

The Christian Life.

THE OTHER SIDE.

BY LE DEAN.

The weaver, toiling at his loom
By day, by night,
Brings not the fairest colors
Into sight;
The threads he spins blend darkly,
Nor token show
Of how the gold and crimson
In beauty glow;
But when the weaving's ended
And work complete,
The other side the pattern shows
All fair and sweet.

How like our life! We journey on
The weary way,
No love to bless, no sun to make
Our darkness day;
The world is wide, the battle fierce,
Nor can we tell
Whether the victor's song of joy
Our hearts will swell:
Simply by faith in Jesus' cross
We, clinging, hide,
And know that perfect rest we'll find
The other side.

THE FULLNESS OF GOD.

That was a wonderful prayer which the apostle offered for the Ephesians when he prayed that they might be filled with all the fullness of God. This is a great mystery. How can a mere human being be filled with all the fullness of God? We can understand how a basket can be filled with fruit, how a vessel can be filled with water, how a room can be filled with light, how a house can be filled with people; but how can we be filled with God? We do not know.

"Thou canst fill me, Holy Spirit,
Though I cannot tell thee how."

But this we do know, that one person can be filled with another person. Here is a wife who truly loves her husband and is loved by him in sincerity and in truth. They not only sustain a certain legal relation to each other, and live together with each other, but they live in each other. He fills the thoughts, the desires, the affections, and the life of his wife. She is satisfied with him. It is a great boon to be filled with a person, and if that person be good and noble the boon is so much the greater. Some men are filled with pride, some with ambition, some seek to fill themselves with science and learning. After one has crowded into his mind and life all these things he is still empty. But one who is filled with a good, strong, large-hearted, intelligent friend has something that will greatly enlarge and enrich his life.

True religion is not mere ceremonies and creeds, but being filled with God. It is a wonderful thing that he has offered to take up his abode with us and to live in us. We are apt to think of him as dwelling far away in the heavens. He does fill the heavens with his glory, but he is here also. Hear what he says: "I will dwell in them." "If a man love me, he will keep my words, and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him." "Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if any man hear my voice and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me."

It is not a narrow corner of the heart

that our Lord asks. He would have full possession. We may be filled with all the fullness of God. These words carry us to the summit of Christian experience and spiritual life. Christianity has devised liberal things for us. There is nothing narrow or scanty or meager in its proffers. Concerning the Son, the gospel says, "It pleased the Father that in him should all fullness dwell;" and then this is added, "Of his fullness have all we received, and grace for grace." Fullness of pardon, fullness of peace, fullness of joy, fullness of love, fullness of life, fullness of salvation—"all the fullness of God."

Is it not a strange thing that Christian men and women content themselves with so small a share of the great things of God? Why do we pick up the crumbs under the table, when a feast of fat things, full of marrow and of wines on the lees well refined, is spread before us? Why do we weep in valleys filled with fogs and poisonous vapors, when we are invited to the sunlit summits where the air is pure as the breath of heaven? Why are we lean and empty, when the fullness of God is ours to possess and enjoy?

It is characteristic of human nature to be content with little things when the highest and best are within reach. Many a young man spends four years in college, besides a vast deal of money, and carries away only a meager share of the benefits of college life. Some young men never receive a diploma, because they fail to pass the examinations. They are fond of sport, of wine, and social pleasures, but receive little benefit from text-books, lectures, and recitations. Others manage to get through, but ever after regret that they did not avail themselves of all the advantages that were placed before them in college. They would have had a broader foundation and better equipment for life, and would have filled a larger place in the world, if they had appropriated the fullness of the benefits of college life.

Few persons get all the good there is to be gotten out of the home. A man lives twenty-five years with a noble wife, and knows not what treasures of love and goodness she carries stored up in her heart for his benefit. The children of Christian parents often profit by their opportunities in the home, but how few children appreciate the fullness of blessing there is in the home for them. They might have been a hundredfold better and happier if they had known the day of their visitation. Who of us has availed himself of the fullness of the blessing of the Bible, the Sabbath, or the church? How straitened we have been in ourselves. The fullness of the truth which has been under our hands from infancy would have made mighty men of us.

Why do we know so little of God, and why have we so small a share of his love and life? We believe in him. We believe that he is able and willing to dwell in us, to water, replenish, and overflow every believing soul. Yet many who believe all this have no consciousness of God in them. They are not comforted and strengthened by his presence and smile. Their fellowship with him is broken, fragmentary, and unsatisfactory. They hardly know whether God dwells in them or not. O that men would thirst after God! If we were content to let him have his way, to do with us as he sees best, we

should realize his presence and love in a wonderful manner.

But some will say this kind of religion is altogether too heavenly for this world. It is not suited to everyday life. We want a religion that will help us here and now in business and social life. This is just what this religion will do for us. When the heart is full of God we are prepared for all things. It is as good for this world as it is for the world to come. It is as profitable for everyday life as it is for Sunday life. It is as good for the practical affairs of life as it is for religious worship. Be filled with the Spirit of God, and the mind and heart will be fully prepared for every other guest that has a right to enter in or that can in any way benefit you.—*Chris. Advocate.*

THRILLING WORDS.

Perhaps there is not in all the range of literature a more intense and thrilling passage than the words which Jesus represents God as speaking to the rich man in the parable: "Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee."

Who is the speaker? The Almighty God, who made heaven and earth.

To whom does he speak? To a rich man. Archbishop Ryle somewhere says that rich men are seldom faithfully dealt with. Their neighbors stand in awe of them, and cannot muster courage to tell them the truth concerning themselves. Even ministers sometimes soften down the truth to please rich men who sit at their feet. Ministers have been known to flatter rich men in order to gain their good will. We are told that sometimes judges of the court doctor the scales of justice when a rich man is laid in the balances. But when God speaks to a rich man, he speaks without fear and without partiality.

What does God call this man? A fool. He does not mince matters. This man flattered himself that he was somewhat. We may imagine that his neighbors flattered him that he was an extraordinary person. But God flatters no one. He is tender as a mother with the broken-hearted, a comforter of those that mourn, but the righteous judge of the ungodly. There is no respect of persons with him.

What message did God bring to this man who was at ease in his possessions, fondly dreaming of long years to come? "This night thy soul shall be required of thee." Swift and sure is the message of God. "This night." Sudden death is not uncommon. One man goes out in the morning, and before noon he meets with an accident and is hurried into eternity. Another lies down to sleep at night, and before midnight his heart fails, the silver cord is loosened, the golden bowl is broken, and the pitcher broken at the fountain. Another sits down to read his morning paper, and before he finishes the pleasant task, the messenger of God knocks at the door and bears him hence.

This parable is a short drama. The actors are God and a rich man. The rich man speaks what is in his mind, and God answers him. The drama is a reality. God is daily dealing with such men. Not a day closes that he does not say to some careless man, "This night thy soul shall be required." Many rich men have read this short drama with trembling, and doubtless in some cases have been led by it to consecrate themselves and their substance to the service of God.

We may not be rich, but God is

speaking to us. Is the message a message of peace? If this day the voice of God should say, "This night thy soul shall be required," can I truly say, "I am ready?"

PREACH! PREACH!

A minister lay on a sick bed. His work was done. To a brother in the ministry, by his side, he said, with an earnestness which long impressed his mind: "Preach! Preach! you will be shut up soon enough."

He had learned, as he was hastening to the close of life, what an unspeakable privilege it was to preach the gospel of God. Some have not yet learned it, but when the opportunity is past, the voice is hushed, and the privilege of preaching is gone, perhaps some one will more clearly understand the value of the precious privilege of proclaiming, among the Gentiles, the unsearchable riches of Christ.

The man who would not rather be God's ambassador than a crowned king, may have good reason to doubt whether he is called to this work of the ministry. The man who knows that he is appointed and anointed "to preach good tidings unto the meek," to "proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord," need not envy monarchs or princes or potentates their honors, wealth or fame.

He may rejoice with joy unspeakable in the privilege that has been granted to him, knowing that though he now may sow in tears, ere long he shall reap in joy; and that the highest of earth's honors, and the purest of earth's joys, will be poor and mean compared with the joy unspeakable and full of glory, which shall crown the labors of the minister of the Lord, when the righteous Judge shall come to reward his people.

"I charge thee in the sight of God and of Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom, preach the Word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with all long-suffering and teaching."—*H. L. H., in Common People.*

Where Weakness is, Disease will Settle.—If one suffers from any organic weakness, inherited or contracted, there disease will settle when it attacks the body. Therefore drive out the pains that beset you, do not let a cold or cough harass you, and keep the respiratory organs in a good, healthy condition. This you can do by using Dr. Thomas' Electric Oil. Prevention is the wisest course.

As a rule, men reach an age (if they live long enough) when they are too old to be spoiled by words of commendation, but none ever become too old to be cheered by words of approval.—*The Telescope.*

Known to Thousands.—Parmelee's Vegetable Pills regulate the action of the secretions, purify the blood and keep the stomach and bowels free from deleterious matter. Taken according to direction, they will overcome dyspepsia, eradicate biliousness, and leave the digestive organs healthy and strong to perform their functions. Their merits are well-known to thousands who know by experience how beneficial they are in giving tone to the system.

Paul made a dungeon ring with holy melodies. Every follower of Christ should strive to make his daily life a song as well as a gospel sermon.