

## MINISTER OF CHRIST FOR THE TIMES

## VII.

"One thing I do"—Phil. iii, 13

The minister for the times is a single-minded man. He has settled the matter fully and forever, that oneness of pursuit is indispensable to distinguished success in any important enterprise. Salvation is his one sublime purpose, as it was the purpose of his great Master. Here is the goal toward which all his energies tend. He takes no step—touches no book—holds no conversation—writes no line—indulges no recreation, inconsistent with this all-controlling point. A hundred things which many good men, and many ministers, allow in themselves, this minister cuts off entirely. His meditations are upon the things of his ministry. He gives himself wholly to them, and continues in them. He determines not to know anything among the people save Jesus Christ, and him crucified. His eye looks right on, and his eyelids straight before him. Each book—essay—conversation—anecdote;—each providence, prosperous or adverse;—all heaven, earth, and hell, are laid under contribution for the effecting of his object. He is a man of one work—comprehensively of one book—one thought—one wish. True, he has various accomplishments, and acts amid varied scenes and in varied capacities; still his mind wavers not—the "mark" is before him, and fills his eye, while he presses toward it evermore. Christ came into the world—to save sinners. Paul made every innocent compliance—that he might, by all means, save some. Mills determined—that he would savingly influence the world. Martin ran after—the glory of God in the salvation of sinners. Wesley girded himself for—a universal revival of religion. This, exactly this, is the genius of the minister for the times. Perhaps never were there greater allurements presented to the minds of ministers, to tempt them to a division of affection and pursuit. Abundant libraries—attractive lectures—literary and theological discussions—ingenious theories—fascinating circles—honourable appointments—flattering commendations—these, and the like, combined with native downward tendencies, are far too prone to cloud the spiritual vision, and induce the minister to forget the one great purpose of his mission. There is wanting now a race of ministers of singleness of soul—of one, indomitable purpose,—living and running for salvation only;—in whose minds all else, whether in the literary, social, or physical world, is as the dust of the balance. This is the greatest want of the world. Greater talents are not needed. Learning, there is an abundance of it. Theologians—writers, scholars, are not lacking. A concentration is demanded, of energies already in the ministry, to the one great pursuit—the salvation of the race.

Man of God, what now! A sinner is about to perish forever. Christ has found a ransom. He commissions you to publish it to that sinner, that he may be saved. Shall anything hinder? Shall aught else come into mind?

## I WOULD RATHER

Be beaten out than scared out.  
Be called narrow than loose.  
Tell the truth than dodge my friends.  
Lose a customer than my self-respect.  
Spoil a profitable deal than a good conscience.  
Be a live wire than a dry cell.  
Be defeated than despised.

## Temperance Column

Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging. Whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise.—Prov. 1:20.

## HAVE WE FALLEN THAT LOW

An attractive advertisement in a popular current magazine begins with those noble words: "In these bewildering times where can a man turn to replenish the walls of his courage, to repair the walls of his faith?" It goes on to stress the need of inner peace—"a quiet hour, at evening, when you can shed the mantle of your worries and don the slippers of content."

One almost expects in the next paragraph to read a call to prayer, a suggestion to withdraw and refill one's spiritual resources in the quiet presence of God the eternal foundation of faith.

But no! The current ad gives another solution—"an old friend, a faithful dog . . . these bring your hour of peace. So, too, does a glass of mellow beer or ale!"

Nothing more vulgar or blasphemous ever appeared under decent auspices! Most people know our generation has grown soft and flabby, that popular philosophies have fallen to a low level of spiritual lassitude, but have we fallen that low? A nation which has to turn to a glass of beer—something to draw the mind away from reality which it is not brave enough to face—deserves any calamity which fate may have in store for it!

Imagine the nation of Emerson, Webster, or Lincoln saying, "I will lift up mine eyes unto a bottle! From whence shall my help come? My help cometh from a glass of beer or ale which restoreth the walls of my faith!"

But Emerson didn't do it. He said, "As a plant upon the earth, so a man rests upon the bosom of God; he is nourished by unfailing fountains, and draws, at his need, inexhaustible power!"—Church Times.

## WHERE ARE WE HEADING?

The figures given in recent issues of Forward showed that the amount of spirits used in Nova Scotia was rapidly increasing in proportion to other drink.

From information given in Hansard report of recent debates in the House of Commons, we find there is a large increase in consumption of spirits throughout Canada.

In 1935 the Canadian consumption of spirits was 1,787,312 gallons and last year it was 3,818,409, more than doubled in 5 years. The British Commission of the last war were evidently right when they said that "alcohol was a habit forming drug which creates an appetite for itself."

When Marshall Petain blames alcoholism largely for the downfall of France, and when we remember that France consumed the largest amount of alcohol of any country in the world, is it not time we seriously considered in Canada, Where Are We Heading?—Forward.

"You have heard it said that when a pump is dry you must pour down it first of all, and then you will get water; and so, Christian, when thou art dry, go to God, ask Him to shed abroad His joy in thy heart, and then thy joy shall be full."—Spurgeon.

## NAZI NEW TESTAMENT

From the Christian Herald we have the following:

"What are the facts that may be known to you concerning changes that Nazi authorities have made in the Scriptures?"

"The Nazified New Testament is published under the title 'The Message of God.' It is a greatly condensed version of the New Testament, including only Matthew, Mark and Luke, and tells the story of Christ as though His life occurred in Nazi Germany. There is no reference to Christ's Jewish origin. The editors state that they are attempting to cleanse the gospel's Judaeo-Christian tradition, that 'they seek to do for this time what Luther did for his.' All allusions to Christ's divine origin are suppressed. The period before His arrest and crucifixion is called 'His Kampf,' and is followed by 'His Victory.' At the Last Supper, Christ offers His blood not for the redemption of man but 'to erect a reich for many.'

As silly sacrilege this should take first prize. After the Scriptures have been known in Germany these centuries, and all the facts understood, to believe that a thing so contrary to the truth would be accepted permanently is amazing credulity.

When the collapse of Mr. Hitler's house of cards comes his New Testament will be in the rubbish. If nothing else, the Nazi insult to Deity is an assurance of its early demise.

For this also we will sing the doxology.—Free Methodist.

## LEARN TO LET GO

If you wish to be healthy morally, mentally and physically, just let go of the little bothers of everyday life, the irritations and petty vexations that cross your path daily. Don't take them up and nurse them. They are not worth while. Let them go.

That little hurt you got from a friend,—perhaps it was not intended; perhaps it was. But never mind; let it go; refuse to think about it.

Let go of that feeling of hatred you have for another; that jealousy, envy, the malice,—let go all such thoughts; sweep them out of your mind and you will be surprised at what a cleaning-up effect it will have upon you, both physically and mentally. Let them all go; you house them at a deadly risk!

But the big troubles, the bitter disappointments, the deep wrongs and heart-breaking sorrows, the tragedies of life,—what about them? Why, just let them go; drop them, softly perhaps, but surely. Put away all regret and bitterness, and let sorrow be only a softening influence. Yes, let them go, and make the most of the future.—Good Tidings.

## TEMPERANCE FACTS

Some of the brightest men that our country has ever known are now lying in drunkard's graves.

The fact that the saloon business is conducted, as a rule, behind screens and painted windows, and often in dark and out-of-the-way places, proves its disreputable character.

"Anything short of total abstinence is fraught with more risks than any thoughtful person dare take. It is easy and pleasant to drink, but it is difficult and well-nigh impossible to let it alone when you have begun."