

GETTING ALONG WITH PEOPLE

The price of friendship is reasonable, that is, friendships that are decent and on the level. While there are many fine elements of character that are desirable, we have of late been impressed with two qualities that we think to be very important. If we would make friendships and keep them we must learn to be kind and to be fair. The first rules in the realm of the emotions, the second balances the judgment.

There are many broken homes, ruined love affairs, disrupted business relationships, difficulties in the church, commotions in the community because some one or more than one person ceased to be kind, decent and considerate of others. Some people are kind when they are sober, but become veritable hyenas when they are in liquor. Some are kind for a while, but periodically they fly off in their temper and in a few minutes, it may be, ruin the good reputation that they may have been building through the years. It is a really important test of character when Saint Paul says of God's saint that he suffers long and is kind.

Why be unkind? Why cheapen yourself by yielding to Satan in this matter of the disposition? It is no sign of greatness to be unkind. Very small men can be very mean, and on the other hand, great men and women usually are kind, at least they are if their greatness involves Christlikeness. A mean disposition ruins the comfort of many a home. It works against good health, robs the soul of its finer qualities, terrifies the trusting child that looks in confidence to its elders, and sends many a man or woman out on the day's journey with a spirit downcast with sorrow. A little kindness goes a long way in some lives, and it is remarkable how it helps to make difficult things endurable, and great kindness of a quality that never fails does great things in the blessings it brings into life.

And we do want our friends and associates to be fair in their judgments and decisions. Particularly in the church is it important that men who carry on in places of trust should be able to see a question on its merits and not by the false light of prejudice. Jesus taught us to pray, "Forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors." This suggests that in the moral realm we must know that we are obliged to measure up to God's standards. It is our belief that God is the model of justice. He is infinitely fair and reasonable in His dealings with men. In some measure the good name of every church man is in the hands of every other church man; and if we share a determination to be thoroughly fair in our treatment of others and of their interests we shall have nothing to fear from our friends.

—Wesleyan Methodist.

DANIEL

It is very gratifying to have safety, position, money, popularity, things, etc., etc. But greater than any of these and greater than all of them combined is a good conscience, a consciousness of having done right and of having given out a strong influence for good.

So when the things that men so usually sell themselves for make the bid for the soul the man of grace and of vision will say, "Not for sale."

So said Daniel. It did seem like the lions would get him, but the Lord took care of him. The very name of this man has been a tower of strength to those who have dared to do right, taking the consequences. This all down the centuries.—Free Methodist.

THREE KINDS OF EVIDENCE

Dr. Eugene Stock has said, "When I was a boy I read a story which showed me the different ways in which we can be sure that this great library of sacred books, which we call the Bible, is really the Word of God, His revelation to mankind.

"The writer of the story had been explaining three different kinds of evidence—the historical, the internal, and the experimental. Then he told how he once sent a boy to the chemist to get some phosphorus. The boy brought back a little packet. Was it phosphorus? The boy reported that he went to the shop and asked for phosphorus; that the chemist went to his shelves, took some kind of stuff from a jar, put it in the little packet, and gave it to him, and that he had brought it straight back. That was the historical evidence that the packet had phosphorus in it. Then the gentleman opened the packet. The substance inside looked like phosphorus and smelled like phosphorus. That was the internal evidence. Then he put a light to it—"See how it burns!" That was the experimental evidence."—W. Graham Scroggie, in *Is the Bible the Word of God?*—Free Methodist.

SOAP AND STARCH

A certain Quaker spoke of some inconsistent professors of religion as "starched before they were washed." The pointedness of the remark is seen in every community. There are all too many who have the high form and set-up of religion; but wrongs which have not been made right, goods dishonestly retained, sins committed and sins of omission remain as dirty spots to give the lie to the profession.

Some think that this kind of a life is Christian living so long as one has certain church connections or so long as one is liberal toward his church. But by searching you will find, "Follow peace with all men and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord." A thousand other passages bear out the same truth. While God is righteous there is no substitute for the right heart and the right life. Starch is no substitute for cleansing. Let the soap be applied first—and let it be strong soap with lye in it if necessary. When the spots are out and the rinsing has been done the starch can go in. But do not try to reverse the wash-order.—Free Methodist.

A PARABLE OF LIFE

The following allegory from the writings of Lyman Abbott sets forth in a thought provoking way the great mystery of life and its developments under the guidance of the Creator. "I pluck an acorn from the greensward", says Dr. Abbott, "and hold it to my ear; and this is what it says to me: "By and by the birds will come and nest in me. By and by I will furnish shade for the cattle. By and by I will provide warmth for the home in the pleasant fire. By and by I will shelter from the storm those who have gone under the roof. By and by I will be the strong ribs of the great vessel, and the tempest will beat against me in vain, while I carry men across the Atlantic." "O foolish little acorn, wilt thou be all this?" I ask. And the acorn answers, "Yes, God and I."—Wesleyan Methodist.

Given the books of a man, it is not difficult, I think, to detect therein the personality of the man, and the station in life to which he was born.—Stoddard.

IN THE SCRIPTURES

Here may be found—

- Fundamental laws for the nations.
- Testimony of God's love for mankind.
- The choice of all wisdom literature.
- The most important history in the world.
- The greatest biographies of the greatest characters of all the ages.
- Revelation of truth not discoverable by human ingenuity.
- Promise of the survival of God, every good cause and all good men.
- Declaration of the final defeat of all that love and work wickedness.
- The perfect standard for moral conduct.
- Precepts absolutely pure.
- Doctrines faultlessly sublime.
- Practical directions for every life.
- The Saviour of the world presented in prophecy, song, type, historic record, His sayings, His acts, His death, His resurrection, His ascension.
- Authority over every moral being—because this is the Word of God.—Free Methodist.

KEEP IN MIND:

That we have nothing which we did not receive, therefore boasting is excluded.

That we are stewards of what God has entrusted to us. As stewards we will be called to give account to God.

That the prospects are as bright as the promises of God.

That faith honors God and God honors faith.

That we are not serving men, but the Lord Jesus Christ.

That our bodies are the temples of the Holy Ghost.

That God expects much of us who have the light of true holiness.

That we are on the winning side, if we are on the Lord's side.

That we are our brother's keeper.

That now is the day of salvation, but the door of mercy may be shut at any moment.—Standard Bearer of Bible Holiness.

TODAY

So here hath been dawning
Another new day;
Think, wilt thou let it
Slip useless away?

Out of eternity
This new day is born;
Into eternity,
At night, will return.

Behold it aforetime
No eye ever did;
So soon it forever
From all eyes is hid.

Here hath been dawning
Another new day;
Think, wilt thou let it
Slip useless away.

—Thomas Carlyle.

The boundary line between Canada and the United States is marked by suitable cairns built on the land of both countries and constructed of the common rocks of the region. We are told that each of these markers bears the following inscription: "To God in His glory, we two nations pledge ourselves that as long as men shall live we will not take up arms against each other."

—Wesleyan Methodist