

my own profit or honor or glory but I am here to covet of thee a gift as child-evangelist. I would not ask it if there was any one else here who had it. Wilt thou please bestow upon me the gift of child evangelist?" He told me that the Lord answered him somewhat as He answered Solomon, "Because thou hast not desired long life," etc. "Because thou hast not asked of Me some gift to give thee honor but a gift to the saving of children * * * I have this day bestowed upon thee a gift to the evangelization of children." He says, "I went to the children's meeting and immediately got twenty boys and girls converted." From that day till he died he never let a meeting pass without having at least one children's revival service. Many young men that are now preaching the Gospel were converted under Dr. Keene. "Covet earnestly the best gifts."

I said I would give you two illustrations. This was the case of a brother minister who heard Dr. Keene tell this experience, a very able man he was, a doctrinal preacher and successful pastor. But he had no gift or tact for getting souls through at the altar. He could get them under conviction and sometimes get them to move, but he did not know what to do with them after he did get them to move, and he thought, "Well, my gift is that of a teacher or doctrinal preacher," and did not bother so much about it until he saw that from time to time the harvest was ripe under his own ministry and he had no grip, no tact, no power for getting souls through. He heard Dr. Keene give the experience I have just related. He went out to the woods (though the woods is not an essential part of it), and waited on the Lord and asked Him for a gift for conducting an altar service and for getting souls through. I was associated with that man for twenty years after that. There was not in all my acquaintance a man whether evangelist or pastor that was more skilful and uniformly successful in conducting an altar service than was that man. He would let the seekers pray and encourage them to pray and would let different workers work with them, but usually at a certain juncture he would ask, "Now I want all at the altar to listen to me." He would begin to lay down certain simple propositions and terms and conditions and carry them along with him until one by one they would fall into the Fountain. The gifts are covetable according to God's sovereign will, and He invites us to seek them and to covet them earnestly.

Maybe you would like me in conclusion to suggest one or two needed gifts now. I will tell you one gift that has been pretty nearly lost to the church in our lifetime. Other gifts have been lost to the church by lack of faith. Speaking about the matter of healing, to illustrate the present point. Would you like to know what John Wesley says about the gift of healing. John Wesley was a great scholar. He says for three hundred years the Christian church practiced no other mode of healing, but he speaks of that as a gift that has been lost to the church by the loss of faith.

There is a gift that has been largely lost to the church in our own time and that is the gift of exhortation. Do you know, the modern preacher goes all to

top. How few have the gift to take not only what truth I have spoken but what truth those people have learned long ago and use it as grappling hooks to get hold of the affections and will and pull the thing through. Don't you be anxious just to explain things and unravel mysteries and answer questions. Just take what little truth they know and allow and see if you can apply that. You say, that is good for the preachers but most of us are not preachers. Well say, you have the privilege of exhorting anyway whether you are preachers or not. Just use your privilege. Your power to preach and exhort is not in your license, not in your office, it is in the Holy Ghost. What is that second gift that you say you would like us to covet now? This is if possible, more than that. The gift of personal evangelism, hand-picked fruit. There is some fruit you can gather as you do prunes, you shake the trees. That would not work on oranges. They have to be hand picked or you can not market them, and there is a great deal of fruit that won't be gathered at all unless it is hand picked. "Covet earnestly the best gifts." And personal evangelism is surely one of these!

AN ENEMY THAT NOW SEEKS CHURCH-WIDE DOMINION.

The educational world of today is antagonistic to the religion of Jesus. It is so in its ambition, in its assumptions, and in its affiliations. Whatever use Christianity has for modern education, it has little use for Christianity other than as an asset for its prestige and its propaganda and an arena for its exploits. The State University professor is an infidel in most of his influence and much of his profession. And the denominational University professor is often a hypocrite in his arrival of allegiance to the church whose bread he eats, and whose foundations he undermines in the minds of the youth of the land. We speak of general conditions with due respect for notable exceptions, and for graded example on either side. The product of the School of today is a class to which the newspapers allot space on the same or the next page to the Sporting News rather than near the church notices and; they themselves are more familiar with the late novels than with the old Bible. More at home at the movies than they are at meetings for prayer. Better acquainted with banquets and dancing feet than they are with fastings or bowed heads and knees bent in prayer. Mammon is their master. Leadership is their boast—and a this-world-kingdom rather than the Kingdom of heaven is their goal. The scholar who is Pauline enough to determine to "know nothing among men save Jesus Christ and him crucified" is a hero in the School world and destined to be a martyr in the ecclesiastical world today.

Evangelism, while ever stimulating to study and to Christian education, has strangely enough no greater and more subtle foe than that of the Higher Education of our times. And what under the pretense of a higher product is its office in place of Evangelism is no equivalent nor sufficient substitute for it in the saving of souls and the building up of Christ's Kingdom.

As things now stand, the price one must pay for excellency in scholarship is mediocrity in religion. The price one must pay for excellency in religion is mediocrity in learning. The Sadducees have our Schools—the yearning for much learning must with other natural cravings, be sacrificed rather than satiated if one would make a success of the spiritual life. The holy scholar is become as rare as the holy millionaire. The Gospel ministry of any time can stand only about the same percentage of scholars and professional men—as it did when Jesus chose the twelve. And the simple hearted fishermen have under the inspiring Spirit left us luminous writings upon inter-world affairs as the likewise inspired though better learned and later called Apostle Paul.

It is best for our Holiness Colleges to content our youth with a good working education, and studious habits, and a zeal for early effectiveness in the ministry and other practical services of lifting rather than to encourage the natural ambition for endless courses and numberless degrees from universities where many of them are—as Paul warned against—being spoiled through philosophy. Here are two good mottoes. One for the scholar and one for the holy man of God:

(1) "Be not wise in your own conceits."

(2) Mind not high things; but condescend to men of low estate."—Heart and Life.

THE THANKFUL HEART.

Thankfulness comes from the heart, not from the circumstances. "In everything give thanks" (1 Thess. 5:18). Matthew Henry, the commentator, robbed of his purse, remarked: "Let me be thankful, first, because I never was robbed before. Second, because, although they took my purse, they did not take my life. Third, because although they took my all, it was not much. Fourth, because it was I who was robbed, and not I who robbed."

A poor cobbler was always praising God, even in misfortune, believing it to be by God's permission. His wife scolded him daily for thanking God for nothing. One day the poor but happy cobbler fell downstairs and broke his right leg. The wife came rushing to the scene of the accident to hear her espoused fervently saying: "Thank God." "Are you fool enough to thank God for a broken leg?" she shouted in vexation.

"Thank God I did not break both legs," was the unexpected reply of the smiling cobbler.—The Armory.

JUST LIKE THEM.

"It is charged against prohibition now that there is a shortage of scrub women. What an objection! A pity that the people who have been fighting for prohibition did not think of this fact! Hard to get women to scrub offices and railroad cars, shops. Perhaps some of those husky bar-tenders might get a job at scrubbing floors and shops if they would apply. This is just one of the innumerable blessings that prohibition has brought with it, and we see who the sufferings ones have been."