

## WHAT HE MIGHT HAVE DRUNK.

A well known preacher riding in a London omnibus was entertained by a dialogue which was sustained upon the one side by the driver and upon the other by an elderly passenger.

"I understand you're temperance?" began the driver.

"Yes, I'm pretty strong against liquor," returned the other. "I've been set against it now for thirty-five years."

"Scared it will ruin your health?"

"Yes, but that isn't the main thing."

"Perhaps it don't agree with you?" ventured the driver.

"Well, it don't really agree with anybody. But that ain't it either. The thing that sets me against it is a horrible idea."

"A horrible idea! What is it?"

"Well, thirty-five years ago I was sitting in a hotel in America with a friend of mine, and I says, 'Let's order a bottle of something.' And he says, 'No sir. I'm saving my money to buy government land at 7s. and 6d per acre. I'm going to buy tomorrow, and you'd better let me take the money you would have spent for the liquor and buy a couple of acres along with mine.' I says, 'All right.' So we didn't drink, and he bought me two acres.

"Well, sir, today those two acres are right in the middle of a flourishing town, and if I'd taken that drink, I'd have swallowed a city block, a grocery store, an apothecary shop, four lawyers' offices, and it's hard to say what else. That's the idea. Ain't it horrible?"—Ex.

## IN OLD AGE.

Cast me not off in time of old age; forsake me not when my strength faileth.—Psalm 71-9.

And even to your old age I am he; and even to hoary hairs will I carry you: I have made, and I will bear; even I will carry, and I will deliver you.—Isa. 46-4.

The hoary head is a crown of glory, if it be found in the way of righteousness.—Prov. 16-31.

## BETWEEN THE LIGHTS.

Dear heart, come closer, while the light  
Dies slowly in the darkening sky,  
And, marshaled at the call of night,  
The twilight shades troop softly by.

I would not have you sorrow so,  
Because it must be, soon or late,  
That one of us, alone, will go  
From out the light thro' death's dark  
gate.

For life at best is all too short  
When measured by a love like ours,  
And death is but an open port  
To broader fields and fairer flowers.

So, while the twilight shades troop past,  
And night and darkness come apace,  
We know the dawn will break at last,  
And always there is light some place.  
—Selected.

"When thou prayest, let thy words be few, but thy thoughts and affections many, and above all let them be earnest."—Luther.

## NOTES ON HOLINESS.

J. C. Black.

Holiness is wholeness.

Holiness is the normal state.

Holiness is assimilation to God.

Holiness is "promotion," not 'emotion.'

Holiness is not a luxury, but 'an absolute' necessity.

Holiness prepares us for the society of angels and the church of the first-born.

Holiness is begun in regeneration.

Holiness is not a hobby but a second definite work of grace wrought in the heart by the Holy Ghost.

Holiness is distinguishable from every other grace and when received is attested by the Spirit of God.

Holiness is not only the elimination of fear from the heart but likewise being made perfect in love.

Holiness is negatively perfect deliverance from all inherited depravity; positively it is being filled with the fulness of God.

Holiness is more than blessing although it comprises this. Blessing ebbs and flows but holiness is constant.

Holiness is neither Adamic nor angelic perfection. Neither is it a state of innocence but simply purity of heart.

Holiness does not save from sins of ignorance properly so called although it greatly helps our understanding.

Holiness gives us a holy boldness and courage to undertake in Jesus' name.

Holiness has never been popular except when disrobed of its divinity and known only in word and in tongue.

Holiness has always meant opposition, misrepresentation and obloquy. It is the doctrine which the devil peculiarly hates.

Holiness in name only has done much injury to the cause of God. People look for pomegranates as well as bells or fruit as well as profession.

Holiness if experienced by every regenerated person would mean evangelization on a large scale and of a radical style.

The Rev. J. Fletcher once said to Mrs. Hester Ann Rogers, "Come my sister, we will covenant together to spread the sacred flame and to testify before men and angels the blood of Jesus cleanses from all sin."

With flowing tears she replied, "I will," and she did.

How many will say, Amen and do it?

The Lord sent his angel into the camp of the Assyrians, and in one night 185,000 were smitten with death. This ended the siege, and the God-defying king fled to his home in Ninevah, where he was murdered by his own sons.

One minute with God in earnest prayer and mighty faith might settle some trouble that we have on hand. It is all right to do what we can for ourselves, but the Lord alone can put an end to some of our trials. Let us take our trials to headquarters. It may be you have come to a point where the Lord God Almighty alone can help. One minute alone with Him may forever settle the whole matter.—Sel.

"Many an icy church has gone into the ice cream business."

## THESE ARE THE DAYS.

These are the days for personal work for souls. Some one tells of a Christian worker who had been praying for a certain policeman for a long time. One day, as this worker was walking along a street, the Spirit said to him: "Now is your time." Therefore, when he met the policeman, he said: "Well, my friend, you seem to be trying to keep the peace as usual." "Yes, sir," was the proud reply; "I've been on this force for ten years." "And you have not yet made your peace with God. Why not now?" The policeman's eyes filled with tears as he said: "I've been thinking about it for some time, and I will do it now." These are the days when men think on eternal things, on death, destiny. These, therefore, are the days of opportunity.—Central Christian Advocate.

## HIS OWN, NOT ANOTHER'S.

Some say the "Pilgrim's Progress" is not mine,

Insinuating as if I would shine

In name and fame by the worth of another,  
Like some made rich by robbing of their  
brother,

Or that so fond I am of being sire,  
I'll father bastards; or, if need require,  
I'll tell a lie in print to get applause.

I scorn it: John such dirt-heap never was,  
Since God converted him. Let this suffice  
To show why I my "Pilgrim" patronize.

It came from mine own heart, so to my  
head,

And thence into my fingers trickled;  
Then to my pen, from whence immediately  
On paper I did dribble it daintily.

—John Bunyan.

## BUNYAN'S BURNING MESSAGES.

Three thousand persons have been gathered together to hear him in a remote part of the town, and no fewer than twelve hundred, on a dark winter's morning at seven o'clock even on week days.

The celebrated Dr. Owen is said to have been among his occasional hearers, and it is related of him that being asked by Charles II. how a learned man, such as he was, could sit and hear an illiterate tinker prate—he replied, "May it please Your Majesty, could I possess that tinker's abilities for preaching, I would gladly relinquish all my learning."

## HEAVEN'S FIRST LAW.

"The Bible rings with one long demand for obedience \* \* \* We must not question, nor reply, nor excuse ourselves. We must not think that obedience in one direction will compensate for disobedience in some other particular. God gives one command at a time; if we obey this, he will flood our souls with blessings, and lead us forward into new paths and pastures. But if we refuse we shall remain stagnant and waterlogged, make no progress in Christian experience, and lack both power and joy."—F. B. Meyer.

"Refusal to consecrate all to God is a trick of the devil. Holding back part of the price is itself a deception. It will soon follow with falsehood to God and man. The final consequences who can tell?"