

## REST OF SOUL.

By W. E. Smith.

The writer to the Hebrews speaks of a "rest that remains to the people of God." Many have interpreted this promise as referring to the heavenly state. They say "this world is too full of discord, strife, bustle and noise to make rest possible; besides, we are here to work. These are days of toil and conflict. We are willing to labor and grow weary today, having respect unto the rest we anticipate by and by."

But, evidently those who take this view have not caught the writer's meaning, and are ignorant of the blessed experience that has been provided for us in the covenant of grace. The sacred writer was referring to a present experience, for he declares: "We who have believed do enter into rest." Soul rest is the peculiar inheritance of the wholly sanctified. At times their joy is "unspeakable and full of glory." They feel the breezes from the glory land sweep their being; but these ecstatic emotions subside, and the soul is not left desolate, feeling a lack that must be made up by special exertion to regain that former state, but the believer calmly and quietly rests in God; is even conscious of His presence, and is fully satisfied with Jesus.

So long as carnal affections remain uncrucified in the heart there must always be periods of inner conflict and discontent. Self-will rises up against God's will. A condition of carnality implies an element of doubt. Faith has not been made perfect. Doubt always begets the offspring fear, which only perfection can cast out. The unsanctified soul trusts a good deal in God but trusts also in circumstances and feelings; and when these are unfavorable they experience inner disquietude. A good Scotch brother said "I never really understood the nature of faith till I was wholly sanctified." With the most of us it has been that way. We once tried so hard to believe. It was such an effort of the will, but now it becomes the fixed habit of the soul. Oh, how blessed to rest in God, assured of His care and protection! "Things that once were wild alarms

Cannot now disturb my rest  
Closed in everlasting arms,  
Pillowed in His loving breast.  
Oh, to be forever here,  
Doubt and fear and self-resign;  
While He whispers in my ear,  
I am His and He is mine."

This rest excludes worry. Wesley said: "I no more dare to fret than I would to swear." Said he: "I have deep concerns for the work of the Lord, of which I have the oversight, but I never worry." Temptations to worry of course will come by the pressure of circumstances, but "the peace of God which passeth all understanding keeps the heart and mind true to Christ Jesus."

This rest excludes all envy. The fully sanctified soul can look upon the abode of the rich, where they "are clothed in fine linen and fare sumptuously every day" and come back to a humble dwelling to eat plain food with a perfectly thankful heart. Instead of being envious at the prosperity of the worldly he thanks God that he has been exempt from such prosperity, which might have ruined his soul. The sanctified preacher, instead of envying another his big church and salary, pushes ahead in the work of the Lord with a happy and contented heart. He is glad to be regarded as small and insignificant, for had he suddenly been lifted to the big lucrative position he might have lost his experience and his soul.

This rest of soul eliminates all hard feelings for wrongs received, and saves from all desire to retaliate. Of course the individual knows when he has been unjustly treated, and may have to take a decided stand against some things, but ever maintains the desire to do good to his enemies.

This rest of soul saves from needless controversy. By this I mean the petty jangling spirit that wants to argue its point. The deeper the soul gets in God the more distasteful arguing on religion becomes. Standing in stalwart defense of the truth is quite another thing. We can lose the sweet rest of soul in arguing for satisfaction. We have found that when the combative man comes at us the best thing to do is to say, Brother, "I have the blessing," but let us talk about something else." Yes, we can have perfect rest of soul in the midst of the fiercest temptations. The adversary may be assailing us with his bravest artillery, but we rest in Jesus. He who is in us is greater than he that is in the world. Out of such a conflict the soul emerges strengthened and ready for larger receptions of grace and power. The soul remains patient in the temptation and asks for it to be lifted only in God's time.

How easy then does communion with God become! The sanctified man in the train closes his eyes and breathes out his love to God, and such a consciousness of the love of Jesus fills his heart that tears force their way through. Some seeing it might say, "Poor man! He is going to the funeral of his mother," but he is only secretly rejoicing because he went long ago to the funeral of the "old man."

This soul rest shuts out all fear of the future. Robbie Burns envied the little field mouse its lack of anxiety for the future and he "forward cast his eye with dread and fear." So many carry the burden of trials and losses they see ahead. The true child of God takes no anxious thought for the morrow. If he is a farmer he carefully prepares the land, sows the grain and does not worry about the weather. His trust is in the Lord who has provided seed time and harvest. Industry and prudence are lessons he learns in the school of spiritual economics; by the oil of sanctifying grace he lubricates the machinery of his soul, and saves him from the drudgery of daily routine. His prayer is, "Give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with food convenient for me."

But is it all easy sailing? By no means. Read the life of Job. "Many are the afflictions of the righteous." The pressure at times may be severe. There are not only short and sudden trials and afflictions, but God often permits his children to suffer for years under a burden that seems tremendous. In it all there is the soul rest that believes all things work together for good to them that love God. There is the steadfast resolution to fight it through. Blessed rest of soul is there in the conflict.

Conflict did we say? How can there be rest in conflict? The sacred writer says, "Let us labor to enter into that rest." Yea, it is a conflict to gain it and a conflict to retain it. "Fight the good fight of faith" is the exhortation. Keep out the wrong things that would invade the soul. "Rest in the Lord and wait patiently for Him; fret not thyself in any wise to do evil." For "great peace have they that love thy law, and they shall have no stumbling block."

The utter abandonment of our souls to God gives us the rest of a perfect faith. We find our satisfaction in the will of God. The world is under the feet of the fully sanctified, but they enjoy it more than any worldling can, for

everything in God's beautiful world speaks to the soul a message of love. Jesus inspires our faith by assuring us His Father has a greater love for us than for the birds of the air and the lilies of the field, and when we rest on His promise He gives us a consciousness of the fact. The weary doubting, oft defeated, tempest-tossed soul finds rest when it bows to the yoke of Jesus.

"I've anchored my soul  
In the haven of rest,  
I'll sail the wild sea no more.  
The tempest may sweep  
O'er the wild stormy deep;  
In Jesus I'm safe ever more."

## RESOLUTION OF CONDOLENCE.

Resolved, that we, the members of the Reformed Baptist Alliance, assembled in our annual meeting, hereby express our feelings of sorrow for the loss of our fellow labourer in the meeting of this Alliance, and Camp Meeting, of the late Joseph Bullock, who has met with us for twenty years in succession, in all of which time we enjoyed unbroken fellowship, and we always appreciated the kindly words of encouragement, and the practical interest and help in the work in every way.

While to deplore the loss sustained we are glad to have the memory of those years of deep Christian fellowship and co-operation in the propagation of the grandest work given to men on earth—preaching Christ as the only Saviour of lost men, declaring the power and mercy of God in the pardoning of sin, and the atonement and cleansing power of the blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

We also wish to extend our united and sincere sympathy to our beloved Sister Br. and her sons, Messrs. J. F. and T. H. Bullock, in this their greatest sorrow.

S. A. BAKER,  
J. H. COY.

A letter from Sister Gravinor says she regrets that she was unable to attend Beulah Camp Meeting, enclosing her testimony as follows:

My testimony is, The Lord is my light and my salvation; I am leaning on his blessed arm, and he saves me blessedly and helps me through all my sorrows, and gives me a bright hope of a home in heaven.

MRS. JOHN GRAVINOR.

Our cities are crying for rock-Christians. Of gentle Christians and affable Christians and kind-hearted Christians we have abundance. The church today lacks the one quality for which the Lord looks and waits. City Christians should stand like rock amid the sea which surge and roar, and beneath whose billows with alarming frequency honored churches disappear. Like rock they should stand around the Lord's Day, beating back the social and industrial forces which are rolling in like a flood.—*Jefferson.*

## "BILLY" SUNDAY CLOSED SALOONS.

Philadelphia, June 5.—Fourteen retail liquor dealers relinquished their licenses as a result of bad business. Eight wholesale dealers and bottlers and one brewer also closed the places, owing to the fact they had not made enough money to pay their license fees.

The falling off in the consumption of intoxicating liquors is directly attributed to the campaign conducted here by Billy Sunday.