

"BED-ROCK STUFF."

We were greatly interested in a communication from C. C. Featherstone, published in a recent issue of the Southern Christian Advocate. The heading of the article arrested our attention. "Is Our Present Day Christianity Going to be Good Enough for the Boys when They Come Back?" One of this editor's boys has been in France several months; another will, possibly, be on the way thither, when the reader of these lines is reading what we write. The question came forcibly home to the writer, will the Christianity which the father has been preaching fifty-seven years "be good enough for the boys, when they come back?"

The thought upon which Mr. Featherstone's communication was based, was suggested by an article in The Ladies' Home Journal for May, which contained a letter from a son who is in France, writing to his father. "He tells his father that Christianity is a thing that we fellows feel inside and live over here." He then goes on to tell of the songs that they sing over there: "Rock of Ages," "Onward Christian Soldiers" and others of like nature. The soldier boy says: "But here again, father, comes a question that points to when we come home. Take our church: I don't see how, for the life of me, I am going to sit and listen to Mr. B. again unless the war has changed him. . . . Such things as Mr. B. stands for: form, ritual, creed and theology, hair-splitting Biblical interpretation—well, it doesn't get very far with us. What a fellow, after such an experience as he gets over here, wants in the way of religion is "bed-rock stuff."

We telegraph our thanks to this young soldier in France, for this new, homely definition of Old Time Religion BED-ROCK STUFF. It is firm as the Rock of Ages. Formulated in the councils of eternity by Father, Son and Holy Spirit, placed within our reach by the life and ministry and death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, and applied to our individual consciousness by the blessed Holy Spirit. It is "the, old, old story of Jesus and His Love." It cancels all guilt; it cleanses away all impurity; it renews the spiritual nature; it clarifies the spiritual vision; it inspires hopes blooming with immortality; it satisfies the longings of every human heart; it brings a peace that passeth all understanding; it holds the soul steady amid flying bullets and clashing arms; it removes the fear of death and opens the gate to eternal life. It is the same in every clime, and shines brightest when clouds are darkest. When other foundations give way mid the stress and strain of this changing world, "The foundation of God standeth sure; having this seal, the Lord knoweth them that are His." This religion "is bed-rock stuff." No serious reader of the Bible; no real, devout Christian can say that the picture we have presented of the religion of our Lord Jesus Christ, has been overdrawn. Nay, it is richer, sweeter, more precious and glorious than the human mind can conceive. "For eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him." I. Cor. 2:9.

All this to be enjoyed here. In the next stage, "A far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory." 2 Cor. 4:17. Paul's terse saying,—"Christ in you, the hope of glory," comprehends all that we have written, as the be-all and end-all of "the bed-rock stuff" of which the soldier-boy writes. Christ is the "Comrade in White," who, we are told that some of the wounded and dying soldiers in France have seen, as He talked and ministered to them—giving them dying grace; and appeared to them on the eve of battle, giving them strength and courage.

The following paragraph closes the letter to which Mr. Featherstone refers: "The fellows who come back home will want something stronger and bigger and deeper than what is being presented in the average pulpit, believe me."

It is not our business or intention to criticize or depreciate the utterances of the pulpit of the present day. We have very limited opportunity of hearing them. But we are fully persuaded, that there never was a time in the world's history when there was a greater demand for the presentation of a real, active, ever-present, personal, soul-saving and soul-sanctifying Christ, as there is today. Amid the rush, and stress and strain of every day life there is a felt need for a living friendship beyond the natural, to keep men's souls in poise, as they press towards the unknown future. Well-read essays and pulpit platitudes, will never satisfy the hungry soul, that is spiritual and eternal. The provisions of grace, through infinite wisdom and love are so abundant, that every exigency of human existence and need may be met, and it will gladden the heart of a living, loving Christ, if we can persuade men, to avail themselves of His bounty. The in-haustible riches of grace, centered in the personal, living Christ, are so great, that for a preacher to fail in knowing it, and presenting it to his people, is little short of criminality in the sight of heaven.

Face to face with life, death and eternity, the soldier boys feel the need of a firm, well-laid foundation upon which to base their hopes for the future, and they know, and we know, that "other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ." I. Cor. 3:11. Hence surrender to Christ, union with Christ, dwelling in Christ, and changed into the likeness of Christ, constitutes the beginning, the progress and the end of the Christian life. At home or abroad, on land or sea, at the battle's front or in the quiet home, living or dying, "Christ is all in all."

"None but Christ to me be given:
None but Christ in earth or heaven."
—The Way of Faith.

"Carnality cannot be successfully suppressed; sooner or later the dormant sinful life will manifest itself. 'The carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.' But thanks be unto God for the glorious deliverance that is made possible for all the children of God in this life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

There is a life where the service of God is a great delight—"I delight to do thy will, O God."

THE CHRISTIAN MINISTRY ENNOBLING.

By Evangelist T. C. Henderson (Pentecostal Herald).

Some forms of public and private calling present easy and multiplied possibilities of personal cheapening and corruption; but that is not true of the Christian ministry. That there are very great dangers in the pathway of the God-called man is very certain; but that the work of the Christian ministry with all its trend is away from that which is ignoble is susceptible of easy proof.

The minister who fails morally cannot whine that it was the peculiar temptations of his calling that made easy his downfall, nay, it would be rather the failure of his own manhood against the drift of his calling. The Christian ministry is not only a noble calling but it is an ennobling calling too.

The ambitions of the true Christian messenger are such as to pull him to the heights rather than keep him down in the lowlands. The Christian worker must needs deal with the "baddest of the bad" and has to know well the trickery of sin and the wickedness of all men; and yet the very reason for his association with it all is such as to make that very association uplifting to himself.

The true Christian worker is not a piece of driftwood: he is a man with a big purpose and a God-given ambition. That very ambition is such as to ever transform him into a better and more noble man.

The responsibilities of the Gospel evangel are of such nature that they tend to elevate and enlarge the structure of his redeemed manhood. The evident fact that he is first of all responsible to God will challenge his entire selfhood to do and be the best he can by the grace of God. His great responsibility is to properly represent the Lord himself in all his words and acts and states. He is not expected to make a name for himself. He is to ever walk before God and be perfect.

If it is true that man is influenced by his surroundings in any sense, then that fact would surely show itself in the worker for God. He lives with and labors with the best of the earth. His reading is high, his social life is among the purest, his daily atmosphere is ever clear, he never need stay where skies are dark and murky, or where fogs depress.

But, and again, His meditations and private musings are upon high and noble things, and as a man thinketh in his heart so is he. What strength comes to the soul that thinks on good things. What a means of grace it is to spend oft and much time with the Lord alone. Surely the work of the worthy minister is such as to bring him to ever higher heights of noble Christ-like manhood rather than to tear down or dissipate his selfhood.

Young man in the Christian ministry, you will find the best field of labor, and labor that will bring the greatest good to yourself.

Love is a level—and a leveller.—Sel.

"The Christian home is the college that gives a training no university can equal."