

THE UNSHRINKABLES!

I bought a garment in Kobe the other day, and when I asked the assistant in the shop if it would shrink in the washing, he looked at me, and then with a tone of voice full of certainty, said, "No, it won't shrink; we have washed it." Splendid for the assistant! What he really wanted me to know was, that before the garment had been exposed for sale, his firm had put the material through a certain process called "washing" which had eliminated the dangers of shrinkage. I have thought since that it would be a great thing for the kingdom of God if the Lord Jesus could say of us all, "They won't shrink: I have washed them"?

In the Prayer Book version of Psalm 112, where the "good man" is revealed, we are told in verse 8 that, "His heart is established, and will not shrink." In the A. V., it is "he shall not be afraid." To find the words "Shrink" and "afraid" joined together in the two versions is rather suggestive and probably shows that the reason why some people shrink and also shirk—is because they are afraid. There are two meanings to this word "shrink" and we must have a look at them here. The first one is "to reduce" or "to be reduced in dimensions"; "to bend" or "to curl". The other meaning is "to withdraw" or "to retire as from danger": "to decline action from fear"; "to recoil or retire". The "good man" has certainly something to be thankful for if he has an experience that keeps him clear of that list.

Are we now face to face with the reason why so few regular dare-devils are striking out for the "habitations of cruelty" on the Mission Field to unfurl Christ's banner there? Has somebody had a "shrinking fit", and their love for God and the souls of the lost has been so "reduced" that they have been compelled "to withdraw and "to decline action" against the hosts of darkness? How terribly sad! Perhaps like a sheet of beautiful parchment they have been placed before the hot fire of gossip and opposition, and they have "curled" and "shrunk". God help us. Or, it may be that the dear little things, like a piece of nice soft flannel, have been dropped in boiling water somewhere, and they have been "reduced in their dimensions". It is said that when some people reach old age their limbs begin to shrink, and someone has actually written about "the shrunken limbs of old age." Well, well, the cat is out of the bag at last, and we can see now that the reason why the battle for God and souls among the heathen is being avoided, is because there are too many dear, nice, old, young people in the Churches and Mission Halls at home, like so many shrunken blankets (and wet, too, probably)! Too many "retired" ones!

Can anybody imagine Nehemiah "curling up", "withdrawing" or "retiring", when he was intimidated, mocked, and laughed at by his crafty foes? No, never! He wasn't one of the curling up kind! What a glorious testimony God would have lost in Babylon if the three Hebrew boys had allowed the king "to reduce" their sense of honour and their Faith in God! It would have been terrible, but brave souls that they were, they could not "bend"; they could not "reduce" to meet the empire's wishes. Hallelujah. Daniel was another soul who could not "reduce" even when he got into boiling water for praying too much! Did he "decline" to go forward when he made an excursion to the lion's den? No, indeed not! There was no shrinking in his make-up. Glory to God. Just think of the old warrior Paul allowing the devil, or the world, or anything for that matter, to "reduce" his love passion for the evangelisation of the great heath-

en world! Picture him acting the "Weary Willie" and "withdrawing" from the front trenches! Look at him retiring from the battle because it is so dangerous; declining to pull souls out of the devil's hot fire because he is afraid! You can't imagine anything of the kind happening in the life of such a hero! He—like others who have come under the power of the Blood and the power of the Holy Ghost—would not allow himself to shrink if he had to live in boiling water, and would not curl up even if he had to sit on top of the devil's stove all day. Hats off to this type of unreduceable, fearless, unshrinkable and unshrinking warrior! At the same time, let us fall into line.

Some people allow their faith to "shrink", their passion for world-evangelisation "to be reduced", their hearts "to recoil", their prayers "to withdraw", and their liberality "to retire" because of gossip, opposition, and persecution. May the Lord God give us all the "heart that will not shrink, though pressed by many a foe". Amen. —Selected.

MISSION FUND

Killam's Mills	\$ 12.00
Mrs. J. W. Greenlaw.....	1.00
Helen Mullen	5.00
Jonesport	8.34
A Sister	1.00
Perth	19.00
Rev. S. G. Hilyard.....	2.00
Fredericton M. S.....	33.42
Fredericton Special	117.18
Woods Hbr. Jr. Crusaders.....	1.50
Mercer Sett. M. S.....	7.83
Millville	16.00
Millville True Blue S. S. Class.....	2.00
Lr. Hainesville.....	2.00
Maple Ridge	5.00
Beals M. S.....	32.00
North Head.....	11.00
Victoria M. S.....	2.50
Victoria Church	3.50
Hartland Church	3.65
Hd. of Millstream	9.00
Crawford-Alexander	7.25
Calais	18.20
Wood Island	21.00
Moncton City Debenture Coupon.....	25.00
St. John City Debenture Coupon.....	25.00
Salem Church	21.50
Salem S. S.	3.50
Marysville	141.00
Middle Southampton	16.00
Fort Fairfield	132.22
Lr. Southampton	4.25
Jonesport M. S.	12.23
Beals Y. P. S.....	21.50
Amasa Trefry	5.00
New Tusket	13.00
Woodstock	47.50

For Native Workers

Miss E. R. Trafton.....	15.00
Wood Island	21.00

Sanders Passage Fund

L. C. Watt.....	20.00
Wood Island	16.60
Mrs. Douglas Hayes.....	5.00
Rev. H. E. Mullen.....	5.00
Mr. and Mrs. Amasa Trefry.....	5.00
A Friend	1.00
Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Mullen.....	3.00
Mr. and Mrs. P. B. Hurlburt.....	3.00

Received on Pledges

Rev. P. J. Trafton.....	15.00
Victor N. Ruston.....	50.00
Beverley Wilson	5.00

Saint John	39.00
Miss Helen Grant	10.00

We appreciate greatly the contributions which have been sent in, and say, thank you. Let us not forget our pledges given at Beulah last summer.

In a recent letter from South Africa, Sister Helen Sterritt writes that Alice has had wonderful success with the eye operated upon and expects to have the other done soon, which will cost \$125.00 more. We did not receive enough for the first operation.

We are sure that many have contributed all they can, God bless them, but are there not others who, if they pleased God, ought to make substantial contributions to the work of foreign missions which is so calling for funds to carry on?

On February 11th I have received a cablegram from Rev. D. M. MacDonald calling immediately for \$200.00 above his regular salary, in order to carry on in that land of need.

Readers, when the missionaries have sacrificed so much for the cause of Jesus Christ in behalf of the heathen, ought not we to be willing, yes glad, to share something of the care and burden of so great and worthy an enterprise?

How do we answer these urgent and legitimate demands?

You who CAN give, don't read these words and turn away from the vision of need, but have compassion on them for whom Christ died, and shut not up your heart of concern but take the case seriously, pray over it, and act as one who remembers the words of Christ when He said, "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these, ye have done it unto Me."

May none be forgetful hearers, but doers of the word.

The anticipated return of at least two of the Sanders family to Africa, as soon as possible, and the pressing needs of those who are already there, as mentioned here, serves as a challenge to our faith in God. We firmly believe that to supply these needs is the will of God. We are co-laborers with Him, then may we endeavor to do our best to accomplish this end.

Again we thank all who have so nobly responded to the appeal for funds and pray that we all will continue to do our best.

L. T. SABINE, Treas.

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All the ways of a man are clean in his own eyes; but the Lord weigheth the spirits. Prov. 16:2.

When a man's ways please the Lord, he maketh even his enemies to be at peace with him. Prov. 16:7.

Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall. Prov. 16:18.

A froward man soweth strife: and a whisperer separateth chief friends. Prov. 16:28.

He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city. Prov. 16:32.

Whoso mocketh the poor reproacheth his Maker: and he that is glad at calamities shall not be unpunished. Prov. 17:5.

Whoso rewardeth evil for good, evil shall not depart from his house. Prov. 17:13.

Even a fool, when he holdeth his peace, is counted wise: and he that shutteth his lips is esteemed a man of understanding. Prov. 17:28.

The Lord is far from the wicked: but he heareth the prayer of the righteous. Prov. 15:29.

Better is a dinner of herbs where love is, than a stalled ox and hatred therewith. Prov. 15:17.