

Our Contributors.

THE GUIDING LIGHT.

In this dark world of ours we should be grateful that there is some light. Not all see this, since some are born blind. Others, so to speak, live in holes in the ground, or in subterranean places, mostly in search of gold. About all the light they have is a smoky lamp.

Now, unless a man is morally stone-blind he can surely see a little by the dim light we get from nature. There certainly is a universal law in nature that favors right doing. Some of the old philosophers, who had no other light to go by, were pretty good pilots. Some of us believe that the old heroic Socrates made the port all right. And Cato said, concerning immortality, "It must be so, else why this longing after immortality, and why this inward dread of things beyond our sight."

Possibly in making the voyage through life there is as much in the eye as in the light. Many a captain has brought his vessel safely into the harbour by starlight, while others have been unable to do so by sunlight. The failure was not due to any change in the channel or chart, nor to the sea-worthiness of the ship; it was the fault rather of the man at the helm. In seeking the cause of a disaster, it was found that the captain was so drunk that he was not steering by the beacon-light in the distance at all; he was steering by the light on the prow of his ship.

Many a man in moral navigation is doing about the same, with similar results. Too much of the world will intoxicate. Some men, apparently, take pride in showing how much of this world they can carry and walk straight. And no matter how full a man may get of the world—of its gold, or applause, or his own egotism, or any other intoxicating vanity, so long as he shapes his course by his own light he is sure to go wrong.

Men don't like the term "total depravity." On what other basis can the course of an unregenerate man be understood? In agriculture the farmer accepts the advice of specialists. Men have faith in physicians, and in lawyers, and in specialists in all branches of science but one. Disinterested men, capable of judging, will admit that the most profound science of all with which man has to deal is theology. And, yet, every man prefers to be his own theologian. Concerning his soul, each will steer his ship either by the light on his prow, or the one behind him. In either case there will be moral disaster. Fortunate is the pilot who sees his error, takes in sail in time and calls for help. Eternity will be strewn with the wrecks of men who have been wilful and foolhardy.

The one possible way for a man to go safely through this world is to take Jesus Christ for his pilot. He is the light that lighteth every man that cometh into the world. Accepting Him as our Lord and Saviour, we shall be saved. How unreasonable we are in our refusal of this; and what possible excuse can the unsaved soul make?

Unbelief and pride seem the chief barriers. Why should man be proud? There are many potent reasons why he

should be humble. A little girl walking up Broadway in N. Y. city by the side of her father and looking up at one of those twenty-story buildings at some men who were working at the top, said, "Papa, what are those little boys doing up there?" Said her father, "Those are not boys, they are men." The child was thoughtful for a moment, and then replied: "They won't amount to much papa, when they get up to heaven, will they?" As men approach the Divine they not only look small, but feel so. God only is great, and yet he dwells with the meek and lowly of earth.

B. A. SHERWOOD.

PIOUS FILTHINESS.

(Montreal Witness.)

It has long been feared that a serious slash would sometime occur between the British authorities in Egypt and the hordes of Mohammedan fanatics who every year pass through that country on pilgrimages to and from Mecca. When it is remembered that it is the ambition of every Mussulman to make at least one pilgrimage to the shrine of the Prophet during his lifetime, and that there is a firm conviction throughout the Mohammedan world that miraculous cures for all physical ills and diseases can be obtained by washing the body in the water of the holy well, some idea can be formed of the number and character of the pilgrims. These people have primitive ideas of sanitation, while they look to prayers and religious observances to ward off disease. Most of them never change their raiment going or returning, and when they get back home they cut up their garments into small pieces and distribute them among their neighbors as amulets. The holy well at Mecca is a cesspool of abominations, resulting from the abolutions of many thousands of diseased persons annually for centuries, the water finding its way back into the well, for there are no sewers or channels to carry it away. As a consequence Mecca is the central distributing place for all sorts of contagious diseases, of which the bubonic plague is the most virulent, loathsome and deadly. In spite of the healing waters, caravan routes are long lanes of graveyards, and the environs of the Sacred City are one huge cemetery. Civilization from the west has been slowly advancing towards this heart of Mohammedanism, and every year the problem how to get the pilgrims to observe ordinary sanitary precautions has been growing more acute.

During the past twelve months Egypt has suffered terribly from the plague. That disease has appeared in all parts of the world. It has had to be faced in San Francisco and New York, and is occasionally discovered in the seaports of Great Britain. The question of dealing with it has, therefore, become a matter of international concern. Recently the Egyptian Government sought the consent of the Sultan of Turkey to a change in the route of the pilgrimage, which would greatly lessen its dangers. This was to do away with the return journey overland by way of Medina and send the pilgrims home by steamships from the nearest port to Mecca. The Medina journey takes seventeen days, and it is generally during its progress that the plague breaks out among the crowded caravans of the filthy faithful. The new route would both shorten the time of the returning pilgrimage and give the Egyptian officials a control over it that

would greatly reduce the chances of an epidemic. The Sultan was asked to give his assent as being the overlord of the Arabia where the nuisance is, the sovereign of the pilgrims taking the route in question, the spiritual ruler of Islam and the nominal suzerain of Egypt; but he has seen fit to give a flat refusal by the issue of an irade forbidding any change of route. His refusal is probably due not only to the fact that Medina is itself a shrine of the prophet but also to the fact that in consenting he would be taking instructions from infidels with regard to the most sacred of all Mohammedan customs. Against his ill-advised attitude the government of Egypt has entered a protest, and so the matter stands. Behind that government stands Great Britain, which in this instance represents the interests of all the western nations, and might, if she so willed, bring the Sultan to his senses by an intimation of withholding the Egyptian tribute to the Porte, and asserting the independence of Egypt, but how wise this would be in connection with a question of Mohammedan fanaticism is a question which we cannot decide.

FRUIT OF RELIGION.—A business man showed the editor of *Zion's Herald* a letter from a creditor which contained a remittance of \$200 towards the payment of an indebtedness from which the person had been legally released. The letter closes with this specific statement: "You can thank the Lord Jesus Christ for this check, as I was converted some eighteen months ago, since which time I have had no rest until I definitely determined to pay this." That man is entirely consistent with his profession. A religious life that does not fruit in absolute righteousness and the restitution of all that belongs to another is clearly not after the Christ pattern.

THE SECRET OF HEALTH

Is Pure, Rich Red Blood and Strong Nerves.

You can always tell anæmic men and women. They are pale, weak and languid—the victims of headaches and backaches, easily tired and always averse to exertion. They can't eat, or they can't digest what they do eat. Their unstrung nerves kill sleep; their temper is irritable; their vitality vanishes. And it all comes from poor blood and unstrung nerves. You can promptly banish anæmia by enriching your blood and toning up your nerves with Dr. Williams' Pink Pills. They bring good appetite, sound sleep, bright spirits and perfect health. They are incomparably the greatest health-giving medicine that science has yet discovered. All over the world, grateful people prove the truth of these statements. Mrs. A. M. Tuckey, Oxdrift, Ont., says: "I do not know what would have become of me had it not been for Dr. Williams' Pink Pills. My blood seemed to have turned to water, and I was troubled with headaches, dizziness, and general prostration. Eventually, I became so weak I could scarcely move about. I tried several medicines, but they did not help me. Then I was advised to try Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, and soon began to find great benefit from them, and after taking them for a few weeks all my old strength and health recovered."

Don't waste time and money experimenting with other medicines, when Dr. Williams' Pink Pills will surely make you well. You can get them from any dealer in medicine, or post-paid at 50 cents per box, or six boxes for \$2.50, by writing direct to the Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont.

OURS IS THE BEST PLACE

... in the city to purchase Hardware and Woodenware for the Kitchen.

Our Bargain Counters have been enlarged and we are now showing some wonderful bargains in

- Sauce Pans
Muffin Pans
Mixing Spoons
Egg Whips
Door Fasteners
Potato Mashers
Meat Choppers
Dish Mops
Egg Beaters
Door Bumpers

and dozens of other articles at 5, 10, 20 and 25 cents. All we ask you is to come in and look over our Bargain Counters. You can easily decide what you want.

Lemont & Sons, House Furnishers

IF YOU'RE GOING TO BUY

A PIANO

Would it not be the part of wisdom to consult your home dealer before you make a purchase! We sell only reliable makes of pianos and are right here to stand back or every bargain we make. We have established a reputation and purpose to maintain it. Special inducements to piano buyers for ten days.

McMURRAY & CO., Booksellers and Music Dealers, FREDERICTON, N. B.

Harvey's Studio

Our new Holiday Styles of

Photographs

Make the best CHRISTMAS GIFTS.