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A Family Journal, Devoted to the Diffusion of Knowledge.

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True Repentance Costs.

Must we be soetics to be Christians? No. Must we take long faces and forget to laugh? No. Must we hate the world? No. But we must say to that evil disposition—that vile desire of the flesh; that love of greed which has led to oppress a poor man, refuse to pay an honest debt, or take an advantage of others in any way. "You can rule me no more." It is doing just what Jesus indicates, by cutting off the hand and plucking out the eye. And all this costs. It is the crucial test of true repentance. Does it cost anything to turn?

The cost will be according to the past conduct and character. It seems a very amusing thing for churches to demand the same experience of repentance from the young child which they demand from the middle-aged, especially the man who has lived far from God. (Some of us are nearly as old as the hills.) But not to be saved from the same degree of guilt.

What has the life been? How long? How low? How much outward sinning? How much toward pride and opposition to God? We must not allow a single room of the soul to remain locked. Throw open the door and search for all secret sins, and all sins that appear innocent but have been hidden in them; as the old time people carried a deadly poison locked up in a jewel, which flashed out the poison.

The writer knew a lady of high social position who frequently declared in public that she never gave up anything in order to become a Christian. She had no need to say it; we thought all saw it to be so.

The Master said too much about taking up crosses, counting the cost and cutting off offending members of the flesh for us to imagine it safe to slur over this most solemn truth, that true repentance lies at the foundation of true religion. And true repentance is tested, for one thing by its cost. The elegant and accomplished lady had no need to give up what the vulgar must; what the impenitent, the unrepentant and dishonest must. But she had her own sins, and she was turning from these involved cost if she forsook them. And if they were not forsaken she is but a poor formalist apparelled but not possessed with the religion of Christ.—*Christian Union.*

Can't Help It.

That was what Harry Day always said when he was told of any of his bad habits. "I can't help it," he really meant, "I don't wish to help it," because he knew well enough that he was every one of us, "I help" doing wrong if we try in the right way.

Once Harry came upon an old story in a work, called book which he wanted out of a chest in the lumber closet, and this story set him thinking, as it may perhaps, set some other young folks thinking about the reason why it is necessary to resist what is bad in its earliest beginning.

"Long ago there lived an old hermit who had left the busy world for a cell in the desert, and who was reputed to be learned and wise.

"Many people used to visit the hermit, and they might receive his advice. And once a youth came to him who begged to stay with him for a time as a pupil.

"The hermit consented, and the first day he took his young companion into a small wood near to his humble dwelling. Looking round, he pointed to a very young oak tree just shooting from the ground.

"Pull up that sapling from the root," said he to his pupil, who obeyed without any difficulty. They went on a little further, and the old man pointed to another tree, but also a young one whose roots stuck deeper.

"This was not easy to pull up," said he to his pupil, "but with several efforts it was accomplished.

"The third had grown quite tall and strong, so that the youth was a long time before he could cut it up; but when his master pointed to a fourth, which was still larger and stronger, he found that, try as he might, it was impossible to move it.

"Now, remember, and take heed to what you have seen," said the hermit. The bad habits and passions of men are just like these trees of the wood. When young and tender they may be easily overcome, but if they grow gain firm in your soul, and no human strength is sufficient to get rid of them. Watch over your heart, and do not wait till your faults and passions have grown strong before you try to uproot them.

That was the end of the story; but as I have said, it set Harry Day to thinking, and when "I can't help it" was rising to his lips he was ashamed to utter it. So he set himself to the work of mastering his temper, his idleness, and all that conscience told him was amiss. Though this is a work that is not done in an hour or day, a month, or even a year, it will be effected at last (perhaps after many failures) by prayer and perseverance; nay, it must be done unless we wish to become the servants and the slaves of sin.—*Early Dec.*

AN INSURMAN'S HINT.—An inside car full of travelers was taking up one of the long hills in the County Wicklow. The driver leaped up from his seat in front, and walked by the side of the horse. The poor beast toiled slowly and wearily, but the six inside were too busily engaged in conversation to notice how slowly the car progressed. Presently the driver opened the door at the rear of the car and slammed it to again. The "insiders" started, but thought the driver was only assuring himself the door was securely closed. Again the fellow repeated the same action; he opened the door and slammed it to again. The travelers turned round angrily and asked why he disturbed them in that manner. "What?" whispered the fellow, "don't speak a word, she'll overhear us." "Who is she?" "The mare. Spake low," he continued, putting his hand over his nose and mouth. "Sure I'm a deceiver the creature! Every time she hears the door slamming that way she thinks one of ye is getting down to walk up the hill, and that rises her sperrins. The insiders took the hint.—*From The Shopman.*

Shoe Price.—Huntington has a pretty little settlement called Dayville, nestled among the mountains near the Boston & Albany railroad, of which the principal business is the manufacture of shoe pegs. It is a significant business, it would seem, but important enough to be a distinct and interesting industry. The pegs are made of birch wood, which comes to the mill in logs a foot or two in diameter, and these are peeled and cut into slices of the length of the pegs to be made. The sections then pass through a machine which points the pegs, there being from 20,000 to 30,000 in each separate piece, and are then passed each way through the "splitter," which separates each individual peg. After being dried in a revolving heated drum and cleaned in a revolving after they are ready for the market, and the four or five men in the factory make from twenty to thirty bushels a day, according to the size of the peg.—*Boston Journal.*

WHAT A FALLING OFF THERE.—The Globe Hotel, opposite the Exposition gates at Philadelphia has just been sold under the auctioneer's hammer for \$3,475. It cost, exclusive of its furniture and fixtures, \$160,000, and its shareholders have lost 20 per cent. of their entire investment. The Transcontinental Hotel, across the street, and above cost and all expenses, \$75,000 to its owner, Ted's Soda Water Palace, just north of the Globe, where the calliope used to shriek and rumble, cost \$12,000, and was sold at auction on Friday for \$175. The glory is gone out of that neck of woods by a large majority.

"PRAY ON MY PLATE, TOO."—A little bright-eyed three-year-old was seated in his high chair at the dinner table. Mamma had arranged the little uneasy, while for the moment his sprightliness and fun had made him the observed of the family. She had placed him snugly up to the table, pinned on his bib, and succeeded in getting the little mischievous hands quiet, and making him "hush" when father proceeded to ask the blessing. While this was in progress our little chubby made a discovery. It was that all the plates on the table except his own little plate, were in one pile at "papa's place," and as it seemed to him were put there to get the benefit of the solemn ceremony. So scarcely waiting for the "Amen," he held out his own plate in both hands, saying, "Please, papa, pray on my plate, too."—*Christian at Work.*

AN ORGANIC DEFICIENCY.—Many years ago a certain person was silently adding to a personal unpopularity by urging the purchase of a new organ upon the individual members of his congregation, without making much headway. At last he accepted a substantial gentleman as follows: "Deacon B—, it has surprised us all that you do not enter into this organ business with your usual zeal in other church matters. What's the trouble?" "Well, pastor, I will tell you. I am well satisfied with your ministrations, but third are those who begin to whisper that you are getting too old, etc., and I have been afraid that if the young people got a new organ at one end of the church they would soon be clamoring for a new organ at yours." The reply was satisfactory and the old organ remained for many years thereafter.—*New Haven Register.*

IN THE STREET.—A gentleman visited an unhappy man in jail, awaiting his trial. "Sir," said the prisoner, "I have been running down his cheeks. I had a good home education; it was my street education that ruined me. I used to slip out of the house and go off with the boys in the street. In the street I learned to lounge; in the street I learned to swear; in the street I learned to smoke; in the street I learned to gamble; in the street I learned to play; in the street I learned to drink; in the street I learned to work the ruin of the young."—*N. Y. Observer.*

DR. LAURENCE'S STORY.—After the death of Mr. Lawrence a post-mortem examination, made by three of our most distinguished physicians, revealed a condition, which, fully confirmed his extreme age of 111 years. The ribs had lost all the time which in ordinary age is the principal material of the bones, and they were so soft as to be easily cut through with an ordinary pair of scissors. One of the physicians told me that he had made similar examinations of persons who had died at the age of ninety and upwards, but he never before found the bones in the condition above described. N. Y. Observer.

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