

The Christian Messenger.

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WHOLE SERIES.
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Poetry.

"HE LEADETH ME."

As God leads me, I will go,
Nor choose the joy or woe
Let Him choose the joy or woe
Of every day;
They cannot hurt my soul,
Because in His control:
I leave to Him the whole—
His children may.

As God leads me, I am still
Within His hand;
Though His purpose my self will
Doth oft withstand.
Yet I wish that none
But His will be done
Till the end be won
That he hath planned.

As God leads, I am content:
He will take care!
All things by His will are sent
That I must bear,
To him I take my fear,
My wishes while I'm here,
The way will all seem clear,
When I am there.

As God leads me, it is mine
To follow Him;
Soon all shall wonderfully shine,
Which now seems dim,
Fulfilled be His decree!
What He shall choose for me,
That shall my portion be,
Up to the brim!

As God leads me, so my heart
In faith shall rest,
No grief or fear my soul shall part
From Jesus' breast.
In sweet belief I know
What way my life doth go—
Since God permitteth—
That must be best.
—British Workwoman.

Religious.

MR. SPURGEON AND THE ACTRESS.

According to the *Sporting Gazette*, the Lord Chamberlain recently complained that the religious feelings of the audiences at the Charing Cross Theatre were needlessly and wantonly shocked by certain allusions to Mr. Spurgeon; whereupon Miss Lydia Thompson at once took the bull by the horns, and wrote to Mr. Spurgeon as follows:—

Charing Cross Theatre.

Rev. Sir,—In the extravagance, *Blue Beard*, now playing at this theatre, the hero (enacted by myself) gives a card bearing your name to Blue Beard, adding, "We always like to look upon the Surrey side." This announcement is invariably received with great applause; but, in deference to your position, I write to ask if you have any objection to the use of your name. If so I will withdraw it at once.—Yours respectfully,

LYDIA THOMPSON.

REV. C. H. SPURGEON.

To this letter Miss Thompson duly received the following reply:

Madam,—Mr. Spurgeon duly received your courteous note, and would have replied but has been suffering from an attack of illness. Mr. Spurgeon desires me to say that you having had the politeness to inform him of the little incident, he is quite content to leave the matter in your hands.

Yours respectfully,

CHARLES BLACKSHAW.

MISS LYDIA THOMPSON.

A TEST.

If any teacher finds his work growing heavier and heavier as the years go on, he should seriously ask whether he had not better reconstruct himself. Surely the work should wear sweeter as we get experience in it, and become a blessed part of the life of the instructor. Children soon learn to distinguish between what is an irksome duty on the part of a teacher and what a labor of love. They will reward you according as you feel affected toward the work of teaching them. If the

work drags on your hands at any time, at least do not let your scholars see that it does.—*S. S. Times.*

PRAYING FOR THE STRANGER.

A young lady from one of the British Provinces lately came to Boston seeking employment. In a church she attended the pastor's prayer had some fervent petitions for the stranger. Her heart was greatly affected by an allusion so interesting to herself. She felt she was cared for though unknown to the preacher, and though far from her own home. She must attend that church again under the influence of such an attraction. At her next attendance a sermon about the prodigal son gave her impressions speedily resulting in her conversion and union with the church. She has returned to her distant home, rejoicing in such a blessed result of her visit to this city, and never to forget the kindness of the pastor, whose prayer for the stranger had an issue of which he had not dreamed, and which will give new stimulus to the fervor of his interest in behalf of strangers and visitors here from distant lands. Cannot other preachers see their own duty and privilege in the fact above related? "I was a stranger, and ye took me in."—*Congregationalist.*

THE GREAT MASTER.

"I am my own master!" cried a young man, proudly, when a friend tried to dissuade him from an enterprise which he had on hand. "I am my own master!"

"Did you ever consider what a responsible post that is?"

"Responsible? Is it?"

"A master must lay out the work which he wants done, and see that it is done right. He should try and secure the best ends by the best means. He must keep on the lookout against obstacles and accidents, and watch that everything goes straight, else he must fail."

"Well."

"To be master of yourself you have your consciences to keep clear, your heart to cultivate, your temper to govern, your will to direct, and your judgment to instruct. You are master over a hard lot; and if you don't master them, they will master you."

"That is so," said the young man.

"Now I could undertake no such thing," said his friend. "I should fail, sure, if I did. Saul wanted to be his own master, and failed. Herod did. Judas did. No man is fit for it. One is my master, even Christ. I work under his direction. He is regular; and where he is master, all goes right."

"One is my Master, even Christ," repeated the young man slowly and seriously. "Everybody who puts himself sincerely under his leadership wins at last."

HOPE OF THE CHURCH.

The hope of the church is in revivals; and the fairest hope of revivals is in teaching and preaching the gospel to the young. If I were to turn evangelist, I would enter the field. Let every pastor who depends over the effect of his ministry on the world-hardened minds turn to the lambs of the flock. Pentecost will begin for him there. Let our Sunday School teachers seek immediately and explicitly, not the entertainment or the instruction of their charge, but their conversion; and the question of the spiritual state of the church, the sanctity of home-life, the peace and order of society, and the supply of Christian ministers and Christian missionaries, are all answered in words of hope and promise.—*A. L. Stone, D. D.*

If the prudence of reserve and decorum dictates silence in some circumstances, in others prudence of a higher order may justify us in speaking our thoughts.—*Burke.*

A MODEL PREACHER.

A correspondent of the *New York Methodist* has been hearing and studying the most celebrated English preachers. He thus speaks of Spurgeon, who, in certain particulars, he looks on as a model for young preachers, and we strongly commend what he says to the attention of the latter, and indeed to all:

First of all, in his preaching, he impresses one as a man of profound and moving convictions on religious subjects—a man of deep experience, and consequently of profound knowledge of human nature, especially in its struggles between good and evil. He also, in an eminent degree, leans on Christ in his work, and expects present results. As he speaks or prays you feel that this is true, and it thrills you, and leads you to thus defend yourself. I have heard Mr. Spurgeon five times, and always with increasing interest, both of the heart and the head.

While the most of his sermon is didactic, he not unfrequently rises to passages of the most thrilling eloquence and poetic beauty. His command of language is remarkable. He talks right on without a break or a misplaced word, for an hour; no superfluous sentences, no roundabout approach to an idea or a truth, but straightforward work to the end, and when that is reached, he always has the good sense to stop at once. His power evidently lies in his profound earnestness, his directness of thought and utterance, his adroitness in the use and application of Scriptural symbolism, and his critical knowledge of and ability to clearly explain God's word (all made doubly effective by the unction of the Holy Spirit.) In this particular he is a model for young preachers, who can find no better way to secure the attention and reach the hearts of the people.

It has been said of Mr. Spurgeon that he has the ability to reach only the illiterate, the common people. This is certainly a mistake; for while, because of the locality in which the Tabernacle is situated, and the peculiar methods he uses, the great majority of his congregation are from the higher working classes (and this fact is a crown of glory on his head), at the same time many of the most learned and talented men of England and America delight to sit under his ministry, admiring him for his commanding genius, and loving him for his simple piety.

WHICH CHURCH DID HE ATTEND?

A few weeks ago a working-man picked up a bundle of banknotes in the street, and at once restored them to the bankers to whom they belonged. The bankers not only rewarded the finder very liberally, but made inquiry as to the church which he attended, and gave it a handsome donation too. We have no information as to the sort of sermons which are preached in that church; but the bankers appear to have been content to judge by results, and to assume that, as a member of the congregation had given such a remarkable proof of his honesty, this must be due to the wholesome influence of the services which he attended. It would certainly be interesting if the test could be applied on a wider scale. We should then be able to form some idea of the practical value of the vast amount of sermonizing which is constantly going on. It is not everybody who has a chance of finding a bundle of notes lying before him on the street; but what may be called the ordinary honesty of mankind is perhaps subjected to a more wearing strain. There is no subject on which there is such an infinite variety of shades and refinements of opinion as on what constitutes actual dishonesty, and there is no subject on which people require more closely to watch themselves, and to be watched over by their spiritual mentors.—*Saturday Review.*

HALIFAX, Dec. 4th, 1874.

Dear Mr. Editor,—

In accordance with the resolution of the Halifax School Association, I have to request you to publish the accompanying address. Will you kindly give it a place in the next issue of the *Messenger*.

Yours, &c.,

EDWIN D. KING,
Secretary.

TO THE ELECTORS OF NOVA SCOTIA.

GENTLEMEN,—

Following a sudden dissolution of the House of Assembly, you are called upon to elect your representatives on the 17th instant. The time is short. The consideration of those matters which may affect your judgment must be prompt. We feel that the duty is ours in the present crisis to remind you that there is a question before the country which transcends all mere party differences. We mean the legislation required for the correction of evils which have developed under the present administration of school affairs, and for the maintenance in its integrity of the principle upon which our educational system is based. In the city of Halifax some of these evils had grown so obtrusive and intolerable as to arouse the spirit which led to the formation of the Association which now addresses you.

Seeing that unlawful practices were rapidly multiplying in several of our schools, and that others were characterized only by utter inefficiency, whilst progress towards the higher grades of instruction, annually promised, was year after year neglected, and the mode of appointing the School Board was itself unsatisfactory,—a large number of citizens interested in Education advocated the repeal of the clause in the Provincial Statute by which the right, conceded to every other section of the Province, to elect its own trustees, is denied to Halifax. If,—when shameful abuse of privileges, evasion of the law, and dereliction of duty characterized the working of the School Act in the city of Halifax,—the Government of the day were unprepared to grapple with such wrongs, it was thought that at least the Legislature would not withhold from the citizens the right to undertake the task for themselves. In this we were utterly mistaken.

A Bill carefully framed, intended to confer upon the citizens the right of electing their own Trustees in the same way in which that right is usually exercised in incorporated cities, was submitted to the House of Assembly. Warm sympathy with its object was expressed by many members, and positive and unhesitating assurances of support were given by some who, when the test of an actual vote came to be applied, were conveniently absent from their duty. Through the process of postponement until another session, the Bill was shelved for the time, and now before that session is held the House itself is dissolved.

Our application having been thus disposed of, we addressed to our fellow citizens a statement setting forth fourteen separate and distinct grievances and paused for some reply. None! To this day not a single allegation contained in it has been refuted. Silence has reigned over the educational authorities. But more significant even than this have been the quiet efforts to evade the effect of the criticism and weaken the force of our attack. One by one sundry evils complained of have been in some sort remedied. We denounced the neglect to advertise when teachers were required, advertisements have since appeared. We pointed to the glaring injustice of clerical representation of one church only upon the School Board, and that a church in avowed hostility to a system which provides "mixed schools"; the anomaly has been ostensibly removed. We exposed the violation of law in the

use of school books not authorized by the Council of Public Instruction; we are assured that the Commissioners were ignorant of the fact, and that their use has been discontinued. We showed that in this wealthy city where ample funds for the best sort of education have been easily raised, not a single grade A teacher was employed: two have since been obtained and placed at the head of important schools.

These facile concessions of some of our claims are the best possible testimony to their correctness, while they show how great was the neglect of duty into which the administrators of the law had fallen.

Thus far has success been apparently vouchsafed in answer to our appeals, but the obnoxious principle under which so great evils have prevailed, and under which it is feared they may again expand and flourish, remains in full operation.

Having afforded ample time for inquiry into our allegations, we waited again upon the Government and sought to elicit from them an assurance that some remedial measure would be provided. They would neither avow their intention to uphold the existing exceptional legislation with regard to Halifax, nor would they undertake to amend it. We believe them in fact to be divided in opinion, and we fear that there is in exercise a secret influence more potent than principle, which determines the balance against us.

We now appeal to you. We do not make this appeal in the name or in the interest of party. Our Association comprises at this moment many who have been among the most vigorous and valuable supporters of the present Government, and who would sever with pain the tie of general concurrence in principle which has bound them to it; many who have been ardently opposed to the Government and in intimate alliance with the Opposition; and many who look upon both existing political parties with distrust. They are united upon one point alone: the sacred duty of freeing our educational system from the danger of being perpetually manipulated in the interest of its opponents, and of its faithful administration being subordinated to the exigencies of the party that may happen for the time to be in the ascendant.

Our experience has demonstrated to us that beyond the special grievance of which we in Halifax complain, the weak point in our School Law is the identity of the Council of Public Instruction with the Executive Council of the province. This was foreseen and pointed out by wise legislators at the time the Act was passed. Their fears and predictions have been too amply fulfilled.

We appeal then to you to see to it in the selection of candidates to represent you in the House of Assembly, that men are chosen who will not hold mere party allegiance to be more binding than their duty to their country in its highest interests; and we strongly recommend that, wherever practicable, candidates may be pledged to amend the invidious and injurious clauses of the Education Act relating to Halifax, and to secure the formation of a Council of Public Instruction for the Province, which will consist of men fitted by training and experience to advance the cause of Education among us.

We suggest the following as suitable questions to be put to all candidates soliciting your suffrages:

1. If elected to the House, will you vote to extend to the citizens of Halifax the privilege enjoyed by every other school section in the Province, of electing their own school Trustees and managing the schools they themselves pay for?

2. Will you also vote that, as in every other section in the Province, so in the city of Halifax, no school shall obtain a share of the Provincial Grant, unless the County Inspector certify that the school is conducted in accordance with the requirements of the law, and is up to the proper standard of efficiency?