

## Young People's Column

Hartland Missionary Station,  
Via Paulpietersburg, Natal.

Dear Young People: Some one has said "The way up is down," which means the same as "He that humbleth himself shall be exalted." This is the secret of promotion in the kingdom of God. The ones whom God has exalted most highly have been the meekest ones that He could find.

The chiefest among the apostles, and the one "more abundant in labour than they all" was Paul. He had many visions and revelations, being even caught up to the third heaven. In the healing of the sick he was so favoured of God that a cloth, like a handkerchief, could be sent from him to be laid on the sick and they would recover. But yet he always was humble, giving all the glory to God. I know of two men of our day, who being used of God in an unusual way, became high-minded and each in his turn gave it out, publishing it in his own church paper, that he was the promised Elijah. Soon after this their power waned.

But our Paul says that he was given a "thorn in the flesh" to help him keep humble. This thorn we believe to be a physical weakness, perhaps poor eyesight. Three times he asked God to heal him, but was given grace to go on and be used most wonderfully in spite of his handicap.

Perhaps the best example in the Old Testament is Moses. If I ask you what he was noted for, you might reply, "for giving the law," which is correct. Someone else, younger, might say, "for being rescued from the river in a basket." And so there are many really correct answers. For who else ever saw a "burning bush," or took a snake by the tail and "it became a staff"? Or who else was ever buried by angels? But the answer I want is that he was the "meekest" man in the whole world. Therefore, according to our law of the kingdom, he was just the man to be promoted above all other men in the whole world. And that is exactly what happened, for he stands next to the Captain of our salvation. "The law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ." And in heaven they "sing the song of Moses and The Lamb."

This law of promotion holds even in the case of our Captain Himself. He humbled Himself and became obedient . . . even unto the death of the cross. There hath God highly exalted Him, and given Him a name which is above every name.

In the very beginning of His ministry, Jesus taught His disciples in the first of His sermons on the Mount. "Blessed are the meek." Even His invitation to the sad, unsaved ones is: "Come . . . learn of Me, for I am meek and lowly." All along through those wonderful three years He was teaching His disciples and all the people to be humble. For they all wanted to "be the greatest," or to "sound a trumpet before" them, or to be "seen of men," or "to receive honour of men." Almost His parting message was that marvellous condescension when He washed the feet of His disciples. We do not wonder that Peter said, "Thou shalt never wash my feet!"

Humility is the rarest, sweetest and most fragrant flower that Jesus brought with Him from heaven to earth. When planted in the human heart it enables us to walk with God and be satisfied when He alone smiles upon us. We are content and happy in being faithful to Him, even when others get all the praise for what we have accomplished. Our only ambition is not for per-

sonal promotion, but that our Saviour and Lord be exalted.

Humility never grows alone. Always there are the other heavenly flowers—perfect love, joy unspeakable and full of glory, faith that does not fail, and peace that passeth understanding. Flowers and music belong together, and so the singing birds are soon attracted. While we work, they sing, until we learn the heavenly song of "Moses and the Lamb"—of meekness and sacrifice.

What think you, my young friends? Are you candidates for this kind of promotion that means following the meek and lowly Jesus? If so, here is the agreement, the form for you to fill in and sign. (Rev. 14:1-5):

1. To follow the Lamb whithersoever He goeth.
2. To be redeemed from among men. To be unlike worldly people.
3. No guile (deceit or lies) found in your mouth.
4. To be without fault (blemish) before God.

If you agree to all this, then you will sign on to serve our Captain for life in both worlds. You are to *follow*. He will *lead*. His "yoke" will be "easy" and His "burden light." You will find "rest to your souls."

The natives of Africa have a way of burning off all the grass, weeds and rubbish before plowing their gardens. So our Lord, before planting His heavenly flowers in the human heart, plans to "burn the chaff with unquenchable fire." The "fault" or blemishes of the above condition (4), takes more or less time to correct. God will attend to that.

Our part is to "*follow*" moment by moment as He leads. "For the meek will He guide in judgment: the meek will He teach His way."

Thus walking with our Lord, we shall find that we have a little heaven to go to heaven in. "For thus saith the High and Lofty One . . . I dwell . . . with Him that is of an humble and contrite heart."

Your friend, in Jesus,

H. C. SANDERS.

### YET TO BE DONE.

Coming out of church one Sunday night, a gentleman was stopped by a friend, who inquired with a smile: "Is the sermon done, then?"

"No," was the reply; it is preached, but it has yet to be done."

When we have heard the Word, we should ask ourselves these questions: "What is all this to me? What sin in me does it reprove? What duty from me does it require?" Only by such personal application of the Word and by putting into practice its precepts, can we get the blessing it is meant to bring us.

This is refreshing! And preacher, the sermon you preached, if it be the Word and is preached in prayer and power, is never done. You thought it got "nowhere," when maybe God has sent it everywhere. Preach, preach, and as if God had given you your last opportunity and the sermon will never be done.—*Wonderful World*.

Let me emphasize the fact that the word "meek" does not mean "weak." There is no suggestion here of softness. My old schoolmaster once wrote to point out to men that in Greek the word here translated "meek" is used of a colt broken in ready for its work. It means strength harnessed for service, force completely at rest, and therefore powerful.—*Campbell Morgan*.

## FLETCHER'S RULES FOR SELF-EXAMINATION

Among the early Methodists there was not a more saintly man than John Fletcher, of Madeley. Of him John Wesley said, "So unblameable a man, in every respect, I have not found either in Europe or in America, nor do I expect to find another such this side of eternity." The following rules show the standard by which he tested his heart day by day. It is not surprising that facing these he walked with God:

1. Did I awake spiritual, and was I watchful in keeping my mind from wandering this morning when I was rising?
2. Have I this day got nearer to God in times of prayer, or have I given way to a lazy, idle spirit?
3. Has my faith been weakened by unwatchfulness or quickened by diligence today?
4. Have I this day walked by faith and eyed God in all things?
5. Have I denied myself in all unkind words and thoughts? Have I been delighted in seeing others preferred before me?
6. Have I made the most of my precious time so far as I had light, strength and opportunity?
7. Have I kept the issues of my heart in the means of grace so as to profit by them?
8. What have I done this day for the souls and bodies of the saints?
9. Have I laid out anything to please myself, when I might have saved the money for the cause of God?
10. Have I governed well my tongue this day, remembering that in a multitude of words there wanteth not sin?
11. In how many instances have I denied myself this day?
12. Do my life and conversation adorn the gospel of Jesus Christ?—Selected.

### SECURITY

Now I have found the ground wherein.

Sure my soul's anchor may remain;

The wounds of Jesus, for my sin

Before the world's foundation slain;

Whose mercy shall unshaken stay

When heaven and earth are fled away.

O Love, Thou Bottomless Abyss,

My sins are swallowed up in Thee;

Covered is my righteousness,

No spot of guilt remains on me;

While Jesus' blood, through earth and skies,

Mercy, free, boundless mercy, cries.

Fixed on this ground will I remain,

Though my heart fail and strength decay;

This anchor shall my soul sustain,

When earth's foundations melt away;

Mercy's full power I then shall prove,

Loved with an everlasting love.

—Johann Andreas Rothe.

"Great occasions do not make heroes or cowards—they simply reveal them to the eyes of men. Silently and imperceptibly, as we wake or sleep, we grow and wax strong, or we grow and wax weak, and at last some crisis shows us what we have become."—Bishop.

A minister is to be a real man, a live man, a true man, a simple man; great in his love, in his life, in his work, in his simplicity, in his gentleness.—John Hall.