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Perfect Through Suffering.

God never would send you the darkness If He felt you could bear the light; But you would not cling to His guiding hand

If the way were always bright; And you would not care to walk by faith Could you always walk by sight.

Tis true He has many an anguish For your sorrowful heart to bear; And many a cruel thorn-crown For your tired head to wear; He knows how few would reach heaven a

If pain did not guide them there.

So he sends you the blinding darkness, And the furnace of seven fold heat; Tis the only way, believe me, To keep you close to His feet, For 'tis always so easy to wander When our lives are glad and sweet.

Then nestle your hand in your Father's, And sing if you can, as you go; Your song may cheer someone behind you Whose courage is sinking low; And, well, if your lips do quiver-God will love you better so.

-Selected.

The Angel of the Church in Sardis

Notes of Sabbath evening Lecture in United Free St. George's, Edinburg.

BY REV. ALEXANDER WHYTE, D. D. did, "I have found it far from perfect," Themistocles, Plutarch tells us, could not get to sleep at night, so loud was all Athens in the praises of Miltiades. And the ministers of the other six churches in Asia were like Themistocles in the matter of their sleep, so full were all their people's of the minister of Sardis. When he went to the communion-seasons at Ephesus, and Smyrna, and Pergamos, after, the captivated people could tell you his texts, and at every mention of his name they would break out about his preaching. His appearance, his voice, his delivery, his earnestness and impressiveness, and his memorable savings, all contributed to make the name of the minister of Sardis absolutely a household word up and down the whole presbytery. Now, it was after some great success of that pulpit kind: it was immediately on the back of some extravagant outburst of his popularity as a preacher, that his Master could keep silence no longer toward the minister of Sardis. In anger at him, as also at those who so puffed him up; both in anger, and in love, and in pity, his Master sent to his inflated servant this plain-spoken message and most solemn warning. 'Thou hast a great name among shortsighted men. Thou hast much praise before men, but not before God. All men think well of thee, but not God. All thy great sermons are so much sounding brass before God. And, what is not already spiritually dead in thee, is ready to die, and will soon be for ever dead, unless thou dost become a new manner of minister, not before

men, but before God.' obnoxious to this tentation of vanity. which is supposed to hold forth the inward worth of a man more than any other gift. Now, when this meeteth with applause, that applause has a great subtility in its pleasing and tickling of them, and is so ready to applause." Durham is right in that. For praise and popularity is the most dangerous of all drugs to a minister. Dose a minister sufficiently with praise, and you will soon drown his soul in before. To him who lives on praise, it in the length of it, and in the you manage to keep yourself alive, is true, that is a very weak mind which to wait and to pray after your sermons; values itself according to the opinion to wait, that is, not for the applause then, it is well known that God chooses | My praise.'

by applause, and mortified by the contrary; but there is nothing under heaven that I more sincerely and totally despise, and nothing which ever makes me so emphatically despise myself. I feel it infinitely despicable at the very moment the passion for praise is excited; and I hope by degrees, as time goes on, to be substantially de times been astonished that this mean passion of mine should not have been completely extirpated by the sincere and deliberate contempt I have long entertained for human opinion. Opin ion, I do not mean, as regarding myself, but as regarding any other person, or any other book. To seek the praise that comes from God only, is the true nobleness of character; and if a due solicitude to obtain this praise were thoroughly established in the soul, all human notice would sink into insignificance, and would vanish from our regard." By the end of his ministry the angel of Sardis will subscribe to every syllable of that of John Foster. But he is a long way from that as yet; and he will need to have some plain words told him about himself, and about his ministry, before he comes to

For one thing, admitting and allow-

ing for all the good work His servant

his Lord says. But, perfection in the work of the ministry at Sardis, or anywhere else, is quite impossible; and as a thief, and thou shalt not know And I said, Let them set a fair mitre thus it is that when we look closer what hour I will come upon thee." into our Lord's words, we find that it There is a certain note of terror in mitre upon his head, and clothed him was not so much absolute perfection that warning which is here addressed with garments. And the angel of the that his Master demanded as ordinary to all ministers, the most watchful, mouths of the name and the renown honesty, integrity, and fidelity. What the most prayerful before God, and He really said was this, 'I have not the best. And, yet, no; for perfect found thy work at all filled up on its love casteth out all such terror; perfect secret, and spiritual, and God-ward love to Christ, and to His work, and and Thyatira, for months and years side. On its intellectual and man-ward to His coming, delivers them who side I have nothing to complain about | through fear of His coming have all -but not before God." You see the their days been subject to terror. He state of the case yourselves. No one cannot come as a thief to me if I love can long command pulpit popularity His appearing. If I love you, you without hard work. And it is not cannot come too soon to me. And the denied that this minister paid for his more unexpected your coming is to my popularity with very hard work. He door, the more welcome will you be to was a student. He took off his coat me. If I am watching and counting to his sermons. He wrote them over and over again, till he got them polished | you cannot come on me as a thief. to perfection. And his crowds of Christ could not come on Teresa as a polished people were his reward. But, thief as long as she clapped her hands while doing so much of that kind, and for His coming every time her clock ne man in all Asia doing it half so struck. He cannot come too soon for well, at the same time, he left a whole | me, if I am always saying to myself, world of other things not done. Milton did all his work from his youth up If my last thought before I sleep is under his great Taskmaster's eye. about you, I will be glad to see your And so did the minister of Sardis. | face and to hear your voice the first | Only his taskmaster was the great thing in the morning. When I awake crowds that hung on his elaborated I am still with Thee. The name of orations. Take away the eyes and the that chamber was Peace, and its winears of those captivated crowds, and dow opened to the east. And every this thrilling preacher was as good as | night after he received and read this dead. "Death," indeed, is the very | Epistle the minister of Sardis always word that his Master here so bitterly | slept in that chamber till the suncharges home upon him. "Thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead." His preaching was all right. None of to turn in this Epistle, and in this his neighbour ministers, not the most accepted of God and the most praised of God of them all, could preach half | comfort is spoken to him. "Thou hast "Of all men in the world," says so well. His preaching was perfect; James Durham, "ministers are most but his motives in it; his aims and his not defiled their garments; and they ends in it; the sources from which he And that because most of their ap- drew his pulpit inspiration; his secret are worthy." It was with the minister pearances are before men; and that in prayers, both before his sermons were of Sardis somewhat as it was with the exercise of some gift of the mind begun, and all the time they were Thomas Scott when he was first awakunder his hand, and while they were | ing to his proper work. Scott, in his being delivered, and still more after youth, had been ambitious to be an they were delivered, -- in all these things,-"thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead." 'Be watchful, and strengthen these things,' said his incline them to rest satisfied with that | Master to him. 'It is good to study; only, strengthen it with much faith and with much prayer before God. It is good to give thyself to reading, only read and write in the presence of God. It is good to bring up thy very choicest perdition, if God does not interpose to work to these great congregations of come to ask guidance from him in the Surely, "though I walk through the save him. He is as happy as a king thine; only seek their salvation in things of their souls. But, at that valley of the shadow of death, I will all that day after a sufficient dose of every sentence of thy great sermons. stage, Scott had put all he knew into your soul-intoxicating praise. He is It is good to take captive with thy his sermons, and he had little to add actually a sanctified and a holy man wonderful eloquence the attention and as pastoral counsel to his enquiring all the rest of that day. His face the admiration of these crowds; only parishioners. And it would be someshines on all men he meets all that do so in order to take their hearts thing like that in Sardis. Some of his day. He loves all men he meets. He captive, not to thyself as heretofore, people had been kept in life all even walks with God all that day. but to Me henceforth. Strengthen, I through their minister's declension or it may attack without warning. But you must give him his dram again say unto thee, the things that remain and death. There is nothing more on his awaking to-morrow morning, and are ready to die. And, above all surprising and touching than to see else, as soon as he has slept off his else, and with a view to all else, and how a tree will sometimes cling round debauch, he will be a worse man, and as a means to all else, strengthen thy a rock, and will suck sap and strength

His ministers know, and some of to the decay of soul into which he has few names all those years that their Balsam is an old remedy and it has which reasons the wisest of them have fallen. "Remember how thou hast not yet found out, "It were vain," received, and heard, and hold fast, says one of the wisest of ministers, and repent." As if He were to say to this far-shining case of a minister's on your own cough and do your child "to pretend that I do not feel in me some such minister among ourselves, recovery, and to send him back to his emergency. Price 25c. at any drugthat mean passion that can be elated |- 'remember thy conversion, and the work till, like his much-tired neighbour gist's.

spirit of truth and love that was in- in Thyatira, his last years should be stilled into thee, and that made thee far better than his first, this splendid turn into this ministry of Mine. Re- seal was set on his second conversion member thy college days, and the high -"to him that overcometh, the same hopes and generous vows made to Me shall be clothed in white raiment : and in those days. Remember also how I I will not blot his name out of the delivered thee when, in thy deep dis- book of life, but I will confess his tresses, thou didst call on Me, and name before my Father, and before what communings and confidences used His angels." It will be on that day livered from it. I have a thousand to go on between us. Remember thy to the minister of Sardis like that great ordination day, and the laying on of vision in the prophet, when Joshua the hands of the presbytery, and the stood before the angel of the Lord way thy heart swelled within thee as and Satan stood at his right hand to they pronounced and enrolled thee a minister of Mine.' Yes, even to call such things to remembrance, my brethren, will work together with the seven Spirits that are in Christ's right hand, and with many other things, to set a swelled with vanity in the day of hi fallen down minister on his feet again, and to give him a new start, even after he is as good as dead and deposed in but his own name. Only let his name the sight of God. Aye, such remem- be blazoned abroad, Satan will say, bering and such repenting will yet and he was happy, and all about him save this all but lost minister of Sardis, were happy. And so on, till Christ and it will save some ministers among | will stop the accuser's mouth, and will ourselves who are quite as far gone as confess His servant's name. The Lord he was. And as he was saved through { rebuke thee, O Satan ; even the Lord this Epistle, so will they; and, like that hath chosen Jerusalem rebuke him they will yet receive the heavenly thee; is not this a brand plucked out reward that is here held out to us all of the fire? And he answered and by Him who has the seven Spirits of spake unto those that stood before God and the seven stars.

The last thing of the nature of a ments from him. And unto him he threat that is addressed to the minister of Sardis is this, "If therefore thou iniquity to pass from thee, and I will shalt not watch, I will come on thee clothe thee with change of raiment and keeping the hours till you come, -why tarry the wheels of His chariot?

And now that the tide is beginning minister's heart and life, this so unexpected word of encouragement and a few names even in Sardis which have shall walk with Me in white: for they author, but he was now beginning to see that preaching was second to nothing on the face of God's earth; and that it had praise of God as nothing else had, when it was well done. Scott's preaching was not yet well done, by a long way, but it was far better than it once was. And one of the best proofs of its improvement was this, that his parishioners began to more ill to live with than he was closet-prayer before God. Strengthen out of a cairn of stones. "How do all the world is as dark as midnight, breadth of it, and in the depth of it, then?" I asked an old saint who is in angels sprout in his soul as long as he tensity you put into it, and in the way odd volume of Spurgeon's Sermons, gets enough praise; but he is as good you work it up into your sermons, both and I have a son at the front." I did as in his grave when he opens his in their composition, and in their not ask her, but I suppose she meant mouth wide and you do not fill it. It delivery, and in the way you continue that the thought of her son in his constant danger made her life of intercessory prayer in his behalf perfect and the applause of other men. But, of the hearers, but for their profit and before God, and all Spurgeon's readers will bear her out about his sermons. the weakest of men to make them His And his Master still proceeds with Even in Sardis, their sons in constant it touches an inflamed surface, it heals ministers. For many reasons He does His pastoral counsels to this minister peril, and a volume of some firstthat; some of which reasons of His all of His, very unwilling to give him over century Spurgeon, kept alive those nothing so efficacious. Adamson's

minister was dead.

resist him. Satan will resist him, and will tell to his face how he sought his own things in the early days of his ministry, and not the things of his people, or of his Master. How he vanity. How his own name was in every thought of his, and nothing else him, saying, Take away the filthy garsaid, Behold, I have caused thine upon his head. So they set a fair Lord stood by.

She was poor and feeble and old and the end of her journey was very near. Her last stopping place this side the unknown river was an Old Ladies' Home. Here she waited while, day by day, as memory and reason failed, earth loosened its hold upon her. She rarely remembered even the faces of lord, I will do the work, but first give friends; it seemed as if she had done me a grasp of your conquering hand." with everything down here, and that when she took up her friendships again, it would be in the beauty of Often has my soul said to her Captain another world.

girlhood came in to see her. She, too, up with eager pleasure.

"It's 'Mandy !" she cried. "Why, Church's strength.-Spurgeon. it 'tisn't 'Mandy !"

"Yes, it's me," 'Mandy returned, delighted at the recognition; "I didn t know's you'd remember me."

"Of course, I remember you Mandy," the other replied, positively. They talked on for a long time, then Mandy leaned forward earnestly. "Becky," she said, "be ye 'fraid to

Becky glanced up, smiling. There vas no haze over her memory then; only a simple wonder spoke in her

"No," she replied calmly; "Why hould I be afraid to go through them olden gates?"

It was only a little while after that she fell asleep. They looked up her record then, for nobody who knew her could remember when she had not belonged to the church, and they found that far back in her girlhood, in the early years of the century, she had confessed her simple faith.

It was beautiful to remember. One by one, as her need of them ended, earthly things had fallen away from her, but the faith, which was the only necessity for the mysterious journey, remained clear and shining to the last. fear no evil."-Forward.

WHY CROUP IS FATAL.

When croup attacks your child you nust be ready for it. It comes as an accompaniment to an ordinary cough, All ills of children develop quickly, and when any kind of cough appears there should be something at hand to stop it with promptness. Many a child has choked to death with croup because the right remedy was not convenient. Every one should know that the right safeguard for a childs and as cold as winter to him, when he and in the height of it. Strengthen it a case not unlike those few names in Botanic Cough Balsam. With this cannot get his praise. The wings of in the time you take to it, in the in- Sardis. "O," she said, "I have an soothing compound in the house, croup is always easily checked and relieved.

To give a child a "cough mixture" containing a narcotic is a very serious matter, yet most preparations contain something of this kind. Adamson's Botanic Balsam is prepared from the purest extracts of barks and roots and gums of trees, and is health-giving in every component part of it. Wherever and soothes it. Nothing ever comnever lost a friend through failure to And then, to put the copestone on help. Keep it in the house. Try i

Right and Wrong Use of the Tongue.

The sins of the tongue all point to the necessity and profit of self-mastery. So evident and so important did this appear to James that it occurs again and again in his epistle. "In many things we all stumble," he writes. "I. any stumbleth not in word, the same s a perfect man, able to bridle the whole body also." If this confession of failure and magnifying of the office of the tongue seem exaggerated, let anyone sit down quietly and think of the sins and cruelties of human speech. The careless words which no repent ance can call back again, the rash promises which it has cost us so much to fulfill, the expression of the lower nature which has shamed the higher, the confessions of evil and yieldings to falsehood, the hot and angry words which sober thought condemnedthese are some of the perils of the tongue. On the other hand, like most of the uses of the world which turn so easily to evil, the tongue may be the instrument of great and lasting good. "Therewith bless we the Lord and Father." If we can, by God's grace, hold it to blessing, there is no better testimony to the indwelling of God's Spirit in a human soul than righteous, considerate, modest, truthful speech The faithful Christian's manner of words as well as of life already has the mark of heaven's purity and truth upon it. Speaking the truth in love, men trust him. Seeking not his own, men come to speak unselfishly in his presence. Considering others, they in turn become considerate. Cherishing no resentments, he awakens no angry feelings. Such a Christian selfcontrol is not easily attained, but it is worth striving for, and by God's help it is not out of reach.—The Congrega-

The Duke of Wellington once ordered an officer to perform a difficult service. The general replied, "My He received a hearty grip, and away he rode to the deadly encounter. "My Lord, I will do that work if Thou But one day an acquaintance of her wilt give me a grip of Thy conquering hand." O, what power it puts into a was aged and wrinkled, but her old man when he gets a grip of Christ, friend knew her at once, and looked and Christ gets a grip of him. Fellowship with Christ is the fountain of the

> THAT HACKING COUGH is a warning not to be lightly treated. Pyny-Balsam cures with absolute certainty all recent coughs and colds. Take it in time. Manufactured by the proprietors of Perry Davis' Pain-Killer.

A SHORT ROAD to health was opened to those suffering from chronic coughs, asthma, bronchitis, catarrh, lumbago, tumors, rheumatism, excoriated nipples or inflamed breast, and kidney complaints by the introduction of the inexpensive and effective remedy, Dr. Thomas' Eclectric Oil.

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Mrs. Morrice Ketch, Bri Carleton Co., N.B., writes: take great pleasure in recomme ing Burdock Blood Bitters to e one troubled with pimples. for years that I would breek with them at times on my face back. I tried all sorts of reme including doctors' medicine, everything failed to cure me. 'At last I heard of B.B.B.

thought I would try it. When I had finished t two bottles I felt a great deal b so kept on using it until I hadt in all six bottles. It has com and permanently removed pimple from my body and I felt better in my life than I the present time.

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