

SPIRITUAL BUILDING.

"Building up yourselves in your most holy faith."—Jude 20.

Here we are exhorted to build up ourselves. A building is the result of some deliberate planning, and the execution of some definite work. We need no more expect to get a spiritual building by mere chance than we could get a house to live in here. God has furnished the material and given very specific directions in respect to the erection of the building. Besides this He has given us some cautions which we would do well to notice. We are cautioned with respect to the foundation, the manner of building, and the material we put in. It is not enough to rush right into building before there is any preparatory work done. Usually before men can lay a suitable foundation, there is some digging to be done, some rubbish to be removed. This may seem a needless and unpleasant task, but it is nevertheless fundamental. As in nature, God has already laid His foundation, our work is to find it and get settled upon it. "For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ." I Cor. 3:11. Before we begin to build our spiritual house we need to be sure that we have reached the only foundation. It usually takes some digging, and removing, and confessing before we reach the foundation. To find the foundation is all important. People are building up their hopes on many other things rather than on Jesus: some on their good works, some on their own inherent goodness, others on the hope that God will have mercy on them in their dying hour, or at the judgment. Everybody is building himself up on some supposed foundation. The infidel builds himself up on the hope and supposition that the Bible is not true. The sinner and backslider build on the hope that they will become Christians some time in the future, while others, not willing to submit to Jesus here, rock themselves to sleep on the plea that God is merciful and will pass them through at the last day. But the word tells us that no other foundation can be laid but Jesus, and we are told to build up ourselves on our most holy faith, and this faith is the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Then the caution is, "Let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon." The importance of the building is so great that we need to pay goodly heed to the process of building. We need to know that the building is fairly placed upon the foundation; we need to take care that all the beams and braces are in their proper places. "Take heed." That means, do not leave it to chance, do not trust to a "hope so," or a "maybe so," do not trust the matter to anyone else, but know that the work is done and done thoroughly.

We are cautioned concerning the material. "Every man's work shall be made manifest; for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is." Fire will be the test; so then, in the selecting of the material it is utter folly to put in anything that will not stand fire. Our own righteousness will not do it. The

false hopes of the sinner and backslider will not stand the fire. Oh, how quickly all the little hiding places and foolish excuses that have been held to and nursed for years, will be shown up and burned away. The only things that will stand the test of fire in that day when all things shall be revealed, are the things that will stand the test of God's Word here. We can bring all the material before the bar of our own consciences, and in the light of Bible truth can prove whether it is fit for the structure or not. People usually get honest enough on their death beds to distinguish between that which will stand the fire of the judgment and that which will not. What we need right down here is a deathbed, judgment-day honesty, with a conscience enlightened by God's truth. There is so much of compromise and false hope, and so many to preach and write to pacify and soothe the consciences of worldly minded professors, and those who have the form but deny the power, that we need to look well to ourselves what we are putting our hopes on and what material we are putting in. Our building will be tried by fire and flood; that alone will abide which is firmly founded upon the Rock, Christ Jesus.

May God help us to take heed how we build!

H. C. MULLEN.

PERFECT TRUST.

I may not always know the way
Wherein God leads my feet;
But this I know, that 'round my path
His love and wisdom meet,
And so I rest content to know
He guides my feet where'er I go.

I may not always understand
Just why he sends to me
Some bitter grief, some heavy loss,
But, though I cannot see,
I kneel, and whisper through my tears
A prayer for help, and know He hears.

My cherished plans and hopes may fail,
My idols turn to dust,
But this I know, my Fathers' love
Is always safe to trust:
These things are dear to me, but still
Above them all I love His will.

Oh, precious peace within my heart;
Oh, blessed rest to know
A Father's love keeps constant watch,
Amid life's ebb and flow;
I ask no more than this; I rest
Content, and know His way is best.

—Selected.

Old age has its compensations. It is the quiet eventide of life, when the rancorous voices of the day are hushed and nature has her chance to speak to the inmost soul of man. The hot passions of youth have died down and lie in ashes upon the hearth. The ambitions of life are memories. The house of the soul has open windows, and out of the clear glass shines immortal spirit. Age is the soul's hour. The soul near heaven reflects the clear shining of heaven's mourning. God bless the aged. They point us to the perfect life and the heavenly day.—The Methodist Protestant.

MISSIONARY CORRESPONDENCE.

(Continued from Page Three)

backsliding—"I will not blot out his name."

6. Rev. 3:12. "I will make him a pillar in the temple of my God." Still more remote is the possibility of backsliding. Here the overcomer is a fixture, supporting the very temple of God, and "shall go no more out." Closer and still closer the believer is drawn in his walk with God. The name of God is in his forehead and the name of the city is upon him. He is a part of the grand temple that is the habitation of God. Lastly, there is written upon him the "new name." So he is completely separated from the world and identified with the temple and even God Himself.

7. Rev. 3:21. "To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in His throne." Thus, we see that this throne, like Solomon's, is reached by six steps. Let us, then, pray for grace to recognize the difficulties and trials of life as divinely placed stepping-stones, leading upward to where we shall sit with Christ in His throne.

H. C. SANDERS.

"GIRLS WANTED."

That was the placard swaying in the breeze, "Girls Wanted," and all day long all sorts of girls noticed the swinging advertisement. Big girls and little girls, fat girls and thin girls, loud girls and quiet girls, went into the shop, and were engaged to work in the new knitting mill. "Girls wanted."

I have had sort of waking dream over that placard. It seemed as if I saw it suspended from the blue sky, where the cords fastened to it were upheld by invisible hands. It was snowy white, with a silvery edge, and the letters were of gold. The sun shone on them, and they sparkled and danced as if in great joy. Swaying back and forth away up in the sky, it seemed to me that it meant that the whole world was crying, "Girls Wanted." And now that I am wide awake, I feel just the same as I did. The whole world does want girls, good girls, home girls.

"The girls that are wanted are good girls—
Good from the heart to the lips,
Pure as the lily is white and pure
From its heart to its sweet leaf tips.
The girls that are wanted are home girls—
Girls that are mother's right hand,
That fathers and mothers can trust in,
And the little ones can understand—
Girls that are fair on the hearthstone,
And pleasant when nobody sees;
Kind and sweet to their own folks,
Ready and anxious to please.
The girls that are wanted are wise girls,
That know what to do and say,
That drive with a smile and a loving word
The gloom of the household away."

—Helen Hall Farlay.

"A strong will is the ability to chose to do without the thing I want, if it is not for my highest good."