

prophecy of our text intensively. Christian hearts must be drawn more closely in love and in sympathy to the heart of the Uplifted Christ. They must feel that attraction which Peter felt, on a day when many were turning away from Jesus and His doctrine...

To feel more profoundly this drawing of the heart to Jesus and His Cross is what the church is needing most to-day—and this also above all things—expresses the need of every soul that professes or desires to belong to Christ.

Let me ask you, my friend, to-day, is Christ thus drawing you? Is your nature becoming so welded and so wrought into His that you are coming to know something of His abhorrence of sin, something of the fellowship of His sympathy and suffering on behalf of others...

The following address was one of the valuable papers read at the late Anniversary meetings at Detroit. It deserves a careful perusal.

DENOMINATIONAL PUBLISHING AND DISTRIBUTING INDISPENSABLE TO FEALTY TO OUR LORD.

BY REV. J. HILL, LL. D.

They who suppose that the Baptist denomination exists for the defense of a ceremony, either have not taken the trouble to read history, or they have read it without reflection. It is true that Baptists have stalwartly defended the immersion of believers, and of believers only, as essential to admission into the visible church...

But the confessors of Christ have not always accepted this principle. A church has attempted to make itself a final authority and to confer upon councils, synods, presbyteries, and even popes, the prerogatives of ecclesiastical supremacy. Further, a church has assumed to set aside the commands of Christ as no longer binding...

Thus they have stood for centuries, often in little helpless, isolated groups, as living representatives of the principle of loyalty itself.

It is true that Baptists have often seemed to be contending for a mere outward rite, a ceremonial mode, but their position is better understood when we remember what that rite signifies, and was meant by Christ to signify. By the admission and the practice of Christians of every age and name, that rite is the initiation into the visible church, the gate of entrance into the Christian Brotherhood...

"There is nothing in Pompeii," says an anonymous writer, "that invests it with a deeper interest than the spot where a soldier of old Rome displayed a most heroic fidelity. That fatal day on which Vesuvius, at whose feet the city stood, burst out into an eruption that shook the earth...

"Here, in a little state, the fundamental principles of political and ecclesiastical liberty practically prevailed before they were taught in any of the schools of philosophy in Europe. At that time people predicted only a short existence for these democratic experiments—universal suffrage; eligibility to office; the annual change of rulers; perfect religious freedom. But not only have these ideas and these forms of government maintained themselves here, but precisely from this little state, have they extended themselves throughout the United States...

There is a temptation to refer to other fruits of loyalty to Christ, but it is not necessary to my purpose. I have indulged in these historical reminiscences because they exhibit the real position of Baptists in relation to Christian fealty. It is in the light of these grand historic facts that I wish to present the theme assigned to me, "Denominational publishing and distributing indispensable to fealty to our Lord."

I. We hold truth, still unrecognized, to proclaim.—It is encouraging to know that the evangelical Christians of our day have so fully accepted Baptist leadership and Baptist principles, yet they are not universally accepted. In the free, open field of public discussion, the truth for which our predecessors have been contending has made wonderful triumphs, and it is no small consideration that, in this fair field of controversy, views that were formerly suppressed by official authority have won so large and so general an assent...

takes the trouble to say, "Freedom of conscience, unlimited freedom of mind, was, from the first, a trophy of the Baptists." (Hist. U. S., 11, 66, 67).

And it was not only a trophy at the first, but at the last; for the principle was forced into recognition by the national government. On the petition of Virginia Baptists, James Madison prepared a memorial that led Thomas Jefferson to draw the "act for establishing religious freedom," in December, 1775. Still later, after the constitution had been framed by the Federal Convention of 1787, and adopted by the people, thinking that the freedom of religion was not yet sufficiently guarded, the Baptists presented an address to President Washington, asking his aid in securing more perfect protection...

There is a temptation to refer to other fruits of loyalty to Christ, but it is not necessary to my purpose. I have indulged in these historical reminiscences because they exhibit the real position of Baptists in relation to Christian fealty. It is in the light of these grand historic facts that I wish to present the theme assigned to me, "Denominational publishing and distributing indispensable to fealty to our Lord."

I. We hold truth, still unrecognized, to proclaim.—It is encouraging to know that the evangelical Christians of our day have so fully accepted Baptist leadership and Baptist principles, yet they are not universally accepted. In the free, open field of public discussion, the truth for which our predecessors have been contending has made wonderful triumphs, and it is no small consideration that, in this fair field of controversy, views that were formerly suppressed by official authority have won so large and so general an assent...

My brethren, if this christian hope of ours is not an idle dream of fancy, the day will come when you and I will stand before our glorified Redeemer, to give account for the deeds done in the body. To some of the assembled multitude...

condition of joining his church. As to the decadence of infant baptism, here are some statistics from the New York Sun:

"In the Rev. Dr. Hall's magnificent church, in Fifth Avenue, with its membership of 1,730, there were 21 babes baptized in 1881. In Dr. Crosby's, which numbers 1,384 members there were only 17. Dr. Robinson's Memorial church, of 840 members, could show only 3 baptized infants. Dr. Ludlow, of Brooklyn, with 378 members, reports 6 infant baptisms. Dr. Van Dyke, with 571, and Bro. Crosby, with 336, report no infants baptized."

But, in spite of the ceaseless undermining of the institutions and practices which Baptists have always opposed; these institutions and practices still continue. The learned Dr. Hodge, late professor in Princeton Seminary, from whose erudite pages we are all glad to have learned so much that is true, distinctly held that the unregenerate may be received into the church, and attempts to prove it by a misinterpretation of Christ's parable of the sower, holding that the field is the church, whereas Christ says it is the world. There are ministers that teach their people that their children cannot be saved without baptism, although Baptist logic has convinced most people that this is an invention of priestcraft. It is also a survival of the principle of compulsion; for the protesting infant, in spite of kicks and cries, without its assent or even consciousness of what is taking place, is carried to the font and subjected to a religious ceremony. I affirm, therefore, that the work of Baptists is not done; that, in spite of their influence on the modern mind, errors and superstitions are found in the christian churches, and that loyalty to Christ demands untiring continuance of the faithful teaching of truth, until the last vestige of error has perished from the earth...

3. Finally, publishing and distributing are the most effective ways of promulgating truth. The printed sheet, the pamphlet, the periodical, the book, find admission where the living teacher cannot enter. They find the mind in its moments of calm reflection, when the soul is reaching out for truth. They come with no atmosphere of controversy, not throwing the soul into a state of resistance. They lie at hand for the unoccupied hour, when their companionship is a pleasure. And so, in our age, when almost every child can read, they minister to thousands to whom living voices cannot speak the words of life. The noble society whose anniversary we are celebrating is a mighty tree of life, whose leaves are for the healing of the nations. There is not a state or territory in our great country where these leaves have not fluttered down into the hands of young men and maidens, aye, into the hands of little children, to whom they are as welcome as the blossoms of the spring.

He will say, "Depart from me, I never knew you;" but he will not say that to those whose first and last thoughts are of loyalty to him. Doubly shameful will be the face of him who with the glorious heritage of the honored name we bear, who has stood with the cohort of the gate, shall recall the memory of disloyalty to the trust imposed upon him. Brethren, can we disregard the duty to publish and distribute our denominational literature, without being disloyal to our Lord?

Correspondence.

For the Christian Messenger. Incidents of Ministerial Life.

A TALE AND SOMETHING MORE.

CHAPTER V.

The lowest conception of education is that which makes the mind a mere sponge. A man may be unchanged in manner and disposition—soft and pliable in character; but if he can readily absorb knowledge and communicate it, in the same form in which it was taken in, he is said, by some persons to be educated. Others take an opposite view of the matter, and think it consists in proportion and polish of mind. In its natural state, the mind is said to be like a block of marble, and education a sculptor working on the rough material until form and comeliness appear. This description reminds us of the cold statues, holding lamps in their hands, seen in the corridors of public halls.

An educated man will be symmetrical in character, courteous in manner, and well furnished with knowledge: all this is very good, if underneath there be a heart beating in harmony with justice, mercy and truth.

Man, amid the ruins of the fall, bears innumerable evidences of a being intended to live in sympathy with the attributes of God's character, the works of his hand, and the laws of nature; but his powers are stunted, dwarfed, and many of them totally obliterated by sin and its consequences. In the vast resources of nature and revealed truth, education recognizes the means of man's restoration. In its wider meaning, education is the application of all truth, to the enlivening, awakening, invigorating and general drawing out, as the word means, of the powers of the mind.

We here see, that education cannot, really, accomplish its purpose without the agency of the Holy Spirit, and his work of regeneration. Paul says, the whole creation is waiting for the manifestation of the sons of God; and it may be said that education waiteth for the manifestation of the spiritual nature in the soul.

Considered objectively, the distinction between secular and religious education, is simply that between the divine Being and natural truth. In the sense in which all truth comes from God, all education is more or less religious; but inasmuch as he exists distinct from nature, and has revealed himself in holy scripture, there is a distinction of secular and religious education. But the two are inseparable. It is impossible to educate thoroughly without religion; and on the other hand, it is observed in cases of sudden conversion, that those truths which are employed by the divine Spirit, in the conversion of the soul to God, at the same time give life to powers of mind which are employed in the contemplation of the works of nature.

All this goes to show that the Christian minister should be, eminently, a teacher; and the necessity that he himself, in the highest sense of the term, be an educated man. He should not only be conversant with natural and moral science, mathematics, language, and divinity; but should especially be an instance of the effect of it all, upon his own heart and character.

Where there be the determination to succeed, nothing comes amiss, to a Christian young man, in seeking education. The very difficulties themselves, in which some pursue knowledge, are often the best part of their training.

For the ministry, men are needed with a large amount of patience, forbearance, and self-control. It is a lamentable fact, that some of the greatest adornments of character are at a discount in ministers, at the present day. As these are not in demand, they are not cultivated to the fullest extent. Take for instance, meekness. Two of the greatest that ever lived, Moses and Christ, were distinguished by meekness. The great law-giver could never have succeeded without his wonderful meekness; and the Gospel owes much of its beauty to the meekness of the Saviour. Every college hall should have the admonition of Jesus in letters of gold, placed in the most prominent position—"Take my

yoke upon you, and learn of me, for I am meek and lowly of heart, and ye shall find rest unto your souls." Doubtless much of the restlessness and change so much deplored in the ministry would subside if there were more meekness. The "smartness," so often applauded, can never sustain a pastor who has no more control of his temper than the most illiterate man in his congregation.

It seems to be taken for granted by many, that circumstances have sufficiently changed since the time of our Lord's sojourn on earth, to render necessary some of the disposition he enjoined on His disciples. This is a great mistake. The attitude of men's hearts to the Gospel and the preacher remains the same, and has to be dealt with in a similar manner. Notwithstanding the progress of civilization and the revolution of eighteen centuries, it is interesting to experienced pastors to observe how much we need, even in North America, the same qualifications in Christian ministers as were described and inculcated by the Great Teacher. Let it not be thought that these qualifications are easily obtained. The counterfeits may be readily acquired, but the genuine article, that bears the test, is the work of a lifetime, and the richest product of the college course.

(To be continued.)

For the Christian Messenger.

To the Baptists of the Maritime Provinces.

Dear Brethren,—

Your attention has already been directed in the MESSANGER to the claims of British Columbia as a field for Baptist evangelistic labor. In all this vast territory, with prospects so bright and natural resources so valuable, there is only one church of our faith and order—the Calvary Baptist Church, Victoria. I have accepted the invitation of this little flock to become their pastor, and I desire to enter upon my work there early in September. That this devoted band have exerted themselves financially almost beyond their ability, will become evident by reading the extracts from Deacon Haughton's letter, given below.

But they have no house of worship, and, for this reason, must be greatly hampered in their operations. I therefore appeal to you, as good stewards of the Master's bounty, to contribute, as the Lord has prospered you, towards the building of a neat and inexpensive house of worship for this church.

Here is, I feel persuaded, a splendid opportunity for us Baptists to proclaim those truths we hold so dear; an opportunity to be grasped now or perhaps lost to us forever.

The people of British Columbia are our own people, let us then be patriotic; for them Christ died, let us then be loyal to our Saviour; it is a rapidly growing country, let us therefore be prompt, remembering that he gives twice who gives quickly.

Please do not wait for personal solicitation, as I have but little time and opportunity for such work, but send me your offerings promptly, and they will be duly acknowledged.

I remain, Yours in the work of Christ, WALTER BARRS.

Wolfeville, June 21, 1884.

Bro. Haughton, deacon of the Calvary Baptist Church, in writing to me from Victoria, June 7th, gives some encouraging statements. He says: "We had our annual meeting on Thursday evening. The work of the year has been somewhat cheering, especially during the last six months. We have raised altogether \$850 00, including \$500.00 for a church lot, and about \$90.00 for Home and Foreign Missions. We have a membership of twenty-seven, and about six will join us soon by letter. The outlook for the Baptist cause in Victoria is brighter than for some time."

Bro. H. also mentions the cheering fact that vigorous efforts have been recently made to establish a Baptist stronghold in New Westminster, the most important town on the mainland. The Brethren in that town held a meeting a few days ago, and five persons pledged themselves to raise \$200.00 towards a pastor's salary, and another Brother gave a lot worth \$600.00 upon which to build a church.

Brethren, ponder these facts. Consider well the claims of British Columbia. Men of Israel help!

W. B.

The proportion of murders to population in the United States is 820 out of every 10,000,000, while in England it stands 237 to 10,000,000; in Italy, 504; Spain, 583; Russia, 323.

In the Revised Old Testament where the present version reads, "Judgment also will I lay to line, and righteousness to the plummet." In the new it will be, "I will make judgement for a line and righteousness for a plumb-line."