

The recent Synod of the Church in South Africa emphatically reaffirmed the proviso in their constitution, which exempts the church from being bound by any decisions except those of its own tribunals, and which was specially directed against the maintenance of any legal connection between the churches of England and of South Africa. The church in the United States was strongly relied upon as an argument for ecclesiastical liberty.—*Christian at Work.*

On looking over the world, the cause of nine parts in ten of the lamentable failures which occur in men's undertakings and darken and degrade so much of their history lies not only in the want of talents or the will to use them, but in the vacillating and desultory mode of using them, in flying from object to object, in starting away at each little disgust, and thus applying the force which might conquer any one difficulty to a series of difficulties so large that no human force can conquer them. The smallest brook on earth by continuing to run has hollowed out for itself a considerable valley to flow in. The wildest tempest overturns a few cottages, uproots a few trees and leaves after a short space no mark behind it. Commend me therefore to the Dutch virtue of perseverance. Without it, all the rest are a little better than fairy gold which glitters in your purse, but when taken to market proves to be slate or cinders.—*Carlyle.*

In family circles may be found many sad-hearted, fainting ones who are withering in this freezing atmosphere of non-appreciation. The mother who is giving all her strength, and would gladly give her life, for her children, asking no return in kind, hungers for a little appreciation. A word of grateful acknowledgement now and then would be to her as a cooling draught to thirsty lips.—*Ex.*

Every morning before you see the face of men, register this prayer in heaven: "Hold thou me up and I shall be safe, and I shall have respect unto thy statutes continually." Are you going downstairs without that prayer?—Then you may fall into sin at the breakfast table. You may lose your temper, and a trifle not worth noticing may put you off the tram-lines for the day.—Therefore, pray ere the car moves.—*Spurgeon.*

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