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Poetry.

THREE WORDS OF FAITH.

BY GEORGE MACDONALD.

Three words I will tell you, of meaning full;
The lips of the many shout them;
Yet they were born of no sect or school,
'Tis the heart that knows about them.
That man is of every worth bereft
In those three words who has no faith left.

Man is free-born and is free always,
Even were he born in fetters.
Let not the mob's cry lead you astray,
Nor the misdeeds of frantic upstarters.
Fear not the slave when he breaks his
bands;

Fear nothing from any free man's hands,
And Virtue—it is no empty sound,
That man can obey her, no folly;
Even if he stumble all over the ground,
He yet can follow the holy.
And what never wisdom of wise men knew
A childlike spirit can simply do.

And a God there is—a steadfast Will,
However the human shrinketh;
High over space and time He still,
The live Thought, doth what He thinketh.
Though all things keep circling, to
change confined.

He keeps in all changes a changeless
mind.
These three words cherish—of meaning full;
From mouth to mouth send them faring;
Although they spring from no sect or school,
Your hearts their witness are bearing.
And man is never of worth bereft
While yet he has faith in these three
left.

—From Schiller.

Religious.

"LIKE GRASSHOPPERS."

The farmers of our favored province,
and other people also, will set a higher
value on the exemption from terrible
visitations when they read the particu-
lars of the dreadful ravages of the
grasshoppers in the West. Rev. Dr.
Morgan writes from Iowa, June 18th,
to the *National Baptist*, an account of
what he saw recently in Nebraska.
He says:—

I have spent three days in the grass-
hopper region of Nebraska, have seen
and heard many things that, I am sure,
will be of interest to your readers.—
The soil is rich, the climate healthful,
the people intelligent and enterprising.
I spent here three of the happiest years
of my life. There were no grasshoppers
here then. They made their appear-
ance here last summer, doing con-
siderable damage in a few localities,
but causing no general destruction of
crops. They came from the West. In
the fall they deposited their eggs in
great numbers. They perforate the
ground, and deposit their eggs in a
little sack, containing, it is said, an
average of thirty-five each.

Some weeks ago millions of little
hoppers merged from their hiding-place
and began their ravages, attacking the
vegetables and flowers, young trees
and grass in the yards, gardens, and
orchards, and all kinds of grain in
fields.

Some weeks after issuing from the
egg they suffer another metamorphosis,
and, throwing off their outer covering,
come forth with wings, ready for flight,
and, rising on a favoring breeze, fly
away.

As I drove from Penn to Brown-
ville, about nine o'clock, they began to
rise in countless myriads around us,
and ascending to a height of from
thirty to five hundred or a thousand
feet flew away toward the West. I
think most of those hatched here have
gone.

Large numbers, however, hatched
East and South have been flying over
or lighting in the state. I almost fear
to attempt any statement of numbers.
I will speak within bounds, understating
my own estimate and giving only
a moderate statement of the views of
others. The column that passed on Sat-
urday were flying northwest in a mass

so dense that they cast a perceptible
shadow at times, and for hours the eye
could look for some moments unharmed
directly toward the blazing sun. The
telegraph reported them as far east as
Des Moines, and as far west as Kear-
ney, giving to the belt a width of 400
miles. I did not witness this, but all
who saw it describe it as a most won-
derful sight. The great mass of those
I have seen, on Tuesday, Wednesday,
and Thursday, June 15, 16, 17, have
been flying in a westerly direction.—
The great sight to me occurred Wed-
nesday, from 6½ to 7½ P. M. I was
standing near the State Normal School
building, Peru, on an eminence over-
looking a wide reach of country in
Nebraska and Missouri, when my at-
tention was attracted to large numbers
alighting from the air. Looking I saw
a sight never to be forgotten. As far
as the eye could reach, north and south,
in a dense, unbroken mass, flying, I
should think, at the rate of twenty-five
miles an hour, a host that no man
could number were passing over us
from east to west. Out of these about
one in a million, as it seemed to me,
lit, and their falling can only be likened
to snow flakes, very soon almost
literally covering the ground. If all
that I saw in that one hour (and I know
not how long they had been passing
before I saw them, nor how long they
continued to fly after it became too
dark to see them), had come to the
ground, they certainly would have
covered an extent of territory twenty
miles square an inch deep. You will,
perhaps, be prepared to believe that I
have seen enough in three days to
cover the whole state of Pennsylvania
to a depth of one inch, and to devour
in one day every field of grain in the
state. Nothing but actual vision could
have given me any true conception of
their multitude. I know now the direful
significance of that plague of locusts
that once "darkened all the land of
the Nile."

Only some adequate conception of
their numbers can prepare you to re-
alize the extent of their devastations.
When they come down, lean and hun-
gry, it is to leave behind only barren
waste. There are no similes to help
convey an idea of their ravages. "Like
a wolf in the fold," is tame, "like a
fire," utterly inadequate. They de-
stroy like grasshoppers, that is the high-
est figure of speech.

After eating the blades of grass
they suck the roots dry; after strip-
ping fruit trees of their leaves, they
actually tear off the bark. The other
day a man was plowing in a large field
of beautiful corn six or eight inches
high. The locusts came down upon it,
and when he unhitched his team to go
home, there was not a blade or stock
to be seen; bare earth, and nothing
more.

Yesterday I drove past the nursery
of ex-Governor Furnas, where he has
for eight years been toiling to grow
every kind of fruit tree and vegetable
that this soil will produce. This spring
he had planted twenty-five acres in
trees, sowed fifty dollars worth of vege-
table seeds, and, two weeks ago, he
had a splendid outlook, and hoped to
gather, among other fruits of his en-
terprise and labor, not less than 5,000
bushels of peaches. To-day, I sup-
pose there is not twenty-five cents'
worth of anything on that entire place.
Most of the trees will die. Fifteen
thousand dollars would not cover the
damage.

Ex-Senator Tipton has a large farm,
on which one week ago stood bountiful
crops. He told me they had taken
everything, and his word was confirmed
by my own eyes.

Yesterday I met two families fleeing
from the state to Iowa. I asked a
bright lad of fifteen, that was driving
the cows, what was the matter. He
said the grasshoppers had destroyed
their crops, 100 acres of corn, 90 of
wheat, and 26 of oats, and left them
nothing.

What can be done? is the great
problem, not for Nebraska alone, but
for the nation. A few years of such
increase as the last, would breed

enough to destroy the crops of the
whole United States. This year they
devastated parts of Missouri and Iowa,
as well as Kansas, Colorado, Nebraska,
Dakota, and Minnesota. What hin-
ders them going further east and light-
ing upon the parks and gardens of
Philadelphia?

As yet no means have been found
for their destruction, and every sug-
gestion I have yet met with seems fu-
tile, if not absolutely ludicrous. Some
have suggested turkeys to eat them.
What I saw in one hour would fatten
all the turkeys in the republic, and
have them ready for Thanksgiving. It
has been hoped that the parasite, now
so plentifully seen on them, will de-
stroy them. From my observations
thus far, added to somewhat extended
observation of the comparative harm-
lessness of "gray backs," in the army,
where a soldier was well used to them
(which I beg of you to believe me I
never was), I have little faith in this.

This much it seems to me should be
done. The Government, through the
Agricultural bureau, should at once
enter upon a systematic and thorough
investigation of the whole matter, and
through the signal service, it should
place an eye on the whole infested
region, and adopt the most vigorous
and speedy measures to grapple with
this great enemy. There is too much
at stake to neglect it a day. What is
an agricultural bureau for, if not for
such work?

In the districts already visited, there
will be much individual suffering, and
great losses. Business is paralyzed,
taxes cannot be paid, debts cannot be
collected, and much distress must
come.

If the calamity teaches us our de-
pendence on God, our own utter help-
lessness, the uncertainty of wealth,
and leads us all to a broader charity,
it will not have come in vain.

THE VOICE OF HISTORY ON BAPTISM.

It is curious to observe how various
and contradictory are many of the
arguments taken up by the advocates
of Infant Baptism. The bold affirma-
tions of some obscure Pedobaptists as
to what history says on the subject, fade
away into their air, when men who
ought to know, and do know, speak.
We have one just at hand, an account
of which comes to us in the last No.
of the *N. Y. Examiner & Chronicle*.
It is, as follows, under the title

STUDYING HISTORY TO SOME PURPOSE.

The Professor of Church History in
the Bangor, (Me.) Theological Semi-
nary (Congregationalist) must be a
man who is more thoroughly imbued
with the historic spirit than many who
teach in theological seminaries. He
has the sense to see that his func-
tion is to report, not make history, and
the candor to report what he finds.
And it appears that his finding is to
the effect that "the apostles and all
the church until four or five hundred
years ago understood by baptism im-
mersion, and never sprinkled anybody
except the sick." Such, at least, was
the substance of what was recited by
students at the last Annual Examina-
tion, and was not called in question by
Professor Paine. But the Rev. A. L.
Park, of Gardiner, was stirred up to
write as follows to the *Christian
Mirror*:—

At the anniversary of our Theolog-
ical Seminary at Bangor, a few days
since, the class under examination in
Church History gave some answers
which struck me as extremely remark-
able. The questions of the Professor
and replies of the students were sub-
stantially as follows:

Q.—What was the apostolic and
primitive mode of baptism?

A.—By immersion.

Q.—Under what circumstances only
was sprinkling allowed?

A.—In case of sickness.

Q.—When was the practice of

sprinkling or pouring generally intro-
duced?

A.—Not until the fourteenth cen-
tury.

Q.—For what reason was the change
adopted?

A.—As Christianity advanced and
spread in colder latitudes, the severity
of the climate made it impracticable
to immerse.

The Professor of Church History
approved the answers, which faithfully
represented his teachings, and none of
the clergymen present seemed to call
these statements in question. Yet if
such are the facts, the Baptists are
historically correct, and we as a de-
nomination are wrong, both in our
literature and our practice. Our Pub-
lishing Society has issued a good deal
of chaff about the broad interpretation
of baptism, and the impossibility of
immersing thousands of people in a
single day in Jerusalem, and all other
familiar arguments in favor of sprink-
ling or pouring as the primitive and
Scriptural method of baptism, if it be
true that the Apostles and all the
church until four or five hundred years
ago understood by baptism immersion,
and never sprinkled anybody except
the sick. Our usages need reforming,
for nearly all our ministers have a de-
cided preference for the unscriptural
and unhistorical method of affusion,
even in the summer months, when im-
mersion in any river or pond is attend-
ed with no pains or perils. The vast
Orthodox Church of the East, which
has over sixty million communicants in
the rigorous climate of Russia, con-
tinues to immerse all its men, women
and children, and that thrice, and no
doubt our ministers can find means to
bestow the rite properly upon the few
persons who are received into our
churches during the winter months.

If the Baptists are historically right,
and we wrong, let us discontinue our
disputes with them as to the meaning
of Greek verbs, and give due honor
to the original mode of baptism both
by our preaching and practice. Let us
administer by immersion as the rule,
and use methods only in cases of ne-
cessity. If not, will some one tell us
why not?

If Professor Paine teaches that the
Apostles sprinkled sick persons as a
mode of baptizing them, he has need to
examine still more critically into the
evidence. But apart from doubt on
that point, he must be reckoned to
have done a valuable service to so
much of the rising Congregationalist
ministry as it falls to his lot to instruct
during their novitiate. And it may be
safely assumed that others besides his
critic in the *Mirror* will ask further
questions, and draw inferences.

REVIVALS AND INSANITY.

A writer in the *British Medical
Journal*, when referring to an increase
in the number of cases of melancholia
during last year in the Royal Edin-
burgh Asylum, traces this increase to
the religious revival that has taken
place. In refutation of this opinion,
Mr. David Dickson, Chairman of the
Managers of the Asylum, states that
neither the Medical Superintendent
nor the Chaplain was aware of any
connection between the revival and
these cases of melancholia. He says:
"All who are acquainted with the
management of asylums know that
they sensitively reflect on their surface
every important incident in public life,
down even to such events as the Tich-
borne case. It is stated by those best
able to judge, that about three thou-
sand persons in Edinburgh profess to
have become new creatures in Christ
Jesus during the time of awakening.
When we consider what that change is
and involves, it would be strange, in-
deed, if such an event was not reflect-
ed on the surface of an asylum con-
taining 750 patients. But, granting
this, I am in a position to state that
those directly concerned in the manage-
ment of the Asylum did not consider
that there was any appreciable influ-
ence on the institution in the way of

increasing the number of patients.—
The inference drawn, therefore, by the
anonymous writer in the *Medical Jour-
nal*, was not warranted by the facts of
the case."

FOREIGN MISSIONS.

The ninth Annual Meeting of the
Burmah Baptist Missionary Conven-
tion was held at Henthada on the
seventh of November last, and five fol-
lowing days. It was attended by
fourteen Missionaries, sixteen lady
missionaries, twenty-nine ordained na-
tive preachers, forty-four unordained
ditto, sixteen Delegates, 272 "other
disciples," making a total of 391.

In the absence of the Secretary,
Brother Armstrong discharged the
duties of that office. The English
Sermon was preached by Brother San-
ford. Sermons were also preached in
Burmese, in Pwo Karen, and Sgan
Karen.

Brother Boggs arrived during the
Session of the Convention, and met
with a warm reception. We find the
following preamble and resolution in
the Minutes:—"Whereas a number
of Missionaries sent out by the Baptist
Foreign Mission Board of Nova Scot-
ia, New Brunswick, and Prince
Edward Island, have arrived in this
country, and are now present with us,

Therefore Resolved, That we cordi-
ally welcome them as visiting brethren
at our Convention, and, further Resolved,
That in view of the scarcity of Mis-
sionaries in Burmah, and the pressing
demands of the field, we would be glad
to see these brethren (should they see
their way clear to do so) take up some
unoccupied field in Burmah—the Ta-
voy District for instance—where they
could carry forward the work already
begun, and whence, as a base, they
might ultimately carry out their origi-
nal plan of evangelizing the Karens of
Siam."

The following extract from the Re-
port presented at the Convention will
show the spirit of zeal by which the
brethren were animated:—

"We call on the Convention, not
only to engage in the work in the re-
gions beyond, but in the mass of hea-
thenism in which our christian commu-
nities are enveloped. Let us examine

"1st. The necessity of such a move-
ment by the Convention.

"To prove this necessity we have
only to point to the fact, too sadly ap-
parent in many of our missions, that
success from among the heathen has
nearly ceased, and that the baptisms
reported are mostly from the children
of Christians.

"To account for this fact, it is only
necessary to point to the way in which
our missions have been founded. Some
devoted missionary has with a gallant
corps of native preachers given him-
self to the work of preaching the gos-
pel from village to village, from house
to house, and from man to man. God
blesses that sort of work, and in answer
to many an earnest prayer and bitter
tear the Holy Spirit has been poured
out, churches have been raised up, and
organized into a mission.

"Educational and pastoral work has
begun to draw the missionary and the
native pastors from the work which
gave them their first success, and thus
insensibly the work among the heath-
en ceases, and the mission is occupied
in preserving past success, instead of
achieving new victories.

"In what we have said, we would
not be understood as blaming those
now in charge of our missions. They
are overburdened with the educational
and pastoral work mentioned above.
The graves, which consecrate many a
lonely spot in Burmah, of men who
have literally killed themselves with
overwork—the emaciated frames and
hollow sunken eyes of those who are
sent home by the Glasgow steamers,
tell too plainly the story of hard un-
noticed toil in the Master's vineyard,
to allow us to charge such men with
neglect of duty.

"The sad fact still remains for our
consideration, that success from among