

From Christian Secretary.

And then, when I

of faith and the Holy Ghost." In  
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in the faith and the Holy Ghost." In it they followed the direction given in "Look ye out among you men who are full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom." The fullness of the Holy Spirit and wisdom in the members of the church were evidently fitted for something more than the mere service of tables. Being full of faith in Christ, and entirely devoted to him, they were unselfish, spiritual, wise, active, and they were able to give to the church the function of rulers, and not the mere temporalities of the church. Their spiritual gifts qualified them the better indeed for the greater work of their office, that of being equitable distributors of the collection, and of the service of all need. But the church was not made up of such men, and by no means were themselves precluded from prayer and from the ministry of the word. If many believers and disciples of Christ they were, they were not that sort of believers should be sought for deacons. Stephen, full of grace and power, and with large knowledge of the sacred Scriptures, and wisdom and spirit which could investigate and not be moved, was called to preach Christ in a city like Samaria that many gave joyful heed to the word; and he it was who, in the words of Isaiah sent the vision of the gospel to the regions of the South in the heart of the treasurer of the Church of Christ.

And so it naturally comes to pass that in these latter days a good deal of spirituality and of spiritual service is rightly expected of those who are placed in the deacon's office. They are chosen because they are full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, and as surely as they are so, they will be likely to continue in the way in which they had approved themselves to their brethren, and to be higher in it. They should be careful, intelligent students of the Bible, and be prepared to speak the words of the Bible with authority and encouragement from the sacred oracles. The Sunday-school, as the purveyor of Bible knowledge, and the treasury of the church, should receive

active encouragement and aid. In prayer-meetings they should be steady and efficient, co-operate with the minister or, at least, with the layman who is necessarily absent. In their daily life they should be exemplary and faithful.

Perfection indeed is not to be expected in this, any more than in other lines of duty and work. But the apostolic entrance is not to be avoided. The Christian is to be holy, and not looking for lawlessness, but to meet with not a few who in a high degree are models in this sphere of service; although perhaps none are happy or unhappy as to escape some sort of criticism from their contemporaries. Near the beginning of the second century of this century a church was organized in general at the towns in this State. There was no man who was especially prominent in the movement, and he was selected one of the deacons of the church. The opportunity was given him as a rare one and he faithfully met the responsibilities of the situation.

to a large extent he was recognized as a natural leader, and his influence was felt for good in all departments.

Christian activity, and in the fixing on the beginning a high standard of Christian living. Of course, he served at the Lord's Supper, and he was a member of no other church. But he was not at all satisfied with this as to the other sacrament also. Naturally he desired that every household should worship God, not only in the sanctuary, but at their own domestic altar. And it was largely by his example and the examples of those like him that the practice of religion in this way was made so common in the churches of the Coast.

Happy he was so constituted that even to advanced life he was a leader of the young. When, under the means of grace, they were led to give their hearts to the Lord in early life, he would gather them in a praying circle, perhaps in his own house, and would lead them in prayer. They would be for their usefulness, happiness, and efficiency in the service of Christ in subsequent life. Happy the church and pastor that have such helpers.

Each Christian, whether in the deaconate or not, must of course work for the cause of the Redeemer in his own way and according to his own aptitudes and individuality. But the

And worthy of our high calling in Christ Jesus our Lord. The personal sketch here given may be recognized by some. The subject of it has passed away to his reward, and it is now permitted thus to speak of him. May the example be stimulating and encouraging to others. M.

*Faith draws the poison from every grief and quenches the fire of every pain; and only faith can do it.—Dr. Holland.*

The poet Tennyson has his motto in inscribed tiles on the pavement of the hall: "The truth against the world."

Commonsense does not ask an impossible chessboard, and takes the one before it and plays the game.—[Wendell Phillips.]

Truth and love are two of the most powerful things in the world, and when they both go together, they can not easily be withstood.

One of the sweetest passages in the Bible is this: Underneath are the cherubim and the seraphim, ministering to the divine support. God knows our feebleness. He remembers that we are dust.

*—The Christian conflict is not to be*

In the old days there were angels who came and took men by the hand and led them away from the city of destruction. We see no white-winged angels now, but yet men are led away from threatening destruction; a hand is put into theirs which leads them forth gently towards a calm and bright land, so that they look no more backward; and the hand may be a little child's.











