

We publish herewith some selections from a collection of partially extemporaneous Bible readings given by Rev. E. I. D. Pepper before the Friday Meeting in Philadelphia, gathered by Rev. E. L. Hyde and published in a small book called "Spices from the Lord's Garden."

REAL CHRISTLIKENESS.

Text: Luke 20:1-8.

We are to be Christ-like, but let us not be mistaken as to what Christ-likeness is. Let us not get an exquisite and namby-pamby sort of an idea of Christ-likeness. We must remember that the Apostle John was called the loving and beloved disciple, yet he was the plainest spoken man among them all. I once heard the Rev. Andrew Longacre preach a sermon on "saintliness." It depicted an earnest, true, practical, honorable, honest, faithful, diligent and entirely consecrated life, within and without. It was indeed a charming picture; but its great charm was in its everyday practicality.

I wish we could please everybody; I wish I might tell you that you could; but if we think we can we are sure to find out soon that we have been mistaken. A man who is converted thinks that all he has to do is to tell how happy he is and everybody will hug him up and be converted too; but he soon finds his mistake. It is the same with the person who has been entirely sanctified. He resolves to show forth perfect love by his unexceptionable life; he makes up his mind to be careful, to be heavenly-minded, to be gentle-spirited, to be very prudent. He says to himself and to others: "I will try to demonstrate this thing in every proper way, and so win others into the experience." But he forgets how long it was that the light failed to get into his mind and conscience and heart; he forgets how long others bore patiently with him; how long some of the sweetest saints of God labored and talked with him; how this went on for days and months and years, and that his spirit was getting worse all the time.

The people mentioned in our text did not all of them accept Christ; some did; some of the church members did; but the narrative tells us that some of the Church "came upon him." Could any one preach the gospel of Christ better than Christ Himself? And yet the Gospel of Christ, preached with the spirit of Christ and with marvelous love, what effect did it have? The heads of ecclesiastical departments "came upon Him."

I do not know how we will be treated by all the people, or by all the ministry, or even by all the heads of the Church. Those who came upon Christ knew more about "authority" than about "baptisms from heaven." If a minister is in for show and popularity and position, and is concerned more about the "authority" than about the baptisms from heaven, we may not find a cordial reception from him for a Christ-like spirit or for Christ-like words; for Christ-likeness is the very opposite of that.

We must get beyond the desire to be tickled with greetings in the market place (popularity); to walk in long robes (show); to occupy the chief seats in the synagogues and in the chief rooms (ambition). We have sometimes to get away from the question of "Who gave thee this authority?" We have to get out where we can hear the voice of the Spirit of God. There are people who will not believe in it; but there is an experience where praise or blame are rated according to their just merit, and when a Christ-like man finds his praise beyond what he ought to have, his sanctified

soul rejects it. That is a state of independence. We need not go out of the Church to find it nor away from the priests. Christ did not go out of the Church; Christ recognized the priesthood, degenerate as it was then; Christ ordered those who wanted to be cleansed to go and show themselves to the priests; nevertheless, He went straight on, preferring "baptisms from heaven" to technical questions of authority.

Is there not something pathetic, sublimely pathetic in that verse 13?—"I will send my beloved Son; it may be that they will reverence Him when they see Him." Oh, to look into those divine eyes, to look upon that divine person, to see Christ Himself, to hear the words that fell from the lips of Him that "spake as never man spake!" Could anybody help but reverence Him? Yet what was the result? "This is the heir, let us kill Him, then the inheritance will be ours." They withstood Him because they feared His influence upon their authority. He perceived their craftiness. They could not tempt Him by the flattery that He accepted no man's person, but taught the way of God truly.

Let us get where, when there is a question between authority and "baptisms from heaven," we will be on the side of "baptisms from heaven" every time. These positions on earth are unreliable; they are of the earth earthly, and, like the earth, they will pass away. We are rushing through time to the end of the world, when all these things shall be burned up. Then what will remain will be eternal. What we are building inside will outlast what we are building on the outside. "The earth shall pass away." Then many things that seem now so important to men will seem to be nothing at all, and worse than nothing, and vanity. Then will come the dawn of eternity and the vision of God. Then what will remain forever will be permanence of character—of Christ-like character. Then will be heard those solemn and final words: "He that is unjust let him be unjust still, and he that is holy let him be holy still."

Lord make me true! Deliver me from being tickled away from the truth! Oh, I get sick of this over-weening authority fever! "By what authority?" Even the disciples got it. Once they said, "He followeth not us,—stop Him!" Authority is right, but not when used against real baptisms from heaven.

All I want is just to put Jesus before you. I want you to get the right idea of Him just as He was, faithful, fearless, outspoken, firm for the truth. Now let us be "in Christ's stead." Let us be Christ-like. O to be where we are not afraid to be true, no matter what comes; to get where, after receiving the baptism of the Holy Ghost, as well as the baptism of John, when the question comes, "By what authority doest thou these things?" we can say, "I do it by the authority of my baptism from heaven." When we get there we shall be like Christ was. In these days we need these refreshings from the Lord; these unctuous times, when our hearts are melted down and our minds are clarified with light, and we see things as God sees them; when ourselves and our personal advantages and our desires for show and popularity go out, and there comes in that spirit that can weigh all those things in the balance of eternity.

I wake up at midnight and these things come to my mind. I will soon be gone. I do not know how soon. I sometimes think of things I did in my boyhood and in youth and in manhood, and even since I have been in the ministry, with humiliation; but I would like before I go into the presence of that Om-

nicient eye to be thoroughly true. I want to see myself as God sees me, and as the universe shall see me. I want the past to go under the blood and into oblivion. I love to go deep through my own soul. I never stop telling a truth because it goes through me.—*Heart and Life.*

Those of us who heard the author of these selections, Rev. E. I. D. Pepper, when he visited New Brunswick, remember him as one of the clearest and strongest advocates of holiness that ever visited this country. He was the Editor of the Christian Standard in its best days.

MOTHERS.

Dear Highway.—The influence of mothers is far-reaching, not only does it affect the household, but communities and even nations bear the impress to a large extent of the mother's teaching in the home. The training of the children largely rests with the mother.

It is in the early days of childhood that impressions are made that will to a great extent govern manhood and womanhood. How important then that the teaching of early life should be such as to lead the dear boys and girls that the mother loves so much into the way they should go; such teaching is the greatest protection to them in after-life that they could possibly have.

The mother has to a large degree the temporal affairs of the household resting in her hands and often the cares of the home are such as to need much patience and the Grace of God to get through with them rightly.

But when the mother looks into the face of her dear boy or girl she calls to mind that there is the spiritual and eternal welfare of her dear ones that she must not neglect.

It is true that she cannot fit or prepare them for the future world so that it may be everlastingly well with them. Still the prayers and intercessions of a faithful godly mother will do much to lead them to the arms of a loving Saviour. That child of hers will live on during a vast eternity either in Heaven amid the Glories of that Heavenly land, or in the dark regions of the lost.

The soul that never dies  
When once it quits this house of clay,  
My thoughts pursue it where you will  
Or track its wondrous way.  
Up to the courts where angels dwell  
It mounts triumphant there,  
Or devils plunge it down to Hell  
In infinite despair.

And when there is such a great provision made for the spiritual well-being of those she loves so dearly the faithful loving mother feels that nothing should be wanting on her part to lead them to the source of all good.

May the blessing of the Lord rest upon all the Faithful.  
Penniac.

B. N. GOODSPEED.

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"Then whatsoever wind doth blow,  
My heart is glad to have it so;  
And blow it east or blow it west,  
The wind that blows, that wind is best."  
Caroline Atherton Mason.