



### Diligence.

WHAT good things are spoken of the faithful and energetic?

“He that tilleth his land *shall have plenty of bread.*” Prov. 28 : 19.  
 “The hand of the diligent *maketh rich.*” Prov. 10 : 4. “The soul of the diligent shall be *made fat.*” Prov. 13 : 4.

2. What is said of the man of opposite characteristics?

“He *becometh poor* that dealeth with a slack hand.” Prov. 10 : 4. “The soul of the sluggard desireth and *hath nothing.*” Prov. 13 : 4.

3. What social distinction is shown between the diligent man and the slothful one?

“The hand of the diligent shall *bear rule*, but the slothful shall be *under tribute.*” Prov. 12 : 24.

4. What honor awaits the diligent man of business?

“Seest thou a man diligent in his business? *He shall stand before kings*; he shall not stand before mean men.” Prov. 22 : 29.

5. Give an example of the reward of industry.

“And the man Jeroboam was a mighty man of valor; and Solomon seeing the young man *that he was industrious*, he made him *ruler* over all the charge of the house of Joseph.” 1 Kings 11 : 28. Read also the three verses following.

6. May we estimate a man's thrift by the condition of his dwelling?

“By much slothfulness the *building decayeth*; and through idleness of the hands the *house droppeth through.*” Eccl. 10 : 18.

7. Give a picture of a slack man's farm, as drawn by an eye-witness.

“I went by the field of the slothful, and by the vineyard of the man void of understanding; and lo, it was all grown over with thorns, and nettles had covered the face thereof, and the stone wall thereof was broken down.” Prov. 24 : 30, 31.

8. What lesson did the wise man learn as he noticed these things?

“Then I saw and *considered it well*; I looked upon it, and *received instruction.*” Prov. 24 : 32.

9. Is our work for “the life that now is,” closely united with that for the one to come?

“Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord.” Rom. 12 : 11.

10. What sentence is pronounced against the man who is unfaithful in God's work?

“*Cursed be he* that doeth the work of the Lord deceitfully [margin, *negligently*].” Jer. 48 : 10.

11. In view of the reward to be given at Christ's appearing, what exhortation is given?

“Wherefore, beloved, seeing that ye look for such things, *be diligent* that ye may be found of him in peace, without spot and blameless.” 2 Peter 3 : 14.

12. What blessed assurance is given such as follow this advice?

“Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things *ye shall never fall*; for so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.” 2 Peter 1 : 10, 11.

WORK, for the night is coming,  
 Work through the morning hours;  
 Work while the dew is sparkling,  
 Work 'mid springing flowers,  
 Work when the day grows brighter,  
 Work in the glowing sun;  
 Work, for the night is coming,  
 When man's work is done.

Work, for the night is coming,  
 Work through the sunny noon;  
 Fill brightest hours with labor;  
 Rest comes sure and soon.  
 Give every flying minute  
 Something to keep in store;  
 Work, for the night is coming,  
 When man works no more.

Work, for the night is coming  
 Under the sunset skies;  
 While their bright tints are glowing,  
 Work, for daylight flies.  
 Work till the last beam fadeth,—  
 Fadeth to shine no more;  
 Work while the night is darkening,  
 When man's work is o'er.