cheaper in the long run. which are usually classed as inferior, such as loblolly pine, beech, syca-

creased value. The preserving apparatus is neither expensive nor hard to oper-One such outfit will serve sevate. eral farmers. The main items are an iron tank (an old engine boiler will do), with preservative fluid in it and a fire under it, and another tank of cold preservative. The shingles of other woods to be treated are immersed for a sufficient time in

more and others which are quick de-

caying, readily take the preservative

treatment and are given a largely in-

ington .- Harper's Weekly. For the Greatest Success. Life is greater than any series of surroundings that may affect it, and following the possibilities of our highest selves .- Ridley.

cold. Full details of the operation

tion by the Forest Service at Wash-

In France the average span of life



Feeding the Pigs.

Tests at the Indiana Experimental Station indicate that pigs make better gains when the grain is fed dry than they do when it is mixed with water. This would suggest that those who take the trouble to mix grain with water before feeding waste their time, and, to a slight degree, the food value of the grain .-Epitomist.

#### Thorough Churning.

In order to have as thorough churning as possible, the temperature of the cream should not be over fifty-eight degrees. While the butter is in the granular form, the churning is to be stopped. Then draw the buttermilk from the churn and wash, then butter and salt while yet in the granular form. 'For the taste of most people, one ounce salt to the pound of butter is about right. -Epitomist.

#### Vary the Food.

Don't depend altogether on corn when fattening your market hogs. Feed them some green stuff as an appetizer. Best of all it is if you have some artichokes or some roots, say mangels or rutabagas. Failing these, don't disdaen pumpkins. Anything that will give variety to the rations will keep up their appetite and there is then no dauger of a standstill in the fattening process from the hogs being "off their feed," a condition which always is threatened when corn is fod exclusively.—Farmers' Home

#### Diversified Farming.

In diversified farming it is essential that we give due attention to the claims of each branch that is being followed and seek to harmonize them We must select only those branches which will fit nicely into our scheme of farm management and eliminate every waste.

If a man fully intends to gain something by adopting the practice of a soil robber and buying large farms, creaming them and selling to another farmer, he may succeed in making money. It is little wonder that American farmers are often called soil skinners.

They make more money as a rule than the farmer who puts his money into improvements, for they have more cash to speculate with. But which men are the most useful to their community: The one who puts his whole time and energy into gleaning every possible dollar from the soil and putting it in the savings bank, or the man who improves his property, adds to the assessment list of his township and helps to increase the valuation of adjoining farms?-Eritomist.

# Saving Farm Seeds.

The farmer and the gardener can often save money by saving his own seed instead of being obliged to go to the seedsman for his supply each spring, and he can also have better seeds, and increase his crop each year if he takes sufficient care in selecting his seed stock to grow it from. There is a value in breeding seed for better crops as well as in breeding for better stock, and while those who are market gardeners generally know this and save their seeds accordingly. many farmers pay little attention to the matter.

It is said that in one of our leading corn growing States the crop per acre and the total value of the crop in the State has been increased, the latter to the value of millions of dollars per year, by the efforts of one man, who offered premiums for the best ears of seed corn sent in to the State and county fairs. Such interest was taken in the matter that many strove for the prizes, and it is said that single ears from those that received the highest prizes were sold at what seems extravagant prices, even as high as \$25 per ear having been reported in one case, and from \$1 to \$5 per ear in many cases .-American Cultivator.

# Advisability of Planting Trees.

From time to time this department has contained advice regarding the importance of farmers planting a forest upon their now waste lands.

Especially in the New England States, upon the deserted farms, we see many so-called pastures that are practically a useless waste, that could be planted, as we might say,

into a chestnut orchard. Not such a great while ago we gave a very full account as to how this fruit might be grown profitably, and anyone familiar with city streets in the fall of the year could readily judge for themselves their standing from a commercial point of view. Right here is a way of having, after a few years, an almost sure crop every fall that is almost sure to hold its price, and then after the trees seem to outrun themselves can be sold at fully fifty times their original value.

This country alone is said to be using 422,400,000 railroad ties on its railroads, and these ties have to be replaced about every five years This alone ought to suggest to every farmer the fact that in time to come of timber suitable for this purpose, ravages of forest fires.

Of course the argument could be used that in the course of time someplace of wooden ties. This may be a that nothing is a certainty. Business men take risks in all sorts of things; but the planting of these timber trees we could hardly call a risk, for if the turned into money as railroad tice lin 1906

they could surely be by using them for any of the numerous things that call for good sound timber .- Weekly Witness.

#### Flies and Sheep.

Fly time is on, and sheep, especially rams, should be watched closely for maggots. All rams should have liberal quantities of pine tar around the horns, which will prevent the fly When from depositing her eggs. present turpentine or dip will dislodge them and pine tar will keep them away, writes an Ohio breeder in the National Stockman and Farmer. The lcng and middle wool sheep are more annoyed by the common house fly than the Merinos and should have a dark woods or an underground cellar or cave in which to spend the day. A single fly will prevent one of these sheep from thriving a whole day

The owner of a grade flock of Shropshires once took the writer to the mouth of a cave in which his sheep spent the daylights of summer, secure from flies and in a climate very nearly like the native conditions of the Shropshires of England. He lamented the loss of the manure, but the loss was more than made up in the condition of the sheep.

Look out for the gadfly. Her eggs are deposited in the nostrils of the sheep and almost as soon as deposited move up into the sinuses of the head, and the sheep has grub in the head. Tar on the nose or even dust will warn the mother fly that such a place is not a promising home for her future family.

In the absence of bare ground a furrow plowed in the pasture will supply the dust. Sheep salted in a V-shaped trough, with tar on sides of trough is practiced as a preventive by some flockmasters. Sometimes I think that between gadflies, stomach worms, lung worms-indicated by the sheep standing with their heads close together with their noses on the ground and by running ticks-foot rot and blizzards we have a strenuous

#### Poultry Pointers.

Whitewash is better than paint for the interior of a poultry house. Be liberal in the use of whitewash, and put in a little pulverized glue, thoroughly dissolved in warm water.

Do not be deceived into believing that practical qualities and fancy points can not be bred in the same bird. This is a favorite cry with some people who can't raise good ones and who want to sell their culls. If you feed your chicks around the kitchen door, you may be sure that they will always hang around there

watching for something to eat. Keep them away from the house by feeding them away from the house. Keep the drinking vessels with fresh water. More or less food escapes from the beak of the little chick while it is drinking. This food

soon becomes sour in the warm weather and water is foul. When you whitewash the interior of the poultry house mix a liberal amount of some good disinfectant or crude carbolic acid with the whitewash just before applying it. This will insure the destruction of all lice and mites with which it comes in

Be sure that the roosting quarters are well ventilated at this time of the year. Pure air is free and inexpensive and will enter every nook and corner of the poultry house, if it is permitted. It is one of the very essential things to the profitable raising of poultry. Close, stuffy quarters are very injurious.—Indianapolis

# Silage as a Horse Feed.

I know silage is a good feed for horses, for I have tried it. I have on. It is always wise when one gets not, however, fed to any great ex- invitations from such men as Absalom tent, because I did not have as much | to look into them before accepting silage as I wanted for cows and horses both, and as I thought more of my cows than I did of my horses, the cows had all they needed and the horses had to go short. One winter we had a brood mare that was fed silage all winter, probably twenty pounds a day. She had some hay and straw to go with it, and no grain except what was in the silage, and she came out fat and with a glossy coat in the spring and had a fine, healthy colt. Horses like silage as well as cattle do after they get accustomed to it. A man in Michigan a few years ago wintered two hundred horses on silage and straw exclusively, with no grain. They came through in fine shape and the brood mares all had fine, strong colts. The Ohio station tried feeding horses on silage through the winter and reported that they came through until spring in the best condition. Mr. W. C. Bradley of Hudson, Wis., says that one year during spring work he was out of hay and the only coarse fodder his horses had during all that period of hard work was silage. He says that his horses never stood work better .-C. F. McKerrow in the Weekly Witness.

# The Home Doctor.

In view of the adoption by the Devonshire County Council of the medical there is almost sure to be a shortage inspection of children, several indignant mothers have written to the as the railroads are continually on head mistress of one of the schools, the increase and the timber lands de- claiming exemption from the operacreased by the woodman's axe or the tion of the act. One emphatic protest comes from a parent, who writes: "Dear Madam-I objects to my chila being overorled by a doctor. I clears thing will turn up that will take the his blood vessels regular with brimstone and treacle, and he don't want possibility, but we should remember no more doctrine."-Westminster Gazette.

The estimated world's production of lead in 1907 was 964,910 metric trees when matured could not be tons, as compared with 968,174 tons

# The Sunday-School

INTERNATIONAL LESSON COM-MENTS FOR NOVEMBER 1.

Subject: Absalom Rebels Against David, 2 Sam. 15-Golden Text, Ex. 20:12-Commit Verses 5, 6 -Read 2 Sam. Chs. 13, 16.

TIME.-1026-1022 B. C. PLACE. -Jerusalem. EXPOSITION .- I. Absalom's In-

triguing, 1-6. An appropriate Golden Text for this lesson would be Gal. David was simply reaping what he had sown. Though God had fully forgiven David's sin, David did not on that account escape the natural consequences of his sin. God had told him at the time that the sword should never depart from his house, and that He would raise up evil for him out of his own house (2 Sam. 12:9-12). Seven years had elapsed since David's sin. David's daughter had been dis honored, one son had been murdered and another was the murderer. Absalom had only been embittered by his banishment from the king's presence, and his restoration to favor had not helped matters in the least. He was one of those incorrigibles that is helped by neither severity nor by kindness, a thoroughly self-centered man. Brilliant but without character, a far more dangerous and den picable man than the ordinary desperado. Absalom's first step in announcing himself as a candidate to the throne was by riding in a state that David himself did not affect (cf. 1 K. 1:33 and 1:5). It was expressly forbidden by God (De. 17:16; 1 Sam. 3:11). Many would be pleased by, Absalom's departure from the sim-plicity of his father. Absalom displayed diligence in seeking to steal his father's throne. So did Christ's enemies in their plots against Him (Matt. 27:1). There is no one more diligent than the devil. The Hebrew of v. 2 indicates that Absalom "was in the habit of rising early." 'it would be well if Christians were as diligent in seeking the throne that God offers to them. Absalom sought the favor of the discontented, the usual practice of politicians. Indeed, all the methods of Absalom are much in vogue to-day. He utterly misrepresented the facts about his father's administration (cf. ch. 8:15). He was guilty of three sins, of (1) Not honoring his father (Ex. 20:12). (2) Speaking evil of the ruler of his peo-ple (Acts 23:5; Ex. 22:28). (3) Bearing false witness (Ex. 20:16). These are all common sins to-day. Absalom deftly suggested that if only he were in power everything would be all right. In earlier days David had been a man of genial spirit, but In later days he seems to have drawn into his shell. Perhaps the memory of his sin and its consequences was responsible for this. Absalom practiced his art on "all that came to the king for judgment." He succeeded for the time, he "stole the hearts of the men of Israel." But it was David himself who had undermined the power of law and loyalty in the king-He had opened the way for the people to transfer their affections to another by himself stealing the heart of another man's wife. man that commits the sin that David did is sure to lose men's esteem.

refers to the years of David's reign, but it is more likely that it should read "four" (see R. V. Marg.) and refers to the years of Absalom's intriguing. If Absalom had made such a vow as he pretended (vs. 7, 8) he had been at least six years indifferent to it. Quite strange that he should wake up to it so suddenly. Many men wake up to their religious obligations when they have some end to gain by doing so. David seems to have lost his grip, or he would have suspected something in the light of what was going on. Nothing so soon robs a man of his grasp of practical affairs as the entrance of sin into his life. It is not likely that Absalom had ever made such a vow. If he had he had not kept it, and he was not keeping it now. Absalom next hired some shouters and trumpeters. This, too, s a favorite method of modern politicians. The mass of men are quite easily carried by a hurrah. Even Biblical critics sometimes adopt the same methods. He chose Hebron as the centre of operations because of its sacred memories (ch. 2:1, 11; 3:2, Absalom tried to make it appear that all the best men were on his side, by taking with him 200 who had no knowledge of what was going them. Many a foolish one is caught in this way. Ahithophel was Absalom's chief adviser. The woman whom David had wronged was his grand-daughter (ch. 11:3; cf. ch. 23:24). David felt no other defection so keenly as his (Ps. 41:9; 55:12-14). But again he was reaping only what he had sowed. lom, like many another unmitigated scoundrel, observed carefully outward religious rites (v. 1; cf. Nu. 23:1, 14, 30, 1 K. 21:9, 12). "The conspiracy was strong" Absalom's followers were continually increasing. The people were saying of David, "There is no help for him in God" (Ps. 3:1, 2). But David was not forsaken of God even in this darkest hour (Ps. 3:3-8). Absalom had left God out in all his calculations; so utter failure came of all his matchless cunning and seeming promise. Absalom himself was to blame for his own ruin. But was not David to blame, too?

# Waits Forty Years For a Debt.

John R. Runnells, of Hanover, N. H., had been awaiting the arrival of Samuel R. Foss for forty years when the gentleman put in an appearance. In 1868 Fess sold his farm to Runnells and went to Nebraska to live Later it was found to be encumbered by a mortgage of \$1700. When Foss arrived he went to the home of his brother, where Lawyer Ed. Cook, of Concord, and Sheriff George Stearns, of Grafton County, both representing Mr. Runnells, appeared. A settlement was demanded and made, the sum being paid excaeding \$2000.

# Farmer Was Still Plowing.

Kasson P. Stanard, of Sheffield, Mass., was plowing twenty-five years ago when an insurance agent from Pittsburg induced him to take out an endowment policy on his life for The policy matured recently and the same insurance agent found Mr. Stanard still plowing when he tendered him a check for the amount of the policy.

Go-Carts Must Have Headlights. Judge Cleland, of the Municipal Court, in Chicago, has decided that baby carriages must have headlights if used on the streets at night.

# RELIGIOUS READING FOR THE QUIET HOUR.

"JUDGE NOT."

I'm not your judge.

Nay! God forbids

Me judge the record of your deeds;

But tells me wait, with ready hand,

To love and help and understand.

I'm not your judge.
Nay! I'm unfit
God plainly tells in Holy Writ;
But bids me raise and lift you up,
Then pass, to you, the loving cup.

I'm not your judge.

Nay! One on high

Will read your sentence by and by;

But while we journey, side by side,

I am your friend, whate'er betide.

I'm not your judge.
Nay! On His throne,
Sits One whose love will judge His own;
So over all your faults I cast

# Charity's mantle to the last. —Sarah Spencer Ruff, in Home Herald.

Living Close to God. If we live near our heavenly Father we should strive to realize His constant companionship. Wherever a devout soul meets God is a sacred spot, whether it be like Jacob's pillar of stone or a Sabbath sanctuary. We may make the workshop, the counting house, the study, the kitchen and the farmer's field sacred with God's presence. The nursery in which the pious mother trains her children is one of God's dwelling places; and I have seen many a sick chamber that

was the vestibule to Heaven. Happy the pastor who, returning to his study for his year's work, finds both his Bible open and the mercy seat close beside him, with precious promises strew thick about it! The nearer he gets to his Lord and Master in that study the nearer will he get to the hearts of his people, both in his pastoral work and in his pulpit. The man of business who gets a little time with God in the morning, over his Bible, or on his knees, will go all the stronger into the tumult of the day. To him the day with prayer will keep it from raveling out into many a folly or sin. Stout old Luther used to say that he "could not get on without two hours a day in prayer and close fellowship with God."

The "higher life" is simply living close to God, on the Sabbath in His

sanctuary and through the week in our own dwellings and places of busi-ness. It is keeping our citizenship in Heaven and our eyes above the blinding mists of worldliness and our hearts in close touch with our Divine

Master. They that thus wait on God shall renew their strength; they shall mount up as eagles. Their outlook is wide; their spiritual atmosphere is bracing; they rehearse a great deal of Heaven before they get there. Close to God here, they will find the gates of pearl opening to them all in good time, and they will go in to be forever with their Lord."—Episcopal Recorder.

Rise, Let Us Be Going. Though the past is irrevocable, it s not irreparable. In the garden of Gethsemane our Lord said mournfully to the chosen three, "Sleep on now, and take your rest;" but He instantly added, "Rise, let us be going." In the first sentence He taught the irrevocableness of the past; they might as well sleep, for any good that watching could now But in the second sentence He II. Absalom's Conspiracy, 7-12. taught that there was still a future before them, with new chances and It may be that the forty years of v. 7 opportunities and hopes. So shall it ever be. God Himself cannot undo the past. But He can, and will forgive. He will mention the past; but give us a fair fresh start. He will that the even "restore the years canker worm has eaten." He will give us new opportunities of showing how truly we repent the decisions of the past, and how loyally we desire to serve Him in the decisions of the future. He will not even mention the thrice denial; but He will give us three opportunities of saying how much we love Him, as He thrice bids us tend His flock. "The King is dead!"-that is the proclamation of the irrevocable past. "Long live the King!"-that is the announcement of an available future .- F. B. Meyer.

# Recognizing Our Best Friend.

Is God our last hope, or our first? Many a man has turned to his heavenly Father only in his extremity, as a last resource. Men who have not prayed for years have dropped upon their knees-or asked some one else to do so-on the deck of a sinking ship, or when the last hope in the universe, for this life and for the next, was God. Other men, in the midst of physical safety and prosperity, are nevertheless turning to God daily and hourly, not as their iast, forlorn hope, but as the glorious assembling of all their hopes; as their richest blessing beyond all other blessings in this present hour of blessing. How much more the Father can do for those who are ready to find in Him every good thing, than for those who leave Him antil every other hope has been tried and proved false! He will do all He can for those who turn to Him last; but His greatest blessings are for those who seek Him first .- Sunday-

#### school Times. Silent Threads of Gold.

Little nameless acts of kindness, ittle silent victories over favorite emptations—these are the silent threads of gold which, when woven together, gleam out so brightly in the pattern of life that God approves. -Farrar.

# Mind Your Own Business.

There is no promise of a crown of ighteousness for proficiency in regulating your neighbors.

Not in That Class. There are comparative religions, out Christianity is not one of them .loseph Parker.

#### An Epigram. Coal is stored sunshine; democracy stored Gospel.

Panama Elects Three Vice-Presidents. The Assembly of Panama elected Jose Augustin Arango, Carlos Mendoza and J. M. Lambert, First, Second and Third Vice-Presidents of the Republic respectively. Bills presented included one providing for the establishment of a national agricultural bank and another for the establishment of colonies of immigrants.

#### Whipped For Wife Beating. At Denton, Md., a sentence of nine-

ty days and twenty-five lashes on his bare back was imposed by Magistrate Wilson on John Carpenter, a negro, for wife beating