

A COMMON COMPLAINT.

(By Rev. H. C. Morrison, D. D.)

There comes to us from every quarter a complaint with reference to the preaching of the times. It is said that the preachers are discussing various themes, and devoting themselves to many popular subjects, but that there is a famine of the Word of God; that very generally, there is a sad lack of the preaching of that Gospel which is the power of God unto salvation.

There is nothing farther from our purpose than to bring a railing accusation, in fact, any sort of accusation against the ministry, but the complaint is so widespread and constant that it is reasonable to suppose there are some grounds for it. These complaints do not come from a carping, fault-finding people, but from a people who love God and respect the ministry and are longing to see the gracious spiritual effects which are produced by a saving Gospel when faithfully preached.

It is a well-known fact that a very large per cent. of our Methodist preachers have repudiated the doctrine of natural depravity; that they have also given up the doctrine of regeneration so far as children are concerned, and substituted in its place moral training and education. Such men will naturally ease up on preaching on sin, in its turpitude, corrupting and destructive influence. They will not insist on the new birth. It is also a well known fact that along with surrendering the doctrine of depravity or indwelling sin, they have also given up the doctrine of sanctification, hence, cannot preach and urge the people to seek after the cleansing power of Jesus' Blood.

Not a few of the preachers of the day have practically given up the doctrine of future punishment. Some believe in a second probation; such men cannot, with zeal and earnestness, warn sinners to flee from the wrath to come. When a man is uncertain in his own mind and heart with the great fundamental teachings of the Bible, you may be sure he will give an uncertain sound. One of the greatest needs of the times in which we are living is a ministry with unshaken faith in the Scriptures; a ministry believing firmly in the awful fact of sin—the absolute need of an Atonement, the fulness of the Atonement provided in Christ, the necessity of the new birth, the fact of depravity, or indwelling sin, remaining in the regenerated to be cleansed away through the merit of Jesus' Blood.

An earnest ministry must believe in future punishment, in coming Judgment, in the fearful condition of those who are in their sin and subject to the wrath of God. Men who steadfastly believe these great Bible truths can preach the same with power and zeal. The people who hear them will feel the earnestness of their words; sinners will be rebuked and saints will be fed. No greater calamity can befall the land in these days of distress than the pulpits of the country should give an uncertain sound.

The happiest life on earth belongs to the Christian, when Christianity is understood. Those who advocate the contrary not know what it is."

SLAVERY OF THE CIGARETTE.

(By Henry M. Hall.)

Young America—the boys of the present generation are our hope for the future prosperity of our republic. Of the trinity of evils that seem to assail our boys and young men in this eventful era, are cigarettes. The cigarette takes perhaps the foremost rank with drink and drugs. Three great men, perhaps the greatest geniuses and inventors of the United States, unite with thousands of other men in portraying the deadly influence of cigarette smoking. Thomas A. Edison, Mr. Luther Burbank and John Burroughs. The first says: "The boys must be educated so they will know why cigarettes are bad for them. Boys through cigarettes train with bad company. The cigarette drags them down. The history of almost any criminal proves that he is an inveterate cigarette smoker. Boys go with other smokers to the pool rooms and saloons. Hence, if we educate them to the dangers of smoking, we have performed a service."

Burbank says: "Cigarettes are even more damaging than cigars, and their use for young boys is little short of criminal, and will produce in them the same results that sand produces in a watch—destruction. Several of my young acquaintances are in their graves, who gave promise of making happy and useful citizens; and there is no question whatever that cigarettes alone were the cause of their destruction. No boy living would commence the use of cigarettes if he knew what a useless, soulless, worthless thing they would make of him."

John Burroughs, the eminent naturalist, agrees with these views of the evil effects of cigarette smoking.

Mr. Henry Ford, the successful automobile manufacturer of Detroit, will not engage any man to do his fine work, if he indulges in tobacco, particularly in this form. Mr. Ford gives in a recent pamphlet published against what he calls "The Little White Slaver," testimony of many other prominent men against cigarette smoking. He says: "Cigarette smoking is acquiring a hold upon a great many boys in the United States.

Other automobile manufacturers say: "Boys who smoke cigarettes we do not care to keep in our employ. Our object is, first to help men and boys. Second, we believe that men who do not smoke cigarettes or drink make better automobiles than men who do."

The Cadillac Motor Car Co. says among other things: "We find cigarette smokers invariably loose in their morals, untruthful and less productive than cigarette abstainers. We allow no cigarette smoking about the plant, and will not hire men that we know use cigarettes."—Church Advocate.

WORDS OF WISDOM TO CHRISTIAN WORKERS.

Reported from Sermon by Rev. Will Huff.

Not very many of us can contend long for the truth and keep sweet. The first thing you know, you'll be delivering a beautiful message with a bad spirit.

In I. Tim. 6:11, 12 we have some ad-

vice from a great and rich soul, from a great and rich mind to a young man, a Christian worker.

"But thou, O man of God, flee these things." There are two dangers the Christian worker is subject to: itching ears for controversy and itching hands for contributions.

The spirit of criticism grows on one.

Deliver your message in the spirit of Jesus. Maintain your own spirit of sweetness but do not feel that you have to straighten out every one else. Do not get to wrangling with those who have itching ears for such things.

There are a lot of folks who can defend holiness who have lost their own experience of it long ago.

We are not only to "live and let live," but to live and help live.

There are many people who will not take kindly to our ministry. Let us resolve that they will still have a real man or woman on their hands.

"Flee" selfishness. Selfishness is very subtle and the commercial spirit is catching. We will have to live very close to Jesus to escape it. Not very many can maintain the sweet spirit of Jesus in the face of large collections.

So, in your ministry bring your message without a dictatorial spirit or a spirit of wrangling, and on the other hand maintain a sweet sacrificial spirit that will keep you out of commercialism.

"Follow after" the things that will enrich you.

All of your service is to be sacred to God whether it is preaching, teaching, nursing, or whatever it is.

We are not only to give our lives but to have lives worth giving.

Cultivate early an open, receptive mind to truth from any source. What we don't know is a lot.

Through all your mental enlarging maintain your faith and abiding confidence in God.

"Follow righteousness"—rectitude of conduct. Don't do anything your friends will have to apologize for.

"Godliness"—rectitude of life.

"Faith"—carries here the thought of fidelity. There are no little things in your ministry. If I am not giving faithfully the best that I am, in the place where I am, I am not ready for a larger place. Don't whine around and tell us the place where you are from. We want to know the place where you are going.

"Fidelity"—I'll stay right through.

"Love"—Be great lovers. This will take obedience and sacrifice.

"Patience"—It is going to take great patience to preach to folks who don't want anything.

"Meekness"—a beautiful spirit of humility.

"O thou man of God, fight"—there is a place to stand and fight. I am ready to fight for faith and the great principles of faith upon which we build. I am ready to fight for principles but not for forms.

Time spent in secret with the Lord will be sure to be rewarded openly.

"A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches, and loving favour rather than silver and gold.—Prov. 22:1.