

Sunday Reading.

Under the Orders of Jesus.

We know not what is expedient, But we may know what is right; And we never need grope in darkness, If we look to Heaven for light.

The Christian in the World.

BY E. S. MACARTHUR, D. D.

It is well for us to remember that Christians are in the world. That they are left here, and not taken to heaven immediately upon their conversion, is the best evidence that there is work for them to do here.

What, then, is the true relation which Christians should sustain to the world? This is a question of the utmost importance. To it various answers have been given by truly devout and sincerely God-fearing men and women.

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seemed powerless to bless, and which they knew was powerful to hurt.

The worldliness of the church was also a cause of monasticism. After the church became nominally Christian, under Constantine, its extreme worldliness drove out of its bosom its most devout and consecrated souls.

Is this the Christian's true relation to the world? It will not be denied that monasticism, in some of its branches, has contributed to Christian learning.

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tian life, many a man has asked this question with deep anxiety. How shall he adjust his relations to the world? He fears the world's temptations; he sees its utter vanity; he longs for quiet contemplation and intimate communion with Christ.

Christ came to make men and women; not monks and nuns. Religion is not a cloistered nun. Rather is religion an obedient daughter, a loving sister, a gentle wife, a devoted mother blessing, glorifying, and sanctifying life wherever she goes.

There is another winter-verse in the Bible about looking out for temptations after our sins are forgiven, and we begin to be Christians: "Their foot shall slide in due time."

Slide and skate all you can without neglecting lessons or keeping bad company, but look out for slippery places of temptation to use slang, to gamble with marbles, to be out late at night, to associate with vulgar or profane boys, to get angry or lose your patience, to forget your prayers and your Bible, to be ashamed of Jesus.

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Winter. A SHORT SERMON FOR THE YOUNG PEOPLE.

BY REV. W. F. CRAFTS.

"Thou hast made summer and winter."—Psalm lxxiv. 17.

The Bible has many things to say about winter and the lessons we can learn from it.

We are told that God made the cold winter as well as the warm summer, and so both are "very good."

The snowflakes which you know are like starry flowers in their beauty and form, and are called in the Bible "treasures of the snow," tell us that God has a thinking mind like ours, only very much greater—a mind that can make angels and forms of beauty—a mind that we can love as our Father in heaven.

Praise the Lord from the earth, Ye dragons and all deeps; Fire and hail; snow and vapour; Stormy wind fulfilling His word.

God bids us all join the snow and hail in praising Him:

Both young men and maidens; Old men and children; Let them praise the name of the Lord.

The Bible also uses the snow to teach us how we can be cleansed from sin:

If I wash myself with snow water, and make my hands never so clean, yet mine own clothes should abhor me.

The well and spring water in the country where that verse was written, is hard, and does not wash off the dirt, and so the people use rain water and melted snow whenever they can in their washing. But the Bible tells us that even these will not cleanse a wicked heart.

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The first list of subscribers was a small one, not over 500, and these in many cases sent without being applied for, in hopes on seeing the paper its contin-

ever slide back into them again. If we are trying to be Christians, let the Winter remind us to offer every morning David's prayer for help in temptation that he might not backslide: "Hold up my goings in Thy paths that my footsteps slip not."

Lord Jesus, I long to be perfectly whole; I want Thee for ever to live in my soul; Break down every idol, cast out every foe; Now wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

Correspondence.

Further Reminiscences.

Mr. Editor,—

As one of the disadvantages the early circulation of the Messenger had to contend with, in my last communication I referred to the infrequency of the mails, to which may be added the few post offices in the Province to which papers could be sent.

In 1828 the mail coach was established between Halifax and Annapolis, consequently more post offices were established, but these were for some years chiefly on the post roads, the side roads and settlements many miles distant were for a long time without much accommodation in this respect.

But if news travelled slowly from the city where the papers were published, so the mails received there were long in arriving, and very meagre when received.

Up to the time the Cunard steamers commenced their Atlantic trips the mails were brought from Great Britain in naval vessels or small gun brigs once a month, frequently they did not arrive for sixty, and occasionally ninety days. The writer remembers the arrival of these irregular mail packets. They anchored off the Market Wharf. The mail bags were rowed ashore, two sailors slung them over an oar, raised it on their shoulders, preceded by the mail officer, deposited their load in the post office.

This mail matter may seem a digression, and not connected with the Messenger and its management, but when the subscribers now get their paper the same day it is published, and often a hundred miles away from the city, before noon on that day, they must take into account the difficulties the publishers had to surmount in the early history of the Messenger in promoting its circulation.

ance would be ordered. In many instances this was the case, in others the paper would be returned. As there was then no other religious paper published in the Province it was mailed to ministers and some laymen of other denominations than the Baptists, in hopes that its contents might commend it to their approval and patronage. These received it with different results: some returned the paper with a polite note saying that at present they did not see their way clear to subscribe; a few returned it with a tart note saying not to send any more numbers, when they wanted the paper they would let the editors know; a few ministers wrote encouragingly, said they liked the appearance and matter, to continue their names as subscribers, and that they would be happy to send occasional communications for insertion.

How pleasant it would be now for the present editor to direct half a score or a score of papers weekly to those who cannot take one, to be paid for by some one who would not miss the amount. I fear that many of us who have so much reading as not to fully appreciate it do not consider what a luxury it would be to many who seldom see a paper to have one regularly mailed them from week to week.

It is a great satisfaction for one to read his own paper. If I felt I owed the publisher I would not enjoy the perusal as I do when I know it is paid for in advance. I take some ten or more papers, and do not remember ever being called upon for a year's subscription to any of them, as I have always paid for them in advance.

Long communications are not generally read, so I will close this, leaving some other matters in this connection for a future number.

January, 1883.

From Germany.

THE TERRIBLE DESTRUCTION BY FLOODS.

BERLIN, GERMANY, JAN. 15, 1883.

The floods in every section of the country, which already far exceed all previous ones since 1784, are still increasing. After a slight fall the Rhine is again rising. The Upper Neckar and the Main are also rising rapidly again. The principal scene of devastation is from Rastadt to Worms, where the entire Rhine Valley forms a great lake, in some places twenty miles broad, with a strong current of fifteen feet per second. In seven villages on the Ried plains, near Worms, 5000 houses have been destroyed, and entire streets swept away. Pioneers with boats rescue people from the roof of the church spires. The loss of life is yet unknown, but is certainly serious. Nearly all the cattle are drowned. The refugees are sheltered in the schools and churches. The sappers are cutting dams to draw off the back-water. Mayence is still free of water by the enormous efforts of the soldiers and firemen. A temporary railroad has been built for the rapid transport of materials for embankments. At Lorch a landslip is imminent. The inhabitants are leaving their houses. Newwid is again completely submerged. The Düssel-dorf market-square is flooded. The rains continue. The villages along the Danube just above Vienna are flooded. The green-houses stand in the water, so that fruits and vegetables are floating in masses down the river. Military aid has been required. The long dykes in the Prater are in a bad condition. Many cellars are filled with water. In one suburb the people have been dislodged in great numbers. News from Linz announces a continual increase of water there. Immense masses of water are expected to reach Vienna, and it is feared that they may destroy the dykes on the left bank. Many hundred heads of game have been drowned, as well as deer, pheasants, and innumerable herds of cattle. A railway guard on an exposed point perished with his wife and six children. In Frissenheim all the inhab-

tants are at and town-h fallen in. witnessed Rhine reach November then it ha Bingen and The Main of Tuesda Worms is districts, persons are starvation crowded w at Ludwig and 2,000 and church supplies returning whirpool. 12 were sappers an for Worms extreme broken in are buildi sixteen st and night, fire engine excited. The islandence, is habitants, to the g unsettled Germanerably thro flow of e from the l the Unite long way of Prince Out of th of immigr in the Sta Germans, quarter of were able needs to immense tolerable exercise a social con tion to th ent Germ ing that emigrant ions of returns to goes to v land. It the large way of leaving day as sh her militi It remain Bismark' country'm ing them