

The Religious Intelligencer

AN EVANGELICAL FAMILY NEWSPAPER, FOR NEW BRUNSWICK AND NOVA SCOTIA.

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THE RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCER

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Religious Intelligencer.

Startling Selections.

Our earnest prayer to God is, that he may

own the "Intelligencer" as an instrument in

the saving of souls, and the advancement of

his kingdom. In order to this, we feel that

our selections and articles must be in view of

the end desired. The following stirring arti-

cle, though lengthy, is we believe well cal-

culated to reach and affect the heart. It is

from the pen of Miss Catharine Marsh, au-

thor of the Life of "Capt. Hedley Vickers,"

"English Hearts and English Hands," and

other useful and popular works. It was first

published in America, in the columns of the

N. Y. Observer, to one of the editors of which

a copy was sent by the Author. We trust its

length will not prevent its careful perusal.

The Race and the Prize.

Friend and Brother, now, whilst you have

time to think, whilst you have life, and health,

and power, let me entreat you to make sure of

eternal salvation; to make sure of eternal sal-

vation; to make sure of winning "a crown of

glory which fadeth not away;" to make sure of

obtaining a kingdom that cannot be moved; to

make sure of an entrance through the gates of

pearl into the streets of Gold, clear as crystal,

in the city of our God; to make sure of meet-

ing the holy and blessed ones, who have washed

their robes and made them white in the blood

of the Lamb, and, therefore, are before the throne

of God.

A single moment may decide your destiny for

eternity. A single look may save you from eter-

nal death.

Three thousand years ago, a people whom God

had chosen for Himself rebelled and spake

against Him. In His wrath He sent fiery ser-

pents amongst them; and the poison of their

bite was fatal.

The terror-stricken survivors "confessed their

sin unto the Lord, and he forgave the iniquity

of their sin." Then he told their leader to make

a serpent of brass and put it on a pole; that

every one who was bitten, when he looked upon

it, should live.

He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever

believeth in Him shall not perish, but have ever-

lasting life."

"For God sent not His Son into the world to

condemn the world; but that the world through

Him might be saved."

Glorious words those, to which I heard a dy-

ing woman respond, not long ago, with a sudden

burst of praise: "Is He not a precious Saviour?

so great and good, and willing to save all us poor

sinners?"

She was lying on a hard bed, in the dreary in-

firmity ward of a London Union Workhouse;

and the power of faith and love to create a hap-

piness independent of circumstances, came out

with almost startling force in her answer to the

inquiry, "You know Him, then, and love Him?"

"Yes, I do know Him, and love Him: His

presence makes a heaven of this room!"

"If you heaped up my bed with gold and

silver," she added; "if you could give me the

Queen's carriage and horses, and her palace and

her garden, and all her beautiful flowers, and

health and strength to enjoy it all, I would

not take them, if they would hinder me from

going home to my Saviour. They talk of the

pains of dying; what will they be to me? They

will but hurry me to heaven and to Jesus."

"It is not heaven," wrote a man of God, "that

can keep Thee from me. It is not earth that can

keep me from Thee."

The Gospel of Jesus Christ comes to us, as

sinners, with only good news—the good news of

a free pardon through the blood shed on the

cross of Calvary. The Crucified One, who gave

a royal pardon to the dying thief by his side, is

not less of a King now, nor has one whit less

kingly heart of generous love. Be your past

sins what they may, there is nothing between

you and eternal life, but believing that your

Saviour speaks truth when he offers it you as a

free gift. "The gift of God is eternal life,

through Jesus Christ our Lord."

"Not for conscience sake you linger,

Nor of fitness fondly dream;

All the fitness He requireth,

Is to feel your need of Him;

This He gives you,

'Tis the Spirit's rising beam.

Come, ye weary, heavy-laden,

Lost and ruined by the fall,

If you tarry till you're better,

You will never come at all:

Not the righteous,

Sinners, Jesus came to call."

Oh, listen to Him! He says to you, "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."

"Will you not say to Him, 'Come in, come

in, Thou blessed One! Thou, who wast homel-

ess for me, shalt have a home in my poor heart.

Thou, who didst work and labor for mankind till

Thou wast weary and worn, and hadst no place

of rest, shalt not knock here in vain?"

Thou, who wast mocked and scourged and

crucified for me, shalt be honored, and loved, and

cherished, now. My life for Thy life. As Thou

didst die for me, by Thy Grace I will live for

Thee."

"When I survey the wondrous cross,

On which the Prince of Glory died,

My richest gain I count but loss,

And pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast,

Save in the cross of Christ my God;

All the vain things that charm me most,

dwelling in you, you may defy all the powers of

hell.

"Tread all the powers of darkness down,

And win the well-fought day."

When you have made a stand for God, do not

be discouraged by meeting with opposition or

ridicule from the ranks you have quitted. Seek

that "charity which suffereth long, and is kind."

"Take for your example the Lord Jesus Christ,

who, when he was reviled, reviled not again;

when He suffered, threatened not; but commit-

ted Himself unto Him that judgeth righteously."

And pray that the same mind may be in you

which was also in those early followers of our

Saviour, of whom it is recorded, "They rejoiced

that they were counted worthy to suffer shame

for His name." Walk worthy of your calling,

and sooner or later you shall find His words true

for you—"Them that honor Me I will honor;"

as at the last He will fulfil His promise, "Who-

soever, therefore, shall confess Me before men,

him will I confess before My Father which is in

heaven."

A young man, who had been a leader of gaiety

amongst the middle ranks of the place in which

he lived, came to a Scripture reading at the per-

suasion of a friend. The Word of God went like

an arrow to his heart. But, stifling the rising

conviction, he rose from his knees, to saunter to

an adjacent public-house, where several young

men had assembled for their evening revelry.

His talent for singing made him doubly wel-

come there. In the midst of singing an idle

song, the words vanished from his memory.—

Every effort to recall them failed. He could

only remember these words in their stead:

"Come Holy Spirit heavenly Dove,

With all thy quickening powers;

Come, shed abroad a Saviour's love,

And that shall kindle ours."

Hurriedly he left his friends and hastened

home. In the cool night air, and beneath

the quiet sky, he could pour out his soul in pray-

er. "Come, Holy Spirit, Heavenly Dove,"

and dwell in my sinful heart," was his cry. That

ery went up to God, and brought down the glori-

ous gift. God's truth was pledged for the an-

swer: "If ye then, being evil, know how to give

good gifts unto your children, how much more

shall your heavenly Father give His Holy Spirit

to them that ask Him!"

From that night this young man rejoiced in

God his Saviour, and consecrated himself, body,

soul, and spirit, to His service. Not long after

this he came to tell me that his happiness was

overflowing.

"Have you no scoffing from your old compan-

ions to dash your joys?" I asked.

"Plenty! but it doesn't dash it. I never

know happiness before. My former pleasures

seem as nothing now compared to the joy of

knowing that the Saviour of sinners is my Sa-

vour; and has pardoned me, and loves me."

God grant this joy may be yours, without the

wasting of another day unblest by such holy

happiness!

Let me entreat you to let no day pass without

reading your Bible; and, night and morning, let

your God and Saviour rejoice over you, as He

says, "Behold he prayeth?"

Will you make this a daily prayer?

O God, my Father, wash me from all my sins

in Thy Saviour's blood, and I shall be whiter than

snow. Create in me a clean heart, and fill me

with the Holy Ghost, that I may never be as-

hamed to confess the faith of Christ crucified,

and manfully to fight under His banner against

As you value your immortal soul, shun all

temptations to sin,—all paths which lead to sin.

And with regard to scenes of pleasure and

amusement, let me entreat you to avoid any in

which you could not honestly ask to enjoy the

spiritual presence of your Saviour; where you

could not, as opportunity offered, carry out your

mission of seeking to win souls to Him; and

above all, where, if He were still on earth, you

could not expect to meet Him.

"Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy."

Be diligent in attending the house of God, with

David's prayer in your heart, "Make me to hear

joy and gladness," in such fulness on Thine own

day, that it shall shed a holy, happy lustre over

the week. The promise of God stands good

still, "If thou turn away thy foot from the Sab-

bath from doing thy pleasure on my holy day;

and call the Sabbath a delight, the holy of the

Lord, honorable: and shalt honor Him, not do-

ing thine own ways, nor finding thine own plea-

sure, nor speaking thine own words: then shalt

thou delight thyself in the Lord, and I will cause

thee to ride upon the high places of the earth;"

and "I will give thee an everlasting name that

shall not be cut off."

And now, my Brother, Go FORWARD! "For-

getting these things which are behind, and reach-

ing forth to the things which are before, press

towards the mark for the prize of the high call-

ing of God in Christ Jesus." Ask the Holy Spirit

to mould you, day by day, more and more into

your Saviour's likeness, and to give you a fuller

enjoyment of His blessed Fellowship. Depend-

ingly utter the mighty working of the Holy

Spirit, throw yourself into the service of your

King-Redeemer, whenever he gives you any

opportunity. I ask this, not alone because it is

my deep conviction that if a man does not en-

gage, in some measure, in the work of the Lord,

he is doing, more or less, the work of the devil;

but also because I know that no interest on earth

is so intense as that of winning souls to Christ—

no joy to compare with a share in the joy of your

Lord over those in whom he sees of the travail

of His soul, and is satisfied.

Go FORWARD, in the might of an indwelling

God, "knowing the terror of the Lord, to per-

suade men" to come and hide in the cleft of the

Rock of Ages; to take their place in the ranks

of the King of kings, "who must reign till He

hath put all enemies under his feet."

At such an hour as this, NEUTRALITY IS TREAS-

ON. "He that is not with me is against Me,"

said even incarnate Charity; "and he that gath-

ereth not with Me, scattereth."

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