

erly welcomed by the congregation, who, in common with the rest of the human race, find community singing a natural and entirely delightful occupation.

A Blade of Grass.

Three men, sitting on the verandah of a seaside hotel, were discussing religion. "Credulous and timid persons need religion," said one of the two younger men. "Without it they would find life unbearable. Reason has little or no hold upon them; religion keeps them in line."

"Religion is well enough in its place," said the other young man, "but that place grows smaller. Science tells us that the whole mystery of life can be explained in terms of matter."

"Gentlemen," the older man, a well-known doctor, said gravely, "what you say leads me to believe that you may be able to answer one or two questions that I have thought over for a long time. What makes a blade of grass green?"

"It is merely a matter of vegetable salts," answered one of the younger men. "The kind and the variety of color depend simply on the proportions in which the salts are diffused."

"That is probably true," replied the doctor. "Given a certain proportion of those coloring elements, as provided by the soil and selected by the plant, we get a green blade of grass. But how account for it?"

We must remember that from all the varied properties of the soil the blade must select precisely that which it requires for its own color; we must remember too that what is true of the grass is true of the rose. The least mistake would bring about a like change in the plant. But no mistake is ever made. How does science account for it?"

There was a long silence that was broken at last by one of the young men. "Why, doctor, that's just plain instinct."

"Does that answer really satisfy your own intelligence?" asked the doctor. "What do you say?" he inquired, turning to the other man.

"That question sounds simple enough, sir," was the reply, "but it goes deep. To tell the truth, I never thought of it in that way."

"And yet, gentlemen," said the doctor, "though you have never thought deeply, as you say, of such simple everyday matters, you presume to belittle the province of religion in the world. My question about the blade of grass suggests that at the end of every path of human research God stands waiting. He is the only final answer to any question. The plant shares His life; its strange and wonderful intelligence is a part of His wisdom, as its use and its beauty are a part of his loving purpose toward men."

It takes so little to make us glad,
Just a cheering grasp of a friendly hand,

Just a word from one who can understand;
And we finish the task we long had planned,
And we lose the doubt and the fear we had—
So little it takes to make us glad.
There are nettles everywhere,
But smooth green grasses are more common still;
The blue of heaven is larger than the cloud.
—E. B. Browning.

Saw Wood.

(By Dr. Frank Crane).

American slang has a most expressive term—"Saw wood."

It means, keep right on.

The idea is that, while the uncertainty lasts, while the problem is still unsolved, while nobody knows the outcome, you go on with your job.

Keep the wheels turning, the goods moving, the business stirring, the store open and the work going on.

Then, whatever happens, il y a toujours cela, as the French say, or at least that's that, as the English put it.

Most things rectify themselves if you don't get panicky and quit.

It always stops raining, said J. P. Morgan.

Most diseases disappear if you can manage to forget them.

If your enemies are after you and the air is dark with threats, if the

Intercessions.

Thanksgiving and Humiliation.

Let us give Thanks—

For another year of the infinite patience and mercy of God.

For every victory in our individual and national life of the Spirit of Christ.

For the sense of failure revealing the greatness of our task; for the breakdown of worldly policies and the emptiness of earthly success, revealing our need of Christ and His sufficiency.

For every adventure of faith through the overcoming of fear and doubt; and God's response to it.

Let us Confess—

Our failure in past resolves; our lack of obedience; our denial of the spirit of fellowship; our feeble grasp of the range and glory of Christ's Kingdom on earth; the closed mind and the hard heart and the censorious temper.

And let us Pray—

For the spirit of utter sincerity; the open mind to truth from whatever quarter; the ready heart to carry burdens in fellowship with Christ;

the spirit of practical service and sacrificial sympathy; the willingness to accept rebukes, and to learn from those to whom by temperament or conviction we are opposed.

That being stripped of pride and searched in heart before the Cross, we may claim no standing but in His mercy and grace.

The Church Universal.

Let us give Thanks—

For all increases in charity, through a new sense of what lies behind our differences.

For an awakening social conscience throughout the Church, and a braver claim to spiritual leadership.

For a clearer vision of the things in which we can work together for the dominion of Christ.

For all scorn suffered through our loyalty; and for all criticism through which we have come to see and confess our failure.

Let us Confess—

Our frequent blindness to spiritual issues in temporal things; our resentment of rebuke; our bigotry and prejudice; our want of faith in new enterprises; our foolish fears for the truth; our failure to explore and employ the powers which are ours in

Christ Jesus; our want of the marks of the Cross, reflecting the spirit of the Lord.

And let us Pray—

For a new and burning conviction of the world's need of Christ and of His glorious appearing; for a love that will win its way through all hindrances into the hearts of men; for a new fearlessness and hope; for a message without confusion and a heart without despair.

That the desire for unity among the branches of the one Church of Christ may be strengthened; that movements towards reunion may be guided by the Holy Spirit in all things; that a new confidence in the Evangel of Jesus Christ may pervade the whole fellowship of faith.

Nations and their Rulers.

Let us thank God—

For the deepening desire of peace; for the settlement of questions in the Far East which have long threatened the future; for efforts towards the restoration of Europe; for a closer international unity; the willingness to forget the past and to try new paths; for the quickened sense of responsibility among rulers in the