

## DIVORCE AND THE PREACHER'S RELATION TO IT.

(Rev. C. S. Hilyard)

In the Book of Malachi we have two subjects specially dealt with, "Tithing" and "The marriage state." Laxness has brought a curse. In the second chapter we have a charge and there is no mistaking who is meant, for it begins thus, "And now ye priests this commandment is for you."—Malachi 2:1. He charges them with "profaning the holiness of God which he loved" (and which they ought to love) margin, verse 11, and he says he will cut off both the "master" (that is) the teacher and the scholar, the one who accepts the teaching, verse 12: now what is this that defiles holiness and angers God to the extent he will cut them off. In verse 13 he refuses to hear prayer or visit altars any more where this thing is in evidence, regardless of tears or cries (it is not crocodile tears). God wants but "Obedience." Now what is this grievous sin that defiled holiness, and hinder prayer and offends God? It is divorce and re-marriage.

They ask wherefore? Why? He answers 'by being treacherous to the wife of youth.' Dr. Adam Clark says they would gain the affections of the daughter of a brother Jew, marry her, then see the daughter of an idol worshipper, divorce the first and marry the second.

God's attitude is plainly revealed in verse 14: "I have been witness between the parties of the first ceremony." How do you suppose I can look with favor on the second while the first is living. God says, "I hold her to still be thy companion and wife of thy covenant." Verse 14, God says, "I am tired and weary of the whole business." They say, "How have we wearied thee?" By saying "every one that doeth evil is good in the sight of the Lord." What evil is he talking about? Why, the evil of "putting away," of which he had recorded in verse 16: that "he hated." He says, "Behold I will send a preacher I can depend upon to teach according to my will and he will not be a reed shaken by the wind, but will correct these abuses, and get men ready to receive Jesus.

Jesus says, this messenger who was to come was John. I watch him to see what he does when he runs up against this thing in high life.

I notice that Herod heard John and enjoyed his preaching, "did many things and heard him gladly," Mark 6-20. But Josephus records in "antiquities of the Jews." Page 78, that Herod had divorced his first wife, the daughter of Aretus King of Arabia, and married Herodias, and on page 80 of Josephus "Antiquities of the Jews," he records that Herodias had divorced her husband Philip, so here were two people who had been legally divorced and lawfully married. So from a legal standpoint they were man and wife, but John is God's messenger, what will he say to this couple, who hear him gladly and do many things? Some of that old bunch in Malachi's day would have said why! You can keep each other and have Jesus too. Not so John. He says "it is not lawful for thee to have her." He is telling us these questions will have to be settled according to God's law, re-

gardless of man's decisions, and if unlawful for them therefore unlawful for all others. John goes to jail, loses his head, not because he is teaching wrong but because he is true to God. You can no more keep the proceeds of your immoral life and get salvation than you can keep the proceeds of your dishonest life and be a Christian.

Herod acknowledged him to be just. "Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife?" I have quoted from John, Mark, Mathew, Malachi, Paul, Herod, Josephus, History, Scripture and Jesus, and they all record No! No! No!

### CORRESPONDENCE.

Fellsmere, Florida, Dec. 6, 1920.

Dear Brother Baker:

This is a beautiful land. As I write it is like June almost. I hear the birds twittering, the grass is green, flowers blooming in profusion and such beautiful flowers. I glance out and here is an orange tree, loaded with golden fruit, and nearby a grape fruit tree also loaded, a large lime tree loaded with limes, and a tanguine tree—which fruit we rarely see in the north.

My neighbor has a fig tree in her yard, but the time of figs is not yet. They now resemble little green balls.

Florida is surely a fruitful land. Large train loads of fruit are now being shipped North. The tourists are coming to Florida by the hundreds, many come in their cars.

The hotels are full, but tents are provided for them, also camping grounds.

We find the southern people very delightful to meet, a stranger is made to feel at home, especially in the church. The nearest one to us is a Union church. For the number of people in this place the attendance is rather small.

A Methodist pastor preaches in the evening; came here from Indiana last July. We like him very much. He is a good man, and has the experience of holiness, but he does not have much liberty in preaching the doctrine—the people do not seem to understand it.

Last Sabbath a Campbellite preacher occupied the pulpit. He preached a good sermon, among other things he said there is a sad falling away in our Sabbath Schools; and the mothers of America are neglecting their duty in not bringing their children to be taught the truths of the Bible, and he also said—if Joseph Smith's mother had done her duty by her boy, this hideous thing called Mormonism would not be cursing America today—but she failed to do her duty by him, and on her deathbed when it was too late, she saw where she had betrayed her trust.

Rev. Billy Sunday is in Jacksonville, about a day's ride from here, and is hewing the axe to the foot of the tree, calling on people to repent, and give up sin, and he surely does call a spade a spade.

He was offered \$1,000,000 yearly to give up preaching the gospel and go in the movies, but nothing doing, says Rev. Sunday. I hear he will be in the South the rest of the winter. Ma Sunday and her boys have gone to Cuba.

We are having a series of meetings in the Union Church here, conducted by a Doctor from North Carolina. His wife and

a singer are with him. A gentleman who knows him told us he gave up his medical practice to go out and preach the gospel; left his beautiful home behind him. He surely is a man of God, preaches a straight clean gospel and his wife conducts a Bible Class two or three times a week. He scores the sins of the day, dancing and card playing. Next Sunday he will preach on the Second Coming of Christ. We are hoping that many souls will be saved in this place, as it is very worldly indeed. Lots of whiskey is shipped north from the south—coming from Cuba, and a large quantity of moonshine is made near here.

There is much missionary work to be done in Florida and the laborers are few.

A converted ex-convict is passing through here; he preaches in the school-houses and wherever he can get the chance is doing much good.

The people, not all, seem to be hungry for the truth and do not seem to be as gospel hardened as many in the north.

One sees many beautiful little homes here nestling among the orange groves. The "cullied" people are here in abundance; there is a negro church not far from us, and when we came from church one evening we could hear them shouting and clapping their hands, and my better-half said, well they have more fire there than the church we have just left, which was as silent as a tomb.

To all our friends we send greetings, and may God give us a great harvest of souls this winter.

Your brother and sister saved and kept,  
F. T. KIMBALL AND WIFE.

Dear Brother Baker:

Knowing that you are greatly interested in the work here, I feel constrained to assure you that we are in a real battle with the adversary.

It is a great pleasure to labor with Brother and Sister Keirstead. They have borne the burden of the work in this community so patiently that few have realized the extent of their labors of love. But He in whose sight the hidden motive of the soul that action underlies commends the deed or else condemns, will see that the good seed that has been sown will yield a harvest.

The interest in the services has been increasing and we are expecting victory through the blood of the Lamb and by the word of our testimony. Hallelujah!

I rejoice that we may live where the enemy can not move us.

"Dwell deep! the little things that chafe and fret,

O waste not golden hours to give them heed!

The slight, the thoughtless wrong, do thou forget:

Be self forgot in serving other's need. Though faith in God through love for man shall keep,

Dwell deep my soul, dwell deep."

Yours in the holy war,

R. C. POTTER.

A loaded vessel is safer on the ocean than an empty one. A Christian who is carrying responsibilities goes steadier than one who will assume none.