

and whatever our occupation is, it is but for to pay expenses. Our business in life is to journey on, and also to get as many others to journey with us as possible (to a city which hath foundations whose builder and maker is God). Oh Lord Jesus may we, this beginning of new months, determine to close our eyes to the allurements of the earthly, that the heavenly may attract us. For if we seek to build here to permanent an abiding place, we are liable to forget the mansions in the skies.

III.—May our soundings prove to us that we are drawing nigh to another country, a better country.

A. We are prone to become so entangled with the affairs of the earth that we do not have time for the spiritual exercises, so necessary for our spiritual good health. Let us not allow prayer to become a duty or a burden only, but may our praying be a blessing and a joy. Let us draw water from the wells of salvation with great JOY; if there have been creakings and groanings in the past, may this year of our experience be one of joyous attestation.

B. This new beginning of years, may it be one that marks a change, when we will not live so far away from the glories of those things which Paul speaks of (as being in the Heavens.)

Conclusion—If the past year has held a good deal, that to-day we wish had been otherwise, may we determine by the help of our God, to live in such a manner that we will part with our failures and sins, Praise the Lord there need not be any, but if there have been shortcomings, let us do better, and begin again to come (to Mount Zion with songs and everlasting joy).

I came to my teacher with a quivering lip,
My task undone;
Master, give me another sheet,
I have spoiled this one.

In place of the old sheet stained and blotted,
He gave me a new one, clean, unspotted,
And into my glad face smiled;
Do better next time, my child.

I went to the throne with a quivering heart,
The Old Year done;
(Father, hast thou another chance for me?
I have lost this one.)

He took the old one stained and blotted,
And gave me a new one clean, unspotted,
Then down into my sad heart smiled,
(Do better next time, my child).

Sermon preached Sunday evening, Jan. 3rd,
to the congregation of the Reformed Baptist
Church, Westchester Station, by the pastor, Rev.
J. Arthur Owens.

OUR TASK IN SOUL WINNING

Pitifully look on the fields, for millions are passing into eternity without Christ.

Prayerfully wait on God, for our expectation cometh from Him, and from Him alone.

Praisefully delight yourself in the Lord, for prayer must be mixed with praise, as well as faith.

Purposefully persist in prayer, for many grow weary in well doing, and hence fail to reap.

Peacefully rest in God's promises, "being fully persuaded that what He had promised He was (is) able to perform." (Romans 4:21.)

Powerfully persuade men. The emphasis of the prayer life will make the message irresistible.

Plentifully expect a harvest, for a harvest may be expected as God's conditions are met.

—The Church Herald.

THAT "OTHER CREATURE"

C. W. Ruth

Ah, there it is! that "other creature" that has given us the most of our anxiety and trouble along life's pathway. We don't know exactly what it is; but it is that hideous thing that is forever and always hiding out in the bushes along the pilgrim highway, seeking to discourage and frighten the saints of God as they journey heavenward, with terrifying forebodings concerning the awful things that might overtake us, or happen, somewhere, sometime in the dim distant future, when we may all land in the poorhouse, or starve to death, or meet up with some terrible calamity that most likely never will occur; it is that nameless, invisible, undefinable, horrible "creature" that is ever intruding itself into our thoughts and imaginations—when faith is off duty—"supposing" that "so-and-so" would happen, and then—"and then" and the devil would get us all—it is all simply too horrible to contemplate—and then what would become of us, and what would we do! "Oh, my!" "Oh, me!" "Oh, dear!" What will we do?

It was after the Apostle Paul assured us of victory over "tribulation," and "distress," and "persecution," and "famine," and "nakedness," and "peril," and "sword," in Romans 8:35, that he told us that he was "persuaded that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord." Sure enough, "If God be for us, who can be against us?" (v. 31). And this persuasion includes victory over that "other creature."

It has been said there are four kinds of trouble in the world, as follows: first, the little trouble we are having in the present; second, all the trouble we ever did have in the past; third, all the troubles we ever will have; and, fourth, a great amount of trouble that we never will have—which is purely imaginary. For any person to have all these four kinds of trouble, all at one time, is simply to have more trouble than it is necessary for anyone to have. And frequently the greater amount of our trouble is directly traceable to this "other creature;" as one man testified, "I have had an awful lot of trouble in my time, but I never experienced much of it;" evidently this "other creature" had been prowling around his premises.—The Sky Pilot.

LACK OF TRUST

The question that cuts through the intellectual confusion of our day is not can we trust in God, but do we really want to trust in Him? The person who takes pride in his doubts, though it may be an unconscious pride; or who is seeking reasons for not believing; or who is holding on to that which his conscience tells him is contrary to God's will, is one whom the most cogent reasoning will never convince. On the other hand, if we really desire to trust God, He will find a way to help us to the fulfillment of that desire. His promise is that He that seeketh shall find. He never fails to reveal Himself to one who seeks with all his heart. He does not promise to answer all our questions or to solve all intellectual difficulties. But He does promise to give all the light that is necessary and to lead us to such an experience of fellowship with Him that we shall know that His grace is sufficient for all our need.—Christian Observer.

A WASTED LIFE—WAS IT?

Down in South Africa was a young student who was well trained in languages. When he left university and went as a missionary he was told that he was only wasting his life, and that he was a fool. But his call had gripped his soul, and to release himself from it he was unable. He found the dialects of those with whom he went to work very rich indeed, but none of them had been reduced to writing. So he decided to reduce the language to writing, and give the natives the four Gospels, and perhaps the Acts, in their own tongue. This he did, completing his manuscript in 1917. He then took the boat for England, but when he came to the Mediterranean Sea a submarine met them. His manuscript was rolled in a sack, enclosed in rubber, and placed in a box. A letter giving a key to the words as he had used them in making the translation was enclosed, and a statement concerning the experience that had come to him.

When the U-boat torpedoed the liner, not a living soul was saved, and the manuscript went into the sea. But some weeks later, there drifted ashore in a lonely part of Tunis, among bits of boats and dreadful wreckage, a box, which was picked up. It was opened, and the letter telling of the story of the translation was handed to the consul, who later passed it on to a British clergyman. In London that manuscript was assembled, and the printed book went back in the hands of an Oxford student to the tribe in Africa.

The paths of God may be devious, but behind every shadow He is still moving! Praise be to His name!—Selected.

SUSTAINING FAITH

Rev. Harry A. Cole

"I had fainted, unless I had believed to see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living." (Psalm 27:13). David was passing through great trial; many times he was so persecuted that he despaired of life. Once while fleeing from Saul, he said, "Truly as the Lord liveth, and as they soul liveth, there is but a step between me and death." In 1 Samuel 30:6 we read, "And David was greatly distressed; . . . but David encouraged himself in the Lord his God." The people had been stirred up, they had even spoken of stoning David, and if he had not had a sustaining faith in God, if he had not believed, if he had not trusted, he would have fainted under the burden of fear and trial. It was David's faith in God that carried him through.

Now while we are removed from David by many hundreds of years, yet we find trial, and burden, and heartache that to bear in our own strength becomes too much. What are we to do? Struggle along, fight a losing battle, or shall we turn it all over to the Lord, the great burden bearer? I think of the words of one of our hymns:

"I must tell Jesus all of my trials,
I cannot bear my burdens alone,
In my distress, He kindly will help me,
He ever loves and cares for His own."

After all, that is just about all we can do about it, just turn it all over to Jesus, no matter what the conditions may be. If we have wandered away like the prodigal, if in sin, or sorrow, if we have made shipwreck and failure of life, let's take it all to the Lord in prayer, let's ask God for Jesus' sake to forgive the past, and the failure, to sustain us in our sorrow, to strengthen us in conflict, and mould and fashion our lives pleasing to Himself.