

"THE WORLD BY WISDOM KNEW NOT GOD."

In the Christian Workers' Magazine there recently appeared a very interesting story of an ordaining council. The writer of the story was himself a member of this council. The council was composed of men of one of the large denominations. The young man who was to be ordained was called in and examined and when he had withdrawn, the members of the council were called upon to state their opinion. Several expressed their regret that he had not received either a college or a seminary education. And although the young man had had the equivalent of a high school education, and was a graduate of the Moody Bible Institute where he had taken the course covering the study of the entire Bible, and he had analyzed every chapter in the Bible, and was familiar with all kinds of Christian work, including open-air meetings, and shop meetings, addressing crowds of working men, visiting the sick and dying in hospitals, and working amongst the drunks and outcasts of the slums, yet this council questioned "whether it was wise to ordain a man as pastor of a church who had received such a limited education." The writer of the story himself defended the young man and pointed out how that although not a college graduate, he knew his Bible and how to use it in bringing people to Christ. Then he goes on to contrast this ordination with one he had attended three years before, where the man was of course a college graduate. He said: "The candidate on his examination declared that he did not think the Bible was any more inspired than Milton or Shakespeare; he did not think that Christ was any more divine than any other man, though undoubtedly a better man; he denied the pre-existence of Christ. When asked how he interpreted 'Before Abraham was I am;' he inquired if there was such a passage, and said 'that he did not recall it.' He denied the virgin birth and the personality of the Holy Spirit. He denied the resurrection. When asked what became of the body of Christ he replied that he did not know, but he was sure that he did not rise from the dead.' He threw out the thirteen epistles of Paul, and the five books of John. When someone asked him what hindered him from being a Unitarian, he said 'he did not know that there was anything to hinder, and in fact he had often asked himself that question, but as he liked their own form of government pretty well, he was satisfied to remain where he was.'

"In an examination of about two hours I suppose he did not quote three passages of Scripture. In fact, he did not seem to know anything about the English Bible. I suggested to him in the examination that if he would answer the questions in Scriptural terms, it would save asking further questions. He did not attempt to do so, however, because he did not seem to have any Scripture at hand. Finally one of the theological professors said, 'Mr. B—, most people have their favorite passages of Scripture. What are some of yours?' He thought a moment, and then replied, 'It doth not yet appear what we shall be? The professor then inquired what were some of

his favorite hymns, and he replied, 'Lead Kindly Light Amid the Encircling Gloom. I like that pretty well.' We could not get anything positive out of him, but all he would do was to tell us what he did not believe. Such an examination seemed very unsatisfactory to me, but the council with only three or four exceptions voted to accept him, and that man is pastor today of that——church."

H. C. MULLEN.

CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor of the Highway:

Would you kindly give space in your valuable paper for me to express my feelings on a certain matter. I have in mind the fourth commandment, "Remember the Sabbath Day to keep it holy." We find in many places in the Bible, both peace and prosperity conditioned upon the keeping of God's commandments, and especially the keeping of His Sabbath. There is no doubt in my mind that the present great war is due largely to the disregard of God's laws. Sabbath breaking is a very prominent feature of the disregard that this generation shows to the God of Heaven and earth. I for one am not ashamed to confess that I am just old fashioned enough to believe the Bible and that what it says will be carried out to the letter, so if God's Sabbath laws are broken we may expect to reap the penalty attached, just as surely as we expect the working of any other law. God's spiritual laws are as certain as His natural laws. If we sow weeds we do not expect to reap wheat. Generally speaking, all are agreed that keeping the Sabbath means to leave undone things which are unnecessary and to use the day as a day of rest and worship of God. See Isa. 58:13, 14. Sometimes it is easier to tell what a thing is not, than to tell what it is. So in this matter, hence we affirm that keeping the Sabbath Day holy, does not consist in driving or autoing for mere pleasure, nor does it consist in using the day for visiting and gossiping. We fear this is too largely the practice, especially in country districts. If any one doubts this I refer him to the items from the surrounding country in any local newspaper. And we are placing the blame upon the good-natured editor, but rather marvel at his long-suffering patience. These items are largely an account of Sunday visiting. "Mr. and Mrs. Jones and family spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Brown. Or Mr. Swain spent Sunday with Miss Lovely," and so on ad infinitum.

In these family visitations there is likely to be more than one evil. Now the Joneses will, while enroute to Brown's, probably pass right by anywhere from one to six churches all open for worship with plenty of vacant seats, but it will never cross their minds that they have obligations to God and His house. They have had six days in which to work, and God has given them the strength, but they forget that God has reserved the seventh day for Himself; and thus they rob Him of His day, and their souls of needed spiritual refreshment. In the second place, usually a poor old horse that has faithfully toiled all the week is hitched into the "carry-all" and driven eight or ten miles and back, thus denying

him of a well-earned rest which God in His wise providence provided for. In the third place Mrs. Brown has to do extra work because company has come and is very likely kept from the house of worship where she was planning to go. Fourthly, the day will very likely be spent in "foolish talking and jesting which are not convenient," instead of "giving thanks." It would do less harm and be more honorable to God and creditable to the country to take one's team into the field and plow, than to get up Sunday morning and drive off somewhere a dozen miles more or less, to spend the day in idle worldly conversation, or to perhaps make a bargain for a cow or pair of oxen. These are times when people should be seriously considering these matters. The greatest spiritual leaders are saying that the quickest way to bring the war to an end, will be for the nations to get back to God by confession of past sins and by starting in to keep His commandments. If we will not do this we may expect to see worse calamities than have already come. We request all those who are interested in this from a Bible standpoint to first read Leviticus the 26th chapter.

H. C. MULLEN.

Grand Manan, N. B., April 30th, 1918.

Dear Brother Baker:

I wish to report through the Highway, that our three weeks meetings, held by Brothers P. J. Trafton and H. S. Dow, were indeed very helpful to our people as a whole. There were seekers at both churches. The last week was spent with the Bellvedere Church and this proved to be a grand success for the short time we were with him, backsliders were reclaimed and sinners converted and believers were sanctified wholly. These dear brethren certainly won their way into our hearts by the stirring messages of full salvation. We as a people believe in a salvation to the uttermost. Amen!

Yours for Holiness,

L. J. ALLEY.

"IF I WERE RICH."

"If I were rich as those mill owners I never could allow men with families to wear their lives away working on such small pay," said a woman of comfortable circumstances, and yet, that very day, she was heard telling her washerwoman that eighty-five cents was more than the other women had charged for the work, in a tone that made the hard-working woman meekly reply: "Pay me just what you paid her. I need the job very much," and the woman received but seventy-five cents for labor in which no one engages except for sore necessity.

"If I had money I would not see our pastor suffer any anxiety about the small salary he is expected to have," said a man, and yet if he had given one-tenth of his income each year to the Lord who had prospered him, the deficiency would have been made up at once.—H. L. Jerome.

We hear that Rev. D. Rand Pierce and wife have again returned to New England from the west, where they have been living because of Sister Pierce's health. They are now located at West Somerville, Mass.