

I NEVER KNEW.

I never knew, before, the world
So beautiful could be
As I have found it since I learned
All care to cast on Thee;
The scales have fallen from mine eyes,
And now the light I see.

I never knew how very dear
My fellow-men could be,
Until I learned to help them with
A ready sympathy;
Their inner lives have made me know
A broader charity.

I never knew how little things
As greater ones could be,
When sanctified by love for One
Who doth each effort see;
But now a daily round of care
May win a victory.

I never knew; and still, dear Lord,
As through a glass I see,
And perfect light can only come
When I shall dwell with Thee;
When, in thy likeness, I awake,
For all eternity.

—Living Church.

AIM OF THE CHURCH.

It is important and even essential that every Christian should have a definite and correct view of the true aim of the Church. Men engaged in worldly pursuits know exactly what they are trying to do. Ask a farmer or any one of the men working on a farm what they hope to accomplish by all their toil, and without a moment's hesitation he will answer correctly: "In this field we are raising corn; in that field wheat; in another field clover." Ask the proprietor of a great factory or any employee in the establishment what all the labor and machinery are for and he will give an immediate and correct answer: "We are making carpets, or watches, or sewing machines, or reapers." There is no uncertainty, no doubt. Go into a school where hundreds of young people meet together five days in the week, and ask any teacher or scholar what it is all for, and he will tell you that they are teaching the young to think. If it should be a school with a special purpose, the teacher or student will say, "We are making physicians, teachers, ministers, or soldiers here." In every case the answer is definite and correct.

How many members of a great church can tell just what all the machinery and effort of the church are for? Yet this is one thing which everyone who belongs to a church should know perfectly. The aim of the church is not to furnish entertainment. Many persons go to church to be entertained, and if the entertainment is satisfactory they will go again, but if it is otherwise they are not attracted by what they have heard and seen. The church should not be dull and stupid. The minister should not be indifferent to the desire for entertainment. He should do what he can to interest and attract even the worldly to the sanctuary by presenting the truth in the most forcible way. But entertainment must not be the aim of the sermon, the song, or the prayer. This is a secondary and incidental consideration.

It is not the aim of the Church to gratify the social longings of the people. Those who manage the affairs of the church must not forget that men and women have social feelings. Many are driven from the church by the coldness and indifference of its members. But the church is not a social club, and all

efforts to attract and hold the people by appealing to their social nature must be subservient to a higher end. It is not the aim of the church to cultivate and improve the intellectual life of men. Some are so intellectual that they cannot enjoy a religious service unless it is of high intellectual order. The church does appeal to the intellect, quicken and stimulate the intellectual faculties and improve the intellectual life of the community. But this also is incidental. The aim of the church is higher.

The church cannot afford to direct its energies toward the support of a political party. No doubt every true church does influence the political movements of the country. It is a great blessing to the State. But the church which lends or sells itself to a political party or leader, or becomes a political machine, is not a church of God. Nor is it the aim of the church to build up a strong and influential society founded on wealth, fashion, and culture. We have witnessed a deal of rivalry in this direction. Many laymen appear to think that the church will be strengthened by adding to its membership as many rich men as possible, and that it is necessarily a weak church if its members are all poor. Their ideal of a church is a wealthy society. We do not disparage wealth. Those who condemn men simply because they are wealthy are narrow and partisan in spirit. Some rich men are as humble, unselfish, pure, and honest as any that live. Some poor men are as worldly-minded, as proud and cruel as it is possible for men to be. The church should not ask whether a man is rich or poor, but only remember that he is a man. In the church the rich and poor should meet together, for the Lord is the Maker of them all.

The true aim of the church is to make good men, women, and children. To bring men to God and lead them in the paths of righteousness, to train them in virtue and holiness, is the work of the church. All else must bend to this. Men need nothing so much as a good, pure heart. They need education, culture, refinement, money, bread, and a thousand things. But they can do without all these. They cannot do without a pure heart and a right spirit. The world needs nothing so much as good men. It needs great men, educated men, rich men, men of genius, statesmen. But most of all it needs men with right hearts, men whose goodness is not merely outward but inward also. True men are needed everywhere and at all times. This is a great work. The farmer is doing a great work, but his work is to produce bodily food. Important as it is, it cannot be compared with the bread of life which nourishes the soul. The manufacturer is doing much for the world, but he is dealing with material things. The teacher is a great blessing and the school is indispensable. But the school deals with the intellect and with conscience. The church deals with the heart, the conscience, the affections, and the relation of the spirit of man to the Spirit of God.

If all ministers and all Christians would make everything in the church bend to this one great purpose their labors would be lighter and the results would be grander. Set the heart right and all will be right. There will be little trouble about entertainment and social enjoyment and all the rest when the heart is right. Everything in its order. "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you." —Christian Advocate.

CHRISTIANITY'S POWER.

The sterner aspect of the Christian life has not been greatly dwelt upon in these modern "piping times of peace," and the very ministers of religion, in their anxiety to swell the muster-roll of their retainers, have only too seldom appealed to the heroic element in human nature, and accordingly our churches are filled with light-hearted picnickers instead of self-sacrificing soldiers, who are willing to endure hardship and in the shock of battle to stand and do and die, if need be, for God and the right. An unfaithful church will always make an infidel world, and the church itself be filled with gay revelers is it any wonder if it loses its grip? The church, so called, may lose its grip, but Christianity never shall.

Is not the pulpit losing its power? some sneering skeptic asks. We have only to answer that many a pulpit never had any power, simply because the preachers have toyed with a lute instead of blowing the trumpet of the gospel. Spurgeon's pulpit never lost its power, nor Moody's. Jesus, our Master, said, "I, if I be lifted up, will draw all men unto me." This is the mightiest magnet that this world has ever known, and it will never lose its power to the latest syllable of recorded time. I have faith in the gospel and faith in God and faith in the future, in spite of all the sad omens in the trend of the times. I do not say that all the world will ever be converted, for I find no warrant for such an optimistic declaration in the book of books; but I do say that Jesus shall reign till he hath put all enemies under his feet, and that they who follow his all-conquering banner shall reign with him in glory. I do say that the fight is on, and that we are in it, and that the last grand epoch of human history shall witness such shock of battle between the powers of light and darkness as has never made earth tremble or sounded up to heaven. And, instructed by the Word of God, I do believe that in that last tremendous fight there shall stand forth such monsters of depravity as never before disgraced the world, and such heroes of faith as never before won the plaudits of a watching universe. But the issue of the conflict is not doubtful. The sacramental host of God's elect, with the banner of the cross floating over it and the Captain of salvation riding at its head, shall triumph over all the powers of darkness, and all round the globe and up to the gates of glory shall ring the loud acclaim, "Alleluia! Alleluia! for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth!" —Dr. P. S. Henson.

BIBLE INFLUENCE.

The nations of the world that control the destiny of earth are the nations that are fully in accord with the Word of God, that is, Christian nations. Once the question was asked, "What is the secret of England's greatness?" It was truly answered, "The Bible." Look over the map of the world. Spain held the power of the world. Where is she today? For several hundred years she has been going the downward road. Look at her records in Mexico, Cuba, Manilla, and you will see the reason. Her rule has been filled with cruelty and injustice. Waterloo is the record of a struggle, not so much between Wellington and Napoleon as between heaven and hell. The Pilgrims of Plymouth Rock gave us the first step toward

our national prosperity and power among the nations of earth.

These are a few of the things which justify us in having more faith in the Bible than in any other book. It is worthy of our trust? Will you not read it and trust it more for your own good and for that of others?

"Whatsoever is not of Faith is Sin."

Dr. G. Campbell Morgan explains this saying of Paul's beautifully, as follows: "If there comes into my life as a Christian a question as to whether some action is right or wrong, and I continue it, I am sinning, because my action is 'not of faith.' Scores of young believers, if they could only see and believe that, would be saved from asking many questions. They ask, 'Is it right for me to go here, or there; to do this, or that?' Now, the fact that the question arises, proves that, at least for the present, it is wrong. The moment you are doubtful about a certain course of action, your solemn duty is to cease that action. In the doing of that doubtful thing there is actual sin against God. There may be something which has been perfectly legitimate for you thus far, but suddenly in your own communion, in the midst of a piece of service for God, that thing appears in such a light as to cause you to say, 'I wonder if that is right?' The moment the thing is suggested, the only course open is to cease from doing that thing. In process of time you may be able to go back to it, because the doubt may be removed, but you cannot afford to let anything about which there is a suspicion of doubt stand between you and your personal communion with God. The moment you begin to do it, you are in the region of sin."

A True Brain Food

Must replace the feeling of lassitude and mental tiredness by clearness and strength of mind. Not that it goes directly to the brain, that were foolish. The true brain food must be carried by rich, red blood. If mental fatigue worries and alarms you, look not to the brain, but to the stomach and assimilative organs. No remedy yet discovered possesses the marvellous brain strengthening power that Ferrozone has demonstrated in thousands of cases. Ferrozone does not stimulate the brain into a fitful glow, but by improving digestion, strengthening the nervous system, stimulating assimilation, giving new strength to the heart, it sends a stream of red vitalizing blood to the brain. Thus it is a true brain food. Ferrozone is sold by all reliable druggists.

For the little ones Painkiller comes with quick relief. The bumps and the bruises, the pains from green apples are quickly cured by its use. Avoid substitutes. There is but one Painkiller, Perry Davis'.

The great demand for a pleasant, safe and reliable antidote for all affections of the throat and lungs is fully met with in Bickle's Anti-Consumptive Syrup. It is a purely Vegetable Compound and acts promptly and magically in subduing coughs, colds, bronchitis, inflammation of the lungs, etc. It is so palatable that a child will not refuse to take it, and is put at a price that will not exclude the poor from its benefits.

They are a Powerful Nerve.—Dyspepsia causes derangement of the nervous system, and nervous debility once engendered is difficult to deal with. There are many testimonials as to the efficacy of Parmelee's Vegetable Pills in treating this disorder, showing that they never fail to produce good results. By giving proper tone to the digestive organs, they restore equilibrium to the nerve centres.