

God's Way.

BY MARGARET E. SANSTON.

Our way had been to smooth her upward road,
Easing the pressure of each heavy lead;
Never to let her white hand know a soil,
Never her back to feel the ache of toil.

Could we have shielded her from every care,
Kept her forever young and blithe and fair,
And from her body ward every pain,
As from her spirit all distress and strain,

This had been joy of joys, our chosen way,
God led her by a different path, each day.
Sorrow and work and anxious care He gave,
And strife and anguish, till her soul grew brave.

Through weary nights she leaned upon a love,
Through cloudy days she fixed her gaze above.
Her dearest vanished, but in faith and trust
She knew them safe beyond the perished dust.

Refined by suffering, like a little child
She grew; into her Father's face she smiled.
And then, one day of days, an angel came
In flute notes sweet she heard him breathe her name.

Perhaps from out the rifted heaven she saw
Her mother's face look forth in rapture
We caught the last swift glory in her eyes,
Ere, sleeping here, she woke in paradise.

God's way was best, with reverent lips we say,
God's way is best, and praise our God today.

—Congregationalist

"Clear Shining After Rain."

BY THE REV. THEODORE L. CUYLER.

One of the numberless touches of exquisite poetry in the Old Testament is that which describes the "tender grass springing out of the earth by clear shining after rain." The verdant grass plot which gladdens the eye is the result of a double process—shower and sunshine. Both are indispensable. We find in this beautiful expression a type of our deepest and richest spiritual experiences. It is a type of the most thorough work of conversion by the Holy Spirit. Over every impenitent soul hangs the dark cloud of God's righteous displeasure; his holy word thunders against sin, and his threatenings beat like a storm of hail. Repentance and faith in Christ sweep away this cloud; the thunders cease, the face of the atoning, pardoning Saviour looks forth like a clear blue sky after a storm; for there is no condemnation to them who are in Christ Jesus. No two cases of conversion are exactly similar, yet in every thorough work of grace the darkness and dread which belong to a state of guilt give place to the smile and peace of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

What is true in the beginnings of the most thorough Christian life is often realized in the subsequent experiences of the believer. Rain and sunshine both play their part in developing godly character. It ought to be a comfort to such of my readers as are under the heavy downpour of trials to open their Bibles and read how it fared with some of God's most faithful children. Abraham toiled on his sorrowful way to Mount Moriah under a dark cloud of apprehension; but the clear shining came when God approved his faith and spared the beloved son Isaac to the father's heart. The successive strokes of trial that burst on the head of Joseph only made his exaltation the more signal when he became prime minister of Egypt. There are forty-one chapters of the Book of Job through which beats the tempest which smote the four corners of his house, but in the forty-second chapter comes the "clear shining after rain," and a blaze of restored prosperity. The biographies of Elijah and of Daniel prove how "light is sown for the righteous," and the eleventh chapter to the Hebrews is a meteorological record to show how faith paints rainbows on thunder clouds.

In our days God often employs stormy providences for the discipline and perfecting of His own people. He knows when we need the drenchings. Every raindrop has its mission to perform. It goes right down to the roots of the heart, and creeps into every crevice. Not one drop of sorrow, not one tear, but may have some beneficent purpose. The process is not "joyous, but grievous; nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness," and purity and strength. Christ's countenance never beams with such brightness and beauty as when it breaks forth after a deluge of sorrow; and many a Christian has become a braver, stronger, and holier man or woman for

K. D. C. The mighty curer
of heartburn and sour stomach.

terrible afflictions; there has been a "clear shining after rain."

This principle has manifold applications. Sometimes a cloud of uncalumny gathers over a good man's name; lies darken the air, and it pours falsehoods forty days and forty nights. But when the shower of slander has spent itself, the truth creeps out slowly but surely from behind the clouds of defamation, and the slandered character shines with more luster than ever. The same storm that wrecks a rotten tree only roots the more firmly the sound tree, whose leaves glisten in the subsequent sunshine.

All ye children of God who are under the peltings of poverty or the downpour of disappointments or the blizzards of adversity, "think it not strange as though some strange thing had happened unto you." Millions have had the same experiences before you. No storm ever drowned a true believer or washed out the foundations of his hope. The trial of your faith will be found unto praise and honor and glory at the appearing of your Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Two things ought to give you courage. One is that our Lord loves to honor and reward unswerving faith. He permits the storm to test you, and then sends the smile of His sunshine to reward you. Another thought is that the skies are never so brilliantly blue as when they have been washed by a storm. The countenance of Jesus is never so welcome and lovable as when He breaks forth upon us—a sun of consolation and joy after trials.

Long years ago, on a day of thick fog and pouring rain, I ascended Mount Washington by the old bridlepath over the slippery rocks. A weary, disappointed company we were when we reached the cabin on the summit. But toward evening a mighty wind swept away the banks of mist, the body of the blue heavens stood out in its clearness and before us was revealed the magnificent landscape stretching away to the Atlantic sea. That scene was at the time, and has often been since, a sermon to my soul. It taught me that faith's stairways are over steep and slippery rocks, often through blinding storms, but God never loses His hold on us, and if we endure to the end He will yet bring us out into the "clear shining after rain."

A Noted Man's Conversions and His Advice to Converts.

The Western Christian Advocate recently published an interview with Rev. Elijah P. Brown, editor of that unique paper, the Ram's Horn, in which Mr. Brown gives the following account of his conversion.

Curiosity drew me to go and hear D. L. Moody, during a series of meetings he was holding in Chicago, in January, 1886. My curiosity must have been slight, however, as the meetings were daily brought to my attention by the newspapers, and yet I did not go until the evening of what I understood would be the last day. I had probably not been inside of a church a dozen times in a dozen years. The subject was the Prodigal Son, and was the first sermon on God's love I had ever heard. I can not recall a sentence of the sermon, but the great thought that God has a heart like that of a father was for the first time in my life suggested to me. The wanderings and misfortunes of the prodigal did not affect me; but I was moved by the great love of the father who ran to receive him, and give him a glad welcome home. I knew the meaning of a father's love, and felt a longing in my heart to know the God who could love me as my father had done. I remained to the after meeting, and heard Mr. Moody make a short prayer, in which he seemed to be actually talking to the God of love. A man soon after came to me with a Bible, which he opened, and wanted me to read some verses which he pointed out, upon which I at once became almost mad enough to fight. I hated the Bible as I did a rattle snake, and had no use for it. He soon introduced me to a newly-converted infidel, who kept his Bible out of sight, and gave me a leaf from his own experience. This gave me a mustard-seed grain of faith that possibly, after all, there might be a God and a reality in religion. In answer to the longings of my heart, after I had gone to bed that night, and awakened from sleep about two o'clock, God revealed himself to me as the God of love Mr. Moody had preached, and the God of the Bible. The Bible was spiritualized and explained to me in such a wonderful way that I have never from that moment had a temptation to doubt its being God's word. I suffered untold agony

K. D. C. for heartburn and sour stomach.

from conviction of sin for almost four days, and then the peace which passeth all understanding came into my heart, and has never left it for more than a few hours at a time since. I have never for an instant lost the witness of the Spirit to the reality of my conversion. Before my conversion I had no belief in God or the Bible, but since that time it has been all belief.

Recently when the Religious Telescope asked a number of leading editors, among them the Ram's Horn man, for a brief word of advice to the 20,000 recent converts in the United Brethren Church. One who has had as clear a conversion as has this man, and one who since his conversion has been so active and successful in securing the conversion of others, would be expected to be able to give some good advice to converts. Mr. Brown, in answer to our inquiry, thus speaks to the new recruits in the churches:

ADVICE TO CONVERTS.

Take time to read your Bible and pray in secret daily. Tell everything to Christ—plans, hopes, and fears. He is your best friend. Make him your confidant. Join a church, and be a worker in it. A church lazier is as worthless as any other kind. Don't be one. Be faithful in attending the means of grace. God goes to prayer meeting on a wet night. Keep your testimony bright by improving opportunities to speak. Pray for the unsaved, and try to win them to Christ. Don't criticize or find fault; backsliding often begins that way. Read I. Cor. 13 once a week on your knees. Adopt a golden text, and ask God to help you live it. Whenever you find a promise in the Bible, mark it, and make it your own. Read your Bible when you want God to speak to you. Have a good silk-sewed Bible of your own, if you have to go without bread to buy it; get one good enough to last you through life. Never listen to a doubt. Don't try to fight the devil in your own strength. Give as God prospers you. Begin as you intend to hold out. Don't think you must pray or talk just like somebody else. Read Rom. 12:1, and do it. Pray without ceasing. In everything give thanks.

Yours for Jesus,

ELIJAH P. BROWN—Ram's Horn.

Trivial Circumstances.

It is related of an eminent Christian lady that, walking one day with a friend through the narrow and filthy streets of a great city, a miserable ragged boy sallied forth from a dark entry and rushed across their path. "That child should be followed to his home, and seen after," was the strong conviction that seized Mary Carpenter, resulting in the formation of a society designed to alleviate the poor and reclaim the fallen. Thrilled with the one absorbing thought, she immediately wrote to a friend: "It is my earnest desire, if God sees it well that in His own good time it should be so, to devote my life entirely to the blessed employment of aiding the poor and destitute. I feel sure that I should most cheerfully give up for this all other employments, but, as in all things, so in this, I must wait for the pointing of His providence." Her desire was more than fulfilled. After a lapse of a few months only this record was made: "It has been a half year of much anxiety, but the labor has not been without its reward. Our pupils have improved; our poor have been well cared for; we see families decently clad; fathers rescued from intemperance and brought to the house of prayer."

What an illustration is here of much that is transpiring in the daily life of everyone! How trivial seem the circumstances that unexpectedly come, and give, under the providence of God, direction and impulse to our highest successes! Truly we "live and have our being" in God. The slightest change in our human relations the falling of an autumnal leaf, the shadows lengthening around us at eventide, the pale, sad face of the sufferer whom we casually meet by the way—these, with ten thousand other incidents, are profoundly significant. God watches every one of them. Intent upon our highest good He touches us, and through the smallest events; nothing is overlooked. His ordering of our minutest affairs is in love. These slight variations, so insignificant, less visible in their effect than the unobserved ripple that breaks upon the shore, are suddenly invested with wondrous meaning. These variations are, in the divine thought, the connecting links through which the whole subsequent life may be made resplendent.

Trivial circumstances! Say not this. When we rise to the real dignity of living, nothing seems to us more erroneous than such a view. God is not in the greater if He be not in the lesser incidents of our lives. He who is "above all, and through all, and in you" For nervous headache use K. D. C.

all" does not ask us to give Him our finite measurements of events or their issues. Our estimates are necessarily valueless, because we are incapable of judging, both as to the special work He has for us in this life, and as to the peculiar circumstances which will aid us in accomplishing our mission.

That morning walk through the desolate alleys of Bristol England, had in it for Mary Carpenter a providential meaning, the hallowed influence of which eternity alone will fully disclose. So it is everywhere, and with us all. O, such an investiture of our personal life should fill us with adoration and at the same time meekness of spirit.

When we go forth each day to our appointed tasks, what consecration and divine trust should mark our choices! How near to him should we live! How painstaking to seize all those little threads of influence which are secretly woven into the texture of life—little in human thought, but mighty, so often in the formation of character in ourselves and others. How can we live a single hour without prayer? How we ought to cherish habits of charity toward all, increasing the sum of human happiness by godly cheerfulness, stimulating the virtuous, helping the weak, sympathizing with the distressed, advocating the cause of the oppressed! So it will be found that the Master will meet us daily in the way, going before us in everything to direct our steps. Thus, in companionship with Him, we shall be always ready to hear Him speak the final word: "Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things; I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."

Walking Honestly.

One of the exhortations which Paul gave the church at Rome is, "Let us walk honestly as in the day." Such an exhortation needs to be emphasized in our times. While Christians generally may not be more open to censure than those of past generations, yet the conviction can scarcely be escaped that there is a fearful lack of thoroughness in the religion of to-day. When we consider what discipleship to Christ is, as presented in the New Testament, and as it is exhibited in the manner of life of the vast majority of church members, can we say that they are walking honestly? Do they really mean what they say or say what they mean? Take it with regard to nonconformity to the world, to the pursuit of spiritual things, to the consecration of themselves and their possessions to Christ, and contrast their professions with their habits and conduct, and must not all concede that there is fearful delinquency? Take the excuses which are given for neglect of covenant obligations to the Lord and His Church, and how much there is which will not bear the light! The pleas on which men stifle conscience for neglect of personal self-examination and prayer, the reason given for absence from public worship and prayer meetings, the apologies for meager contributions for the world's evangelization, are such that no one would dare to utter them with a conscious sense of the divine presence.

In the very excuses which are presented and accepted for the shortcomings of Christian professors there is a lack of honesty. How often, when a prominent church member is guilty of wrongdoing, is there the attempt to palliate or ignore his sin! How frequently is there an exercise of so-called charity which seeks to cover, but really countenances, evil! When men are overtaken in a fault, we are called to the exercise of love and forbearance; but when they persist in wrongdoing we are to withstand them, and not be partakers of other men's sins.

This lack of honesty in speech and action is fraught with evil. It affects the vision of many Christians so that the light in them is darkness. It has an evil influence on all who come into the church. They are molded by the character of the membership they find there. Nothing is more difficult than to raise a church generally to higher conceptions of Christian life and obligation. Need it be said that only as professed Christians do attain a higher standard of life and duty, and walk honestly as in the day, can they hope that those "without" will be drawn into the Church.—The Christian Inquirer.

Neglecting the Church.

The strength of the Christian church is not only depleted by those who neglect it because of indifference and worldliness but it is seriously affected by the withdrawal from its activities of those who, in seeking "holiness" or "a higher life" for themselves, absent themselves from its services, and will K. D. C. Pills tone and regulate the liver.

not take up the burdens or practise the self-denials involved in the church relationship. When such persons visit the prayer-meeting, from which they may have been absent for months, they usually parade their own attainments and perfections to the absolute disparagement of those who have been sustaining the services of the church in very practical ways, following Christ. They are valiant in telling the people who are always on hand, just what they should do, and just where they fail, but their own time and work and influence are not used in the service of the church. Indeed, some of the most discouraging, bitter and unjust reflections upon the churches come from those who, while professing superior attainments in the Divine life, are not willing to do the least thing to make their own churches more effective. A man who will habitually neglect the prayer meeting of his own church to gather with "elect spirits" in a "holiness meeting" is probably at heart as self-pleasing as the man who is too indolent or self-indulgent to leave his dressing-gown and slippers for the sake of meeting with the people of God.—The Watchman.

Random Readings.

The victory over self is the greatest conquest we can gain.

Any life that is worth living must be a struggle.—Dean Stanley.

Would you know the secret of happiness? It is making others happy.

If we make religion our business, God will make it our blessedness.—H. G. J. Adams.

The more thoroughly a man believes in heaven, the better citizen of earth does he become.

The happiness of our lives depends upon the character of our thoughts.—Marcus Antonius.

Rheumatism Cured.

Rheumatism is caused by lactic acid in the blood attacking the fibrous tissues of the joints. Keep your blood pure and healthy and you will not have rheumatism. Hood's Sarsaparilla gives the blood vitality and richness and tones the whole body, neutralizes the acidity of the blood and thus cures rheumatism.

Hood's PILLS are the best after dinner pills, assist digestion, cure headache.

Inflammatory Rheumatism.—Mr. S. Ackerman, commercial traveler, Belleville, writes: "Some years ago I used Dr. Thomas' Electric Oil for inflammatory rheumatism, and three bottles effected a complete cure. I was the whole of one summer unable to move without crutches, and every movement caused excruciating pains. I am now out on the road and exposed to all kinds of weather, but have never been troubled with rheumatism since. I, however, keep a bottle of Dr. Thomas' Oil on hand, and I always recommend it to others, as it did so much for me."

Dyspepsia or Indigestion is occasioned by the want of action in the biliary ducts, loss of vitality in the stomach to secrete the gastric juices, without which digestion cannot go on; also, being the principal cause of Headache. Parmenter's Vegetable Pills taken before going to bed, for a while, never fail to give relief and effect a cure. Mr. F. W. Ashdown, Ashdown, Ont., writes: "Parmenter's Pills are taking the lead against ten other makes which I have in stock."



When my little girl was one month old, she had a scab form on her face. It kept spreading until she was completely covered from head to foot. Then she had boils. She had forty on her head at one time, and more on her body. When six months old she did not weigh seven pounds, a pound and a half less than at birth. Then her skin started to dry up and got so bad she could not shut her eyes to sleep, but laid with them half open. About this time, at the earnest request of friends, I started using the CUTICURA REMEDIES, and in one month she was completely cured. The doctor and drug bills were over one hundred dollars. The Cuticura bill was not more than five dollars. My child is now two years old, strong, healthy and large as any child of her age (see photo.) and it is all owing to CUTICURA. Yours with a Mother's Blessing, MRS. GEO. H. TUCKER, JR., 335 Greenfield Avenue, Milwaukee, Wis. Sold throughout the world. POTTER DRUG AND CHEM. CO., sole proprietors, Boston. Mailed free. "All about the Blood, Skin, Scalp, and Hair." Baby Eruptions, Itching Hair, and red, rough hands prevented and cured by CUTICURA Soap.



Thomas A. Johns.

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Free from Eruptions

as ever they were. My business, which is that of a cab-driver, requires me to be out in cold and wet weather, often without gloves, and the trouble has never returned."—THOMAS A. JOHNS, Stratford, Ont.

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