

Our Contributors.

GOD NEVER DISAPPOINTS US.

REV. THEODORE L. CUYLER, D.D.

We cannot trust ourselves too little and we cannot trust God too much. "Trust in the Lord with all thy heart and lean not upon thine own understanding." Somewhere in the future there hangs before us in the air a golden ideal of a perfect life, but as we move on the dream of complete victory over sin moves on also before us. It is like the child running over the hill to catch the rainbow; when he gets over the rainbow is as far off as ever. If our expectation of spiritual growth and of conquest of temptation rests on our own resolutions and on our own strength, then our daydreams are continually doomed to disappointment.

"My soul, wait thou only upon God; for my expectation is from him." God never disappoints us. When we study the Almighty in the book of nature or the book of revelation we find our utmost expectation overtopped by the wonderful reality. When we obey God we find the rich reward sooner or later just as surely as day follows the sunrise. When we trust God he never fails us. When we pray to him aright, with faith, with submissiveness, with perseverance and with honest desire to glorify him, he answers us. I do not believe our Heavenly Father ever turned a deaf ear to an honest prayer offered in the right spirit. He is a Sovereign and doeth his own wise will; and if it pleaseth him to keep us waiting for the answer, then we must understand that delays are not always denials.

If we have only to demand from God just what we desire and in the way and the time that suits our pleasure, then we would be snatching God's sceptre and trying to rule the Ruler of the universe. Did you ever know a child that ruled its parents without ruining itself? And if it spoils our children to have their own way, I am sure that it would be for our ruin if we could bend God to all our wishes. If this be our "expectation" from God, then the sooner we abandon it the better. God keeps all his promises, but he has never promised to let you and me hold the reins. He answers prayer, but in the way and at the time that his infinite wisdom determines. Some prayers are not answered at once; more than one faithful mother has gone to her grave before the child whose conversion she prayed has given his heart to Jesus. Some prayers are answered in a way so unlooked for that the answer is not recognized; eternity will "make it plain." For many petitions are answered according to the intention and not according to the strict letter of the request; the blessing granted has been something different from what the believer expected. Jacob, when he blessed the sons of Joseph, laid his right hand on the son who stood at his left side. So God sometimes takes off his hand of blessing from the thing we prayed for and lays it on another which is more for our good and his

own glory. He often surprises his people with unexpected blessings—and heaven will have abundance of such surprises.

Let us rejoice to remember that our Saviour is God, and in him dwelleth all fullness. "Of his fullness have we all received," said the Beloved Disciple, and John was not disappointed. Neither was Paul when he found himself "filled with might in the inner man." There is a fullness of grace and love and power and peace and comfort that his redeemed children have never been able to explore, much less to exhaust. I left some little brooks, nearly run dry, the other day, up in the mountains, but I found yonder harbor, fed from the fathomless Atlantic, as full as ever. "Oh, how shallow a soul I have to take in Christ's love," said the holy Rutherford; "I have spilled more of his grace than I have brought with me. How little of the sea can a child carry in his hand; as little am I able to take away of my great Sea, my boundless and running over Christ Jesus!"

When a friend of mine, long years ago, urged John Jacob Astor to subscribe for a certain object, and told him that his son had subscribed, the old German millionaire replied very dryly: "He can do it; he has got a rich father." Brother Christian, you and I have got a rich Father! We are heirs to a great inheritance and possessors of exceeding precious promises. Let us ask for great things. God must take it ill that we covet so little of the best things and pray with such scrimped and scanty faith. "Open thy mouth wide and I will fill it." We can easily overexpect from our fellow-creatures, but we cannot overexpect from God. "The Lord taketh pleasure in those that hope in his mercy." I have read many a biography which ended in bright hopes quenched in blackness of darkness, but I never have read and never have heard of the experience of any man who confessed that he was disappointed in his Lord and Saviour.

"My soul, wait thou only upon God: for my expectation is from him." There can be no divided responsibility; it is God or nobody. As the old Puritan writer Trapp reminds us: "They trust not God at all who trust him not entirely; he that stands with one foot on a rock and another foot on a quicksand will sink as surely as he that hath both feet on a quicksand." The stake is indescribably tremendous, for it involves my eternal destiny. Even heaven is yet only an "expectation," but it is from him!

"My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness;
On Christ the solid rock I stand;
All other ground is sinking sand."

Mayor Low, of New York, has stopped the preaching of Mormonism on the streets of the city. All permits formerly issued to Mormons to preach have been revoked and no more will be issued.

ELECTION DISHONESTY.

Election dishonesty—a crime that combines the meanness of petty larceny with the cowardice of sneak thieving, the dishonor of perjury, and the gravity of treason—will perish on the day when one of the large political parties pushes it out in the open, where it can be shot at. The decent sense of the country has long ago condemned it to death, and only awaits an opportunity to execute the sentence.

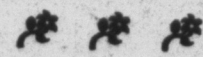
The plain citizen is ready to do his full duty, when the public servants, who have voluntarily assumed the task of choosing our issue for us, have done theirs. Let the honest and upright men in both political parties declare war against the ballot box thief, against anything that is corrupt, dishonest, crooked and bad in elections or politics generally.

Party politics will never become anything respectable or honorable, until the people themselves demand that everything done in political warfare shall be honest, true, clean and above board. When our politics become purer than they are, then we may not only pray for but expect greater blessings than we now enjoy.—*The Truth.*



"RAGGING," THEOLOGICAL.

"Ragging" is not confined to the army, as the reports of extraordinary proceedings at the Cambridge theological college show. Wherever young men live together they will play pranks with one another, and within limits such ebullitions of high spirits do nobody any harm. The Cambridge case, however, appears to have been one of petty religious persecution. Most of the alumni of the college in question—an Anglican college—are 'High Church,' but there are a couple of Evangelical 'black sheep' among them, and one has actually had the temerity to take part in evangelistic open-air work. To convert these two from the error of their ways, their fellow-students visited one in his bedroom early one Sunday morning and shaved off half his moustache, and the other man was caught, half-dressed at night, doused with soapy water and turned out for three hours into the nipping midnight air. The preaching student was ordered to apologise and desist, and when he refused his windows were several times broken. Tormenting of this sort seems to have gone on for a whole term, making the lives of the victims miserable. Other instances of similar religious persecution are reported. Having completed their education these bully-ragging young gentlemen will, we suppose, carry their accomplishments in the art of petty persecution into the villages and schools committed to their priestly care.



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