

PERSONAL CONSECRATION

"Lo, I come," if this soul and body may be useful to anything, "to do thy will, O God." And if it please Thee to use the power Thou hast over dust and ashes, over weak flesh and blood, over a brittle vessel of clay, over the works of Thine own hands—lo, here they are to suffer also Thy good pleasure. If Thou please to visit me either with pain or dishonor, I will humble myself under it and through Thy grace be obedient unto death, even the death upon the cross. Whatsoever may befall me either from neighbors or strangers, since it is Thou employest them, though they know it not (unless Thou help me to some lawful means of redressing the wrong), I will not open my mouth before the Lord who smiteth me, except only to bless the Lord.

Hereafter no man can take away anything from me, no life, no honor, no estate, since I am ready to lay them down as soon as I perceive thou requirest them at my hands. Nevertheless, "O Father, if thou be willing, remove this cup from me; but if not, thy will be done." Whatsoever suffering hereafter may trouble my flesh, or whatever agonies may trouble my spirit, O Father, into Thy hands will I commend my life and all that concerneth it. And if Thou be pleased either that I live yet awhile or not, I will with my Saviour bow down my head. I will humble myself under Thy hand; I will give up all Thou art pleased to ask until at last, I "give up the ghost."—John Wesley.

GOD'S WAY IS THE ONLY WAY

Lady Astor, member of the British Parliament, surprised her colleagues recently by declaring:

"Solomon, the wisest of all rulers, prayed for an understanding heart. Today we who have faith in God have an even greater responsibility than Solomon. We see countries torn by revolution and persecution, religious liberty and faith in God challenged and declining, whereas we have religious freedom, peace and comparative prosperity. These conditions have come through the spiritual vision and courage of our ancestors.

"When I am asked what we can do now I say—surely pray for an even greater understanding of God's laws, and obey our Lord's commands in having one God and loving our neighbor as ourselves.

"This can be done only by the spiritually-minded. It seems to me that we have been swayed too much by modern materialism, which says, 'Get your economics right and the kingdom of God will be here.' That wasn't Jesus' message. Wealth doesn't mean happiness, any more than poverty means piety. The road is much harder than that, and economics will not make it into a highway. The kingdom of God is within us, and we must seek that first. When we do, the way, though narrow, is a way, and my advice to those who are bogged is to try it."

So the great of earth are beginning to realize their only help cometh from above.—Christian Action.

A person under the influence of divine love never makes the sins, follies, faults, or imperfections of any man the subject of either censure or conversation. He is ever ready to believe the best of every person, and will credit no evil of any but on the most positive evidence—Adam Clarke.

It is better to wear out than to rust out.—Cumberland.

TESTIMONY TO HOLINESS

William Bramwell, in testifying to this experience, says, "My soul was all wonder, love and praise. It is now about twenty-six years ago; I have walked in this liberty ever since. Glory be to God! I have been kept by His power. By faith I stand . . . I then declared to the people what God had done for my soul; and I have done so on every proper occasion since that time, believing it to be my duty." William Carvosso was for over fifty years a class-leader in the Wesleyan Church in England. He tells of his experience in these words: "Just at that moment a heavenly influence filled the room; and no sooner had I uttered or spoken the words from my heart, 'I shall have the blessing now,' than refining fire went through my heart, illuminating my soul, scattering its life through every part, and sanctified the whole. I then received the full witness of the Spirit that the Blood of Jesus Christ had cleansed me from all sin. I cried, 'This is what I wanted. I have now got a new heart.' I was emptied of self and sin and filled with God."—Selected.

FOUR THINGS TO DO

Four things a man must do
If he would keep his record true;
To think without confusion, clearly;
To love his fellow-man sincerely;
To act from honest motives purely;
To trust in God and Heaven securely.
—Henry Van Dyke.

I know not how that Calvary's Cross
A world from sin could free;
I only know its matchless love
Has brought God's love to me.

I know not how that Joseph's tomb
Could solve death's mystery;
I only know a living Christ
Our Immortality.
—Sarah M. Wegenast.

RESURRECTION

Ye who fear death,
Behold the buds bursting;
Ye who fear death,
Hark, how the robins sing;
Ye who fear death,
Go, hear the crocus crying,
Eternal Spring!

So it has been
Since days first had beginning,
Glad prophecies of Resurrection Morn;
Weep not before a closed tomb
In Joseph's garden,
Life is reborn! —Sal.

A brilliant Oxford student who went to Africa, and died after a year's work, said, "I think it is with African missions as with the building of a great bridge. You know how many stones have to be buried in the earth, all unseen, for a foundation. If Christ wants me to be one of the unseen stones, lying in an African grave, I am content, for the final result will be a Christian Africa." Such "unknown" heroes shall yet be "well known" (2 Cor. 6:9) in the day of "the recompense of the reward" (Heb. 11:26).—Glad Tidings.

JESUS HUMBLED HIMSELF
GOD EXALTED HIM

The Maker of the Universe
As man, for man was made a curse;
The claims of LAW which He had made
Unto the uttermost He paid.
His holy fingers made the Bough
Which grew the THORNS that crowned His brow
The NAILS that pierced His hands were mined
In secret places He designed.

He made the forest whence there sprung
The TREE on which His body hung;
He died upon a cross of WOOD
Yet made the Hill on which it stood.
The SKY that darkened o'er His head
By Him above the earth was spread,
The SUN that hid from Him its face
By His decree was poised in space.

The SPEAR which spilled His precious blood
Was tempered in the fires of God;
The GRAVE in which His form was laid
Was hewn from ROCKS His hands had made.
The THRONE on which He now appears
Was His from everlasting years,
But a new glory crowns His brow
And every knee to Him shall bow.

PASTORAL CALLING

No preacher can adequately interpret the spiritual needs of a congregation from the pulpit alone. As the pastor meets his people in their homes he comes to know their problems, he shares in their joys and understands their heart needs. There are but few homes where a pastor is not welcome. His visits elevates the moral tone of the home, it breaks down reserves, it blesses the children of the home and gives them understanding and respect for the church, and it ties the family life into the church life. People appreciate and value the presence of a man of God in their homes.

After having prayerfully, seriously and faithfully ministered to people in their homes, no Spirit-filled pastor can enter his pulpit without having his heart drawn out to his people in understanding and sympathy. His being becomes permeated with the shepherd-love for his flock. Then, indeed, he breaks and dispenses the Bread of Life, for he is preaching out of his full heart into the hearts and lives of his people. Most pastors will find they actually preach in proportion as they call.

Let the pastor ever bear in mind that in every home, Christian or non-Christian, sooner or later there come emergencies in the form of sorrow or death when the services of a man of God are needed. Then he who has freely mingled with the people and met them intimately in their homes will naturally and gracefully find an open door to their hearts. Only through faithful pastoral calling can a pastor make himself indispensable to his people.—Selected.

The Finnish army differs from most, states Christian Advocate, in the fact that it is completely "dry," with prohibition of alcoholic beverages beginning the moment one enters the war zone. Instead of beer or wine, the milk of the cow serves as the popular thirst quencher. Herds of cows are kept not far behind the lines from which the "ski cavalry" have been going out on their risky but effective missions.