

## THE ALL-IMPORTANT PARACLETE.

Joseph Parker.

The resources of the church will multiply in proportion as the church enjoys the presence and power of the Holy Ghost. To a certain extent we have learning enough, industry enough. What we want is the baptism of the Holy Ghost. When that baptism is received we shall not be asking for definitions. Be not asking puerile questions about divergent and colliding creeds; fret not yourself because of those who make creeds and create differences, but understand that the union of the church, the power of the church, the life of the church is in the felt presence of God and the Holy Ghost.

When He comes we shall be one and yet many; no individuality will be lost. Peter will still flame, John will still burn, Paul will still reason, James will still moralize, David will still sing. Our identity will not be lost, but under the influence of a common fire, warmed by a common love, every man shall bring forth fruit according to his individuality, and as in the infinite diversity of nature we discover one common or grand beauty, and as one star differeth from another in glory, yet every one lighted at the same fontal fire—so we shall rejoice in one another's gift, be thankful for the diversity of offices and services in the church, and shall not make this an occasion of separation. Whilst we look we shall be astounded at the infinite possibilities of human nature, at the infinite graciousness of the Divine life, and out of these very diversities shall come the inspiration of a new and ever-enlarging thankfulness.

When we receive the Holy Spirit we must not imagine that we shall be other than ourselves, enlarged, ennobled and developed. The Spirit will not merge our individuality in a common monotony. Whatever your power is now, the incoming of the Holy Ghost will magnify and illuminate so that your identity will not be lost, but will be carried up to its highest expression and magnificence. And more than that, not only will there be a development of that which is already ascertained and known, but there will be a development of latent faculties, slumbering powers, the existence of which has never been suspected by our dearest friends. Look for surprises when the Holy Ghost falls upon a Church; dumb men will speak, ineloquent men will attract and fascinate by the sublimity of their new discourse, timid men will put on the lion, and those who had hidden away in the obscurity of conscious feebleness will come out and offer themselves at the Lord's altar to help in the Lord's service.

Have we received the Holy Ghost? The question does not admit of hesitation as to its answer. No man can mistake the summer sun when he sees it; he will not come home with a half-tale of having seen some kind of light, but is not quite sure what it is or whence it shone; whether it was a gas-jet or the shining of an electric light, or a new star. The sun needs no introduction, has no signature, but its own glory, and needs to take no oath in proof of its identity. The shadows know it and flee away; the flowers know it and open their little hearts to its blessing; all the hills and valleys know it and quiver with a new joy.—Selected.

## SUGGESTIVE.

Now that Jack Frost is coming around again, one of the most vital questions that concerns us all is the wherewithal to keep him out of our houses. This year the fuel problem is bigger than ever. Among those who find their fuel a big proposition is the small salaried preacher. He has no hardwood ridge of his own to which he can go and help himself, nor is he overloaded with money to give in exchange for such a high-priced commodity as wood and coal have become in recent years. It is the honest opinion of the writer that a little thoughtfulness on the part of the men in the churches, especially in country districts, would relieve the preacher of this burden.

Preachers may not all be perfect, or above criticism, but there is not the least doubt that in many cases the people are not as mindful of their minister as they might be. The following circumstance may serve to illustrate this point, and also serve as a hint to what might be done. For the truth of the following I am prepared to vouch as I am personally acquainted with the parties involved and got my information direct.

A certain preacher and his wife were located on a country field where the salary was small. Fall had come and winter was fast approaching and the cold increasing. The wood-shed was empty and the means to replenish it wanting. Even the price to buy a postage stamp was at times a consideration. What was he to do? He resorted to prayer and somehow entertained hope that the brethren would turn to and help him out, but he waited in vain. No one so much as asked him whether he had a stove or not, much less wood to burn in it. Nevertheless, in answer to prayer the Lord opened the way for him to cut wood on the halves. This meant that he had to get twice as much as would have been necessary for himself. The days were short and often stormy; the woods quite a distance away, besides there were chores to be done at home, the wife being poorly and not able to do much. Consequently one day's work did not make a very large showing, therefore, the better part of the months of November and December were consumed in cutting, yarding, sawing and hauling. Now, it does not require a person with very large brain girth to comprehend that this minister's pastoral duties had to suffer. He could not get firewood and make calls at the same time, neither could he be at his best at the prayer-meeting nor in the pulpit when Sunday came.

Later on this same preacher received a good "dressing down" and that right in the church before all present, from one of his leading members for not being faithful enough in calling upon the people. I expect that while the lecture was in progress that all this preacher could see was empty woodsheds, axes, saws, beech, birch and maple. Now there is another side to this very interesting episode. Within two miles of this same preacher were more than ten men all members or adherents of the same church, all of whom had woodlands and teams of their own, and who cut that same fall and winter anywhere from eight to fifteen cords of wood apiece. If each one of them would have hauled half a cord of

wood apiece to the parsonage, they would never have missed it, and the preacher would have had enough to last all winter. Moreover, he would have had the better part of two whole months free in which to do calling, besides being free from the burden of care and better fitted for study; and above all, he would have been encouraged and had a much better feeling toward the people to whom he ministered, and no doubt could have much more fervently prayed God's blessing upon them.

A. CHIP.

## A WORDLESS ADVERTISEMENT.

Rev. A. C. Zepp.

One day while walking down the main street of an Iowa city we observed in one of the store windows a striking "wordless advertisement." An enterprising cleaning establishment had placed in the window a pair of what were formerly white flannel trousers. One of the legs was covered from top to bottom with dirt and grease marks, as though a machinist or automobile repair man had worn it a month in his shop. The other leg had been cleaned by the particular process or method of the establishment. It was immaculate! spotless! It could not have been cleaner if it had never been worn. There was not a word of explanation accompanying this striking bit of advertisement. No glaring sign was in sight telling of their power to cleanse garments from every spot. Why need there be? The silent contrast spoke volumes—this mute, but powerfully expressive example, was proclaiming louder than any words possibly could, that this particular establishment delivered the goods and made good in difficult cases.

Two young business men stopped, struck with the effectiveness of the idea, and one of them in the language of the street spontaneously ejaculated his admiration: "What a great idea of an ad!"

What would it all avail if this establishment had advertised in most glowing letters its ability to remove all stains if they had still remained in the garments?

The application was made to our hearts by the Holy Spirit with peculiar force and power. What avails it to advertise that the blood of Jesus cleanses from all sin and selfishness, if the spots of sin and selfishness still remain? And if our professors of entire cleaning are found as eagerly pursuing the world as the nominal Christians and the worldlings about them? God help us to be spotless examples from every stain of sin, and by life and lip, powerful advertisers and demonstrators of His power to thoroughly transform!

## APPRECIATION.

Our friends met at the parsonage, Millville, Oct. 16th, and after spending a pleasant evening with music and singing, about 80 sat down to a bountiful supper which the ladies had kindly provided, then Deacon Sharp in behalf of those present and others, presented us with their good wishes and a purse of over \$47.00, others later made it up to \$50.00. We tried to tell them how much we appreciated their coming to our home and for their thoughtfulness of our need. May the Lord richly bless them, one and all.

I. F. KEIRSTEAD.