

## EDUCATION—AN ASSET OR A LIABILITY

By Rev. A. S. Hunter

Educate," literally, means "to draw out," and applies to the development and training of one's natural mental powers. In use, it came to mean a course of instruction in school, etc. Unless one has graduated from college, etc., he is not reckoned as being educated; though he may be mentally better trained than the graduate from college. There is an unlimited and ever-increasing amount of useful knowledge which is beneficial to us. Also, there is a vast amount of so-called "science," which now constitutes a very large proportion of school, college and university courses, but which is presumption, not fact. This is true of the evolutionary theory, and of most that grows out of it. From the high school and up, and even in the lower grammar grades, the evolutionary theory plays a large part. Before children are capable of real lucid reasoning for themselves their minds are crammed with the fallacies of "the cave man," "the jungle man," "the tree man," etc., which prepares their mental soil for the pernicious seeds of anti-Bible evolution later on.

A very large part of modern education is tintured and poisoned with that sort of stuff. It is practically impossible for a boy or girl now to go through high school, or beyond, and not be infected with that kind of thing. Where this takes root in the mind, it inevitably unfits one to believe a large part of the Bible. Children are imbued with the notion that "science is infallibly true," therefore, anything which does not harmonize with "science" must be erroneous. Consequently, they can not believe the Bible account of creation, including the various species of plants and animals, as coming from the hand of God complete in the beginning, as the Bible says. And, to them, the Bible being wrong in that, where is it right? In this subtle way, the minds and hearts of children and young people are closed to very much of the gospel message.

Is such education, taking it as we find it, an asset or a liability? We can not separate and approve "education," in the abstract, while condemning the fallacies; for the children and young people can not get the former apart from the latter. The Bible is banned from public schools and state colleges, as being "sectarian"; but evolution, with all its demoralizing (immoralizing) effects, is given full right of way. The quaint remark of a humorist, "It is better not to know so many things, than to know so many things that are not so," is pertinent now.

Half a century ago, Methodism felt the reproach of an uneducated ministry, as compared with other denominations. Today, that is largely changed. And other things have changed, also! Methodism has lost her evangelistic power. And, what is even worse, she has lost her concern about that. Scarcely any of the "educated," school-trained preachers do real soul-saving work. And the church has reached the point where only school-trained men are welcomed to conference membership. The exceptions must take the four years' conference course, and attend the summer schools of theology, both of which are in a line with the colleges and seminaries. Result, nearly 100 per cent of the Methodist preachers are imbued with the skeptical evolutionary idea, and can not have soul-saving revivals.

Is such an "educated ministry" an asset or a liability? The real spiritual work of the church is now done by the few who are either uneducated, or have had the poison of evolution neutralized

by holiness camp meetings or their equivalent. The holiness schools are helping to save the day. The hundreds of fully saved, educated men and women which they turn out, make the flavoring and preserving "salt," but they can scarcely do more than that.

Some men who were admitted to conference membership fifty years ago, when the standard of scholarship was not so rigid, and who faithfully did God's work through the years, would not now be deemed eligible to conference membership. And yet, some of them are better "educated," in the true sense of that word, than the school graduates. By careful reading, they have acquired a great fund of information. Because of the lack of school facilities and helps, they have developed their own resources the more. Also, they have made the Bible a text book. They have too much native sense to believe the contradictions of evolution!

One such gave a half-hour discourse, rich in Bible truth, which revealed his intimate acquaintance with its history and prophecy. He showed Christ's relation to both, and made His Deity luminous, also the place which His resurrection has in the divine plan of salvation. A layman, who is strong for "an educated ministry," though himself uneducated, exclaimed triumphantly, "There! That proves it! Only an educated man could do that." The veteran of many years and battles for souls said, "But, brother, I am not 'educated' as you suppose. I never went as far as high school. What I have been saying, I got out of this Book"—laying his hand on the open Bible before him. And yet, he was more highly educated, in the true sense of being drawn out as to his own capacities, than most of the men of degrees. But, a young man with His Bible knowledge (if that could be), and his evangelistic zeal, but with meager school training, would now be turned down by most of the Methodist conferences.

Is the "education" of today an asset or a liability—to society, to the church, to the kingdom of God?—*The Free Methodist*.  
DeLand, Florida.

## RENEWED STRENGTH

"Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall; but they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength." (Isa. 40:31).

The supernatural is here contrasted with the natural, the divine contrasted with the human. There is absolute necessity for the human waiting upon, being linked to, and becoming dependent upon the divine.

The old saints realized this. The present-day saints are forgetting it. And now there is a demand for tonics, natural and artificial. Wait upon the tonics and you shall renew your strength! Men are ever seeking strengthening medicines, reviving potions, nature cures, and even spiritism cures. God is discounted. The Source of eternal strength, the Source of life, is ignored. The strength of the everlasting hills is His, and yet He is not waited upon.

Oh, the necessity of it! We needs must wait upon the Lord. Why? Because we are in contact with the earth. We are grounded. We are losing power, spiritual and physical, continuously, God is the source of all power, material and spiritual.

"Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall." Even youth is no guarantee against wastage, leakage, failing, or falling. There must be a de-

pendence and a waiting upon God. They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength. The "shall" of God stands for body as well as for soul and spirit.

They that wait upon the Lord are taken out of one element into another. They shall rise as eagles, overcoming the natural drag, the earthward pull, and will go on to the higher realms. The eagle comes down below to feed and gather the prey, and he returns to the mountains to live and rest. He lives in the upper, and he comes to the lower realm only for acts of necessity. We are reversing the order. We live in the lower realms, and when driven, then we resort to the higher realm. Waiting upon God should be natural and not compulsory.

The eagle flies and resides above, and God wants His people to be like the eagles, to be swift and tireless while doing His work and their own work down below. Flying and running, mounting up and walking, these are the results of waiting, and waiting upon God. He who waits most rises fastest, and runs without being weary. The world is tired. Because it is not waiting upon God it seldom rises, and seldom runs the way He would have it go.

When reading this majestic chapter in the Hebrew many years ago with a Hebrew teacher, we noted that the word translated wait in the last verse means literally, "twisting strands to form a rope." And the word for change may well be translated exchange. Then we have this wonderful reading, "They that are intertwined with Jehovah shall exchange their strength." Oh weary and discouraged believer, let your puny impotence be intertwined with the great strands of Jehovah's omnipotence, then, having exchanged your weakness for his almightiness, it will be easy to mount up, to run and to walk on all the errands of the King.—Sel.

## SENTENCES FOR TESTING TIMES

"It is by no means enough to set out cheerfully with your God on any venture of faith. Tear into smallest pieces any itinerary for the journey which your imagination may have drawn up. Nothing will fall out as you expect.

"Your guide will keep to no beaten path. He will lead you by a way such as you never dreamed your eyes would look upon. He knows no fear, and He expects you to fear nothing while He is with you. The clinging hand of His child makes a desperate situation a delight to Him.

"A true walk with God will do more to awaken awe, wonder and amazement in your soul than would a century of travel through the sights of earth. It is your business to learn to be peaceful and safe in God in every situation.

"To take you to His end by the way you know would profit you little; He chooses for you a way you know not, that you may be compelled into a thousand intercourses with Himself which will make the journey memorable to Him and to you.

"Difficulty is the very atmosphere of miracle—it is miracle in its first stage. If it is to be a great miracle, the condition is not difficulty, but impossibility. Whatever His questions or His reticences, we may be absolutely sure of an unperplexed and undismayed Saviour."—Great Commission Prayer League.