

The Christian Life.

HIMSELF TOOK OUR INFIRMITIES.

What comfort is in fellowship?

O Master, who hast borne our grief,
A thought of Thee may well equip
The soul that cannot find relief,
Yet in a happy interlude
Spent at Thy side, learns fortitude.

Teach us Thyself, for Thou hast borne
The sicknesses that cause us pain,
Thou wast Thyself by troubles torn,
And Thou canst turn our loss to gain.
O, Kind Companion, Thou dost know
How sorrows hurt us here below.

We bear Thy cross, our cross was
Thine;
We weep sad tears, as Thou didst
weep;
When we are weary and would sleep;
O, Saviour, Thou wert tired and sad,
And Thy compassions make us glad.

Open our eyes that we may see
How near Thou art when sorrows
press;
Our sicknesses are healed by Thee,
We cannot sink beneath distress:
Joy comes with Thy companionship,
And comfort is in fellowship.

—Marianne Farningham.

Christians and Popular Amusements.

Christians have not only to consider themselves when thinking on a question such as popular amusements, they live in a world where people of their own kind are to be considered, and where people also not of their own faith must be taken into account. The longer we live the better do we understand the words of Paul, "No man liveth unto himself," and whether we will or no, the silent but powerful influence of life and conduct is telling upon the lives and characters of saved and unsaved in our midst. It is with this tremendous fact consciously before us that we direct the attention of our readers further to the question of popular amusements.

Every follower of the Lord Jesus Christ is set forth as a witness to his saving grace, his message of eternal life, and his capacity for satisfying the longings of the soul and the pursuits of the redeemed life. In view of this we would like to ask concerning the possible power of a Christian's testimony by way of example and precept, who gives his body, his time, his heart and his money to the pursuit of those amusements that are almost totally worldly in their character and end. Before the eyes of a person who knows not Christ's saving grace, how does such an one appear, and what does the life of such an one speak concerning the grace of God? With what influence do the words of eternal life fall from such lips upon the ears of unconverted men and women? What value or estimate must an unsaved man put upon the testimony of such a person who speaks of the satisfaction to be found in the crucified but living Redeemer? Think of the question of popular amusements in another way. Remember that Christians in the same church are in the fellowship of religious life and action. Grant that in some cases such amusements *per se* are neither wrong nor harmful. Grant that they seem wrong and harmful to some in the fellowship of church life only because they are weak. What then? Shall the strong have regard for the weak, or shall they despise their weakness,

trample beneath their feet all thought of brotherly affection, and do what seems good and pleasant in their own eyes? Or, shall they rather regard the honest thoughts of their weak brethren, and for their sake and in keeping with the forbearance of Christ, deny themselves, and so preserve the love and peace of the religious family? Sometimes Christians of the present day are in doubt as to which course to pursue. But Paul seems to have been clear in his mind as to what line he should follow under similar circumstances when he said, "Wherefore if meat make my brother to offend, I will eat no flesh while the world standeth, lest I make my brother to offend." That is high enough ground for any Christian of these days to take, and lower ground let no one seek who professes to care for the peace and welfare of his brother Christians.

In addition to the foregoing things that appeal to us as against the pursuit of popular amusements, there is the thought of the personal friendship of Christ. Many of the good things that occupy Christian men and women along the line of amusements to-day would assuredly have no place in their lives were they living in the physical presence of the Lord Jesus. Harmful or otherwise they might be in themselves, but his followers would simply have none of them because of their friendship with the gracious Christ. Shall it be otherwise with us when we are assured of the unchanging nature of the Saviour, and when our experience testifies to his spiritual presence day by day? We cannot get away from the thought that, apart from affecting the honor of his name, the glory of his kingdom, and the influence of his gospel, indulgence in popular amusements affect himself, the Friend above all others to be considered, when we live and act as largely as we do under the consciousness of personal relationship and friendship.—*Can. Baptist.*

AN OLD-TIME REVIVAL.

It occurred in the days of Josiah. The children of Israel had departed from the Lord, served idols, and neglected the sanctuary of the Most High. The old Hebrews were terrible backsliders. They did treat the Lord shamefully after all he had done for them. But the Lord raised up a leader and reformer. Josiah was a mere youth when he began to inaugurate great reforms. What matters it whether the leader in the revival be a young man like Josiah or an old man like Joshua or Elijah?

One thing Josiah did was to cause the people to put away idols. He sent his servants out to cut down groves and break down altars and exterminate every vestige of this abomination which could be discovered. He smote right and left, making a clean sweep. In this he has given us a good example. If we would see the work of the Lord revive we must put away idols. Everything that has been permitted to come in as a rival of the true God, though it be dear as the right eye, must be given up.

Another step was to repair the house of the Lord. It had long been neglected. The people had lost interest in the sanctuary and permitted to fall into decay. Josiah was ashamed of the condition of the place which his fathers had looked upon as the meeting place between God and man. He set to work to gath-

er money and to make the house of God beautiful and commodious.

The next thing that happened was the discovery of the Bible. The Hebrews had lost their Bible. No doubt there was a tradition that a holy book in which the law of the Lord was written had existed at one time, but what had become of it no one could tell. When they went about cleansing the sanctuary they found among the rubbish, swept in an obscure corner, the only copy of the Word of God in existence. They did not even know how great a treasure they had found, but they brought it before the king.

Christians are apt to find their Bibles when they begin to repair the house of the Lord. Some of them have lost their Bibles. They are buried under a mass of Sunday-school lesson leaves, a heap of sheet music, Emerson's works or Shakespeare's plays, stacks of novels or daily newspapers, and perhaps Sunday papers. Go search for them and bring them to the light.

When the book of the law was carried to Josiah and read in his presence the king's heart melted within him, because he saw how grievously the people had departed from the law of their God. Then there was a time of penitence and genuine reformation. The people turned unto the Lord with their whole heart. The passover, which had long been neglected, was celebrated, and such a passover feast had not been witnessed in Israel since the days of Samuel.

This is only one of the great revivals of religion recorded in the Old Testament. Similar religious movements have taken place from time to time. The Lord has no stereotyped method of reviving his work. Sometimes the leader is a young man, sometimes an old man, sometimes a prominent man, sometimes an obscure man, and sometimes the agency of no human leader is employed, but the Spirit of God leads the people to repentance and consecration. In modern revivals of religion a great variety of method has been employed. The mourners' bench, the inquiry room, cottage meetings, and other devices suited to times and places have been brought into requisition. Methods matter little, but the Holy Spirit is essential. Whatever grieves the Holy Ghost hinders a revival. When the Holy Spirit has the right of way the work will go on and none can hinder. "Be ye filled with the Spirit." "Quench not the Spirit." "It is not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit, saith the Lord."

AN UNWELCOME MEMORY.

In the midst of my thoughts and meditations this morning there came up, like Banquo's ghost, the vision of a scene that occurred sixty years ago. It was a scene that I did not love to recall—one that I would have buried beyond all possibility of resurrection if I could. But there it was, as fresh and vivid as if it had happened yesterday. Under sudden excitement I lost my self-control. I said and did what was foolish and wrong. I was sorry for it soon after. I repented of it, and believe that I was forgiven. But repentance and forgiveness could not keep the photograph from taking its place in memory's gallery, for nothing that we say or do or see or hear is ever absolutely forgotten. Some one has compared the human memory to a file of newspapers. They are piled up one upon another, day after day. Only the latest is in sight. But by turning over the file you can find any page or column that you want to read again. This turning over

we call recollection. We can often recall the past by an effort of the will, though quite as often we try and fail. And then there is a law that we call association. It seems that in some way there are wires running through the file and connecting the different items. If you touch one of these wires it may bring up some long past event.

And I find this illustration in a book of anecdotes:

A painter, famous for his delineations of natural scenery, domestic life and battle scenes, was compelled, by ill-health, to give over his work and seek rest in the country. There he grew worse, and in his delirium he described the several scenes and groups he had studied and portrayed. His room became a chamber of imagery, on whose walls all the studies and paintings of his life re-appeared. What he had contemplated, conceived and forgotten, re-appeared under the influence of disease. What pictures of earthly scenes will the day of judgment bring before the mind, which will justify the decision of the righteous Judge!

Good old Thomas Fuller, who died in 1661, contends that it is easier to remember and recall the evil things that we do and hear than the good ones. His words are:

Almost twenty years since I heard a profane jest, and still remember it. How many pious passages of far later date have I forgotten! It seems my soul is like a filthy pond wherein fish die soon and frogs live long. Lord, raze this profane jest out of my memory. Leave not a letter thereof behind, lest my corruption (an apt scholar) guess it out again; and be pleased to write some pious meditation in the place thereof. And grant, Lord, for the time to come (because such bad guests are easier kept out), that I may be careful not to admit what I find so difficult to expel.

Let us all join in this prayer for divine help in keeping the memory pure.—*Senex Smith, in Journal.*

Bronchitic Asthma a Heavy Burden.

Asthma is bad enough but when bronchitic symptoms are added the poor sufferer has almost an intolerable existence. An absolute specific is found in fragrant healing Catarrhazone which cures chronic cases that other remedies won't even relieve. "For years," writes Capt. MacDonald, of Montreal, "I battled with the agonies of bronchitic asthma. Often I couldn't sleep for nights at a time. I spent thousands on doctors and medicines without relief, but one dollar's worth of Catarrhazone cured me." Catarrhazone can't fail; it's guaranteed. Two months' treatment \$1.00; trial size 25c.

A Christian must be a Christian all the days. It is not enough to be in the Spirit on the Lord's Day—we must be in the Spirit on the other days, too.

A Clear, Healthy Skin.—Eruptions of the skin and the blotches which blemish beauty are the result of impure blood caused by unhealthy action of the liver and kidneys. In correcting this unhealthy action and restoring the organs to their normal condition, Parmelee's Vegetable Pills will at the same time cleanse the blood, and the blotches and eruptions will disappear without leaving any trace.

We are to keep ourselves in the love of God all the week.

A Requisite for the Rancher.—On the cattle ranges of the West, where men and stock are far from doctors and apothecaries, Dr. Thomas' Electric Oil is kept on hand by the intelligent as a ready-made medicine, not only for many human ills, but as a horse and cattle medicine of surpassing merit. A horse and cattle rancher will find matters greatly simplified by using this Oil.