

AS A LITTLE CHILD.

The kingdom is to come to us personally as things come to little children. This is by the simplest faith. The child is pre-eminently a creature of trust. For everything—literally everything—the child trusts to others to provide and furnish with not a care or anxious fear about it. We are to receive the kingdom as do little children these earthly, necessary things, by simple trust. This is a sublime illustration of the beauty and simplicity and essential nature of faith. George J. Anderson thus puts it in the *Congregationalist*:

"Nowadays man is exercising faith in his fellow man to an extent greater than ever in the world's history. To his fellows he leaves with trust the preparation of his food, the education of his children, the protection of his property, and indeed, as he walks the crowded and dangerous ways of a great city, the safety of his very life. Thus his children have come to trust instinctively the goodness of the parent, to rely upon it implicitly and to test it daily in countless ways. No wonder Christ's entrance to the kingdom conditional becoming as a little child."—*Herald of 1888*.

HOLINESS ENSURED.

writer tells of going down with a party to a coal mine. On the side of the gangway was a plant which was perfectly white. The men were astonished that there, where the dust was continually flying, this little plant should be so clean. A miner who was with them took a handful of black dust and rubbed it on the plant, but not a particle of it was discolored. There was a wonderful enamel on the plant which not even the finest speck of dust could stain its snowy whiteness. This is what every Christian life should be. Influences breathe incessantly about us. But it is our mission to be clean amid all this vileness, undefiled, unspotted in the world. If God can make a little plant so wondrously that no dust can stain its whiteness, surely he can, by his grace, so transmute our heart and life that sin shall not cling to it. He who can keep the plant stainless and clean amid clouds of dust can guard our purity in this world of sin."

INGRATITUDE OF GRUMBLING.

I heard a good man say once as we passed the home of a millionaire: "It doesn't seem right that such a man as he is should be rolling in wealth, while I have to work hard for my daily bread." I made no reply. But when we reached the home of the grumbler and a troop of noisy children ran out to meet us, I caught the man by my arms, and, holding him up, said: "How much will you take for this boy?" He answered, while the moisture gathered on his forehead: "That boy, my namesake! I would take him for his weight in gold." "Why, he weighs forty pounds at least, and forty pounds of gold would make you a rich man. And you would probably ask as much for each of the others. So, according to your admission you are immensely rich. Yes, a deal richer than that cold, selfish, child-millionaire whom you were envying as we went along. Nothing would tempt you to exchange places with him. Then you ought to be grateful instead of grumbling. You are the slave of fortune, or, rather, of Providence, not he."—*H. W. Beecher*.

CARELESS AND BUSY MOTHER.

She was careless and busy; that was all. She loved her child, but the weeds grew in the child's heart while the mother was careless and busy. Then he was a youth. Before the mother realized it the child was a big boy. The mother continued to be careless and busy. Then he was a man, and the mother grieved because she had no influence over him. He had gone to the bad while the mother was careless and busy—that was all. No, that was not all. The young man's sins and dissipations resulted in a premature death. He went to eternity without hope of reward, his mother having been careless and busy. A mother's heart is broken; she will go down to her grave in sorrow because she was careless and busy. We judge not, but we can not drive away the thought: Better that she had never been born than to have been all her life as a mother careless and busy—only careless and busy.—*Rev. R. S. Satterfield, in Christian Advocate*.

Circumspectly.—Be ye who have received the truth careful of your conduct; walk by the rule which God has given you; do this as well in little as in great matters; exemplify your principles which are holy and good, by a correspondent conduct; do not only profess, but live the Gospel. As you embrace all its promises, be careful also to embrace all its precepts and behave yourselves so that your enemies may never be able to say that ye are holy in doctrine and profession, but irregular in your lives.—*Clarke*.

"The Christian lives to Christ alone, To Christ alone he dies."

"I need not say to you, my dear brethren and sisters, that you cannot retain the blessing of holiness unless on all suitable occasions you are willing to confess it. It is a gift from God, and God requires the acknowledgment of every good thing that is in us, by Christ Jesus. But do you indeed desire that the communication of your faith may be greatly effectual? Do you desire that your friends and neighbors may know that entire sanctification is something more than a blessing in name? Do you desire that the cause should not be harmed by its being said of you, 'What do ye more than others?'"—*Phoebe Palmer*.

FINDS DECENCY BREAKING DOWN.

CANON NEWBOLDT, PREACHING IN ST. PAUL'S CATHEDRAL, DEPLORES GENERAL LAXITY OF MANNERS.

Canon Newbolt has just completed his holiday series of "Straight Talks to the People" in St. Paul's Cathedral, knowing that during the holiday season people have more time for reflection than at other times of the year. He has spoken very directly on some of the evils of the day as he has seen them.

"There is," he says, "a general laxity of manners, of decency and of propriety. Books are sometimes gravely reprehensible. The modesty of town life has been breaking down for many years. It is not necessary that there should be a great religious upheaval. If people will only return to the ordinary old-fashioned laws of conduct and demeanor, things will come right again."

Some of the more pointed of the Canon's utterances were:

"You can only pass through life in London with the most stringent reservations."

"We sigh for another Isaiah to denounce the indecencies and extravagances of dress.

Warning voices are heard about the modern dance and the lack of refinement, good manners and Christian courtesy."

"Vice is common, virtue rare. To follow vice a man has only to let himself go."

"A man may be a libertine in his private life, but the world asks no questions. He is smart, he is wealthy, he is amusing; if he has powerful friends, his misdeeds are concealed."

"No man, we shall be told, is the worse for having a past, or woman either."

"A man rushes here and there in a mad glut of what he thinks is pleasure—theatres, music halls, races and worse. He is drifting on to the midnight leap, the pistol or the fatal draught."

"An age which is shocked at the marriage service welcomes for its sons and daughters the sex problem dressed up in all the nauseous under-reserve of a society novel."—*Toronto Globe*.

PENALTY FOR SIN NECESSARY.

"Convince a young man that the goodness of God means no penalty against sin, that all will be saved anyhow, and he will go out and fill himself up with sin until every bone in his body is on fire, and every muscle twitches with pain. Every physician in the land knows young men who are walking around with fires of torment in their bodies. 'I perish,' exclaimed the Prodigal Son. And the big cities are full of prodigals. Preachers who preach the fear of wrath against sin out of the minds of their hearers ought to be suppressed for cruelty to young men."—*The Advance*.

It is not a mark of God's displeasure when one of His children is called to suffer, but rather a mark of His confidence. God's confidence in Job was strong, and Job stood the test and immortalized his own name and glorified God, and proved that the devil lied when he said, "All that a man hath will he give for his life." Job would have died rather than give up his trust in God. "Though he slay me, yet will I trust Him."

"Send me to the hearts without a home, to the lives without a love, to the crowds without a compass, to the ranks without a refuge."—*George Matheson*.

"The present times are dangerous; they are full of troubles and temptations; and only the watchful and diligent have any reason to expect that they shall keep their garments unspotted."—*Selected*.

Let it be ours to be self-reliant amid hosts of the vacillating; real in a generation of triflers; true among the multitude of shamers. When tempted never to swerve from principle. Sturdy as an oak in its maintenance; when solicited by the enticement of sinners, firm as a rock in our denial."—*Punshon*.

REST.

What a privilege it is to be permitted to rest upon the assurance "I will go before thee," thou shalt not be without a Guide, and "He that followeth Me shall not walk in darkness." "I will make the crooked places straight," the rugged places plain, and when thou comest up to them thou shalt find insurmountable difficulty already removed, that thy foes, like Jehosaphat's, have slain themselves, that thou hast to strip off the spoils, and to make the valley one not of conflict, but of praise—a Bera-chah.—*J. Hudson Taylor*.