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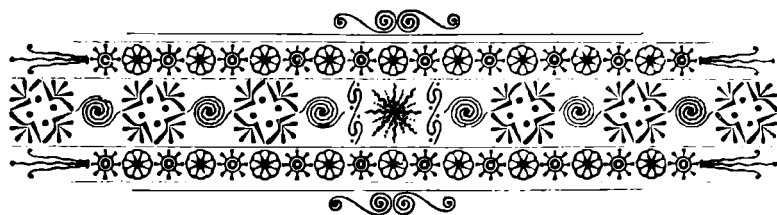
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THE

Sword and the Trowel.

DECEMBER, 1900.

Four Most Gracious Things.

AN EARLY SERMON, BY C. H. SPURGEON.

"Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? and your labour for that which satisfieth not? hearken diligently unto Me, and eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness. Incline your ear, and come unto Me: hear, and your soul shall live; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you, even the sure mercies of David."—Isaiah lv. 1—3.

(Concluded from page 576.)

III. HIRDLY, the text contains A MOST GRACIOUS DIRECTION.

The direction is very simple: "*Hearken.*" There is more to be got by listening to the Word of the Lord than by all the works of the law. It is an easy thing to hearken. "He that hath ears to hear, let him hear." "Faith cometh by hearing." An anxious soul is never in a better position than when it is really hearing the gospel. I would be very careful, dear friends, where I spent my Sabbaths; with so few as we may have, we certainly have none to waste. I implore you not to attend an unprofitable ministry; a ministry is unprofitable when it merely feeds the vanity of the natural man, or tickles his fancy, but does not impress his conscience, and lead him to Christ. If the ministry you attend has a sweet savour of Christ about it, do not let anyone draw you away from it; but if the Name of Christ be not as ointment poured forth, it is at your peril that you waste your time by listening to anything else that may be proclaimed there. Take

A Missionary's Letter to Boys.

WHAT are you going to be when you grow up? The other day, I saw a strange sight,—a *full-grown camel riding comfortably in a cart*. He carried no burden, a mule drew him, and a man walked at the side, while "my lord" the camel simply gazed around. It was a strange sight indeed; yet there are actually people who think this



sort of thing splendid; to do as little themselves, and to get as much done for them, as possible, seems to be the height of their ambition. Let it not be so with you, my dear boys; but,—

"In the world's broad field of battle,
In the bivouac of Life,
Be not like dumb, driven cattle!
Be a hero in the strife!"

Yes, that is what God calls you to be,—a hero, "a good soldier of Jesus Christ."

Now, North Africa is a part of the great battle-field from which the soldiers of King Jesus have been driven back, and the great enemy of souls holds the best positions. There are many easier positions, but few more difficult ones; so difficult, indeed, are they, that many people, even Christians, are afraid even to *try* to drive out the enemy. I want to ask you, boys, whether you will fear, or whether you will not, like David, putting your trust in God, come forth, fighting the good fight of faith, and winning souls for Jesus.

Perhaps some people will say, "But what about results? We do not *see* many conversions." That is like some coal-heavers I read of lately; they would not load a steamer unless the people paid their wages before the work was done; they were afraid that they were going to be cheated. We need not be afraid that the Lord Jesus will cheat us. Somebody wanted to know if he could trust a certain person. "Oh!" said another, "I only wish he owed me £1,000." He meant that, whatever he owed he

would be quite sure to pay. So is it with Jesus; you need not fear to trust Him with your time, your money, your life, your soul, your all, for He, whose Word tells us to "owe no man anything," will certainly pay all His servants far beyond their deserts.

Will you not, dear boys, just now ask God to send *you* to North Africa; for if He shall send you, He will fit you, bless you, and make you a blessing? Amen.

Soussa, Tunisia, North Africa.

T. G. CHURCHER.

"Multum in Parvo."

RETURNING home, one night, through a somewhat busy street, I was accosted by an aged woman who asked, "Can you tell me, sir, if there are any bicycles coming along? I am almost blind, and I was knocked down by one a short time ago, and I feel very nervous in crossing, and I want to get home to my husband who is ill, and he's been blind for many years."

The street appeared to be clear of cycles, and I said so; but, as the poor woman was very nervous indeed, I took hold of her arm, and said, "I will see you safely across." We started on our perilous (?) journey, and a most interesting talk occupied the time in transit;—I must add that my female companion did most of the talking. "Yes, sir," she said, "we have been very much afflicted, and we are very poor, but we are *very happy*." "Then you are Christians," said I. "Yes, sir," she replied.

The other side of the street was reached, and in saying, "Good-night," I asked the poor woman to accept a small sum of money—very small, for I could not afford to give much,—to buy her husband something extra for his supper. "Thank you, thank you, God bless you!" was her response, as she squeezed my hand, and released me. It was a case of "multum in parvo," for, in about two minutes, there was (1) a profession of faith: "we are Christians;" (2) an autobiography: "much afflicted, very poor, but very happy;" (3) a benediction: "God bless you!" Perhaps the benediction was uppermost in my mind for the remainder of the night, for, in falling asleep, I fancied I heard other words spoken, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these, ye have done it unto Me."

A. P.

Notices of Books.

Any Book reviewed or advertised in this Magazine will be forwarded by Messrs. Passmore and Alabaster on receipt of Postal Order for the published price.

Messrs. Passmore and Alabaster will be prepared to supply Vol. XXXVI. of *The Sword and the Trowel* soon after the present number of the Magazine is in the hands of our readers, or orders for the volume can be given at once to all booksellers and colporteurs. As the years go by, a complete set of "Mr. Spurgeon's Magazine" becomes increasingly valuable, and from all quarters we continue to receive testimonies that the latest issues are well worthy to take their

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