

CORRESPONDENCE

Kingston

Dear Brother Dow:

Inclosed please find renewal of my Highway and 50 cents for the Supplementary Fund. I like the paper very much and look forward to its coming. I can't read it myself, but my daughter reads it to me. I am well advanced in years and my sight has failed me. I had my eighty-third birthday Saturday, the 8th. I enjoy the letters from South Africa very much. The missionaries are doing wonderful work there. Our world is in a very unsettled state, so much war, but we know our Heavenly Father is always the same—never changes; and we know if we put our trust in Him, He will lead us safely through it all.

Your sister in Christ,

MRS. H. P. SHAMPIER

Saint John, N. B.

Dear Highway:

A line from this part of the field will be in order, we feel, at this time.

We wish to report victory in our own souls, and have every intention of endeavouring to preach the word, to be instant in season.

The longer I live and work for Christ, as a minister of His word, the more convinced I become that we are on the right line. Full salvation through two distinct works of grace is not any more popular today than it was when the Moravian brethren were hounded from pillar to post, but the experience of Sanctification as a second definite work of grace in the believer's heart meets our need and reveals Christ Jesus as the Saviour who is able to save to the uttermost. Bless His name.

On Wednesday, the 12th, the good folk of the church gathered in the parsonage for a social evening. The time was pleasantly spent and Christian fellowship enjoyed to the full.

The ladies of the church presented Mrs. Owens with a fine quilt, which they had made recently. And to the pastor and wife the church as a whole presented a purse of money. Both of these were presented by Deacon Stanley with a few well chosen remarks, to which the pastor replied after which we all bowed in prayer to thank God for His kindness through His people.

The ladies of the Church served a very tasty lunch enjoyed by all.

Such acts of love and thoughtfulness cause us to feel very humble indeed and also encourage us to endeavor to press on in our labor of love together.

REV. J. A. OWENS

WALKING IN THE LIGHT

1 John 1:7

By Rev. E. E. Shelhamer

The best scriptural definition of light I can find is recorded in Eph. 5:13: "All things that are reprov'd, are made manifest by the light: for whatsoever doth make manifest is light." In other words, whatever reveals to me my true relationship to other things, men or devils, this is light; this revealed knowledge becomes a standard for my behavior.

There are various sources of natural light, from the largest to the smallest, from the blazing sun to the tiniest candle or match. In like manner Jesus is the "Light of the world." Then follows the Holy Spirit, who "lighteth every man that cometh into the world." Then the Bible; then the preaching of the same; then good

literature; then the lives and testimonies of the saints; then a godly countenance, even to the innocence of a sweet baby's face. All these channels God uses through which to illuminate and show men how to live.

There are two degrees of light:

1. General Light.
2. Specific Light.

General light pertains to all men, irrespective of race or creed. God is no respecter of persons, and hence requires all men to repent and believe on His Son. But when it comes to specific or individual light here is where we must have charity one for another. All men must walk in the same light on general principles in order to get and keep saved. But all men must not walk in the same specific light. We read of not only "pure oil," but "olive oil beaten" for the "lamps to burn continually." Hence, beaten oil is finer and produces a brighter light.

Mr. Finney is clear on this when he says, "A man may have equal doubts whether he is bound to do a thing or not. Then all that can be said is, that he must act according to the best light he can get. But where he doubts the lawfulness of the act, but has no cause to doubt the lawfulness of the omission, and yet does it, he sins and is condemned before God, and must repent or be damned.

"One reason why an individual is condemned if he does that of which he doubts the lawfulness is—that if God so far enlightens his mind as to make him doubt the lawfulness of an act, he is bound to stop there and examine the question and settle it to his satisfaction.

"For a man to do a thing when he doubts whether it is lawful shows that he is selfish, and has other objects besides doing the will of God.

"It shows that he wants to do it to gratify himself. He doubts whether God will approve of it, and yet he does it. Is he not a rebel? If he honestly wished to serve God, when he doubted, he would stop and inquire and examine until he was satisfied. But to go forward while he is in doubt shows that he is selfish and wicked, and is willing to do it whether God is pleased or not, and that he wants to do it, whether it is right or wrong. He does it because he wants to do it, and not because it is right.

"Where a man doubts honestly whether it is lawful to do a thing, and doubts equally on the other hand whether it is lawful to omit doing it, he must pray over the matter and search the Scripture, and get the best light he can on the subject, and then act. And when he does this, he is by no means to be judged or censured by others for the course he takes."

II. Specific Light. There are many things relative to amusements, tithing, life insurance, Sabbath observance, plainness of dress, etc., wherein one person feels he must act differently than others. When such is the case he should take the safest position and obey God regardless of consequences.

I do not know why God gives (yea, forces) stronger light upon some than upon others. Some are led into a closer walk with God, a more definite line of separation than others. Is it because their nature requires a severer method in order to wean them more completely from the world? Or is it because they are made of martyr material and can stand a stronger pull through the narrows than others? Refined steel can be drawn out into a finer and stronger strand than a rope of sand. God still wants to point to extraordinary saints, as in the case of Job. So, dear friend, if He demands more of you than of others, do not pity yourself, but take it as a high compliment. The more we give up, the more we get in return.

We read, "The path of the just is as the shin-

ing light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day." If so, no one should be satisfied to live in the twilight zone, nor even in the nine o'clock zone, but in the full blaze of His glory.

Dear reader, could you truthfully declare that you are now living up to all the light you ever received? Perhaps so, and very well. But could you testify further and say you are gladly walking in all the light God wanted to give you? For, sad as the thought may be, do you not believe that God is compelled to take some to heaven cheaper than others? It is either this, or we must say they are not going to heaven at all. At least they are not living on the same plane as others; they are not as self-sacrificing and self-denying as a few.

Whitefield had a characteristic prayer: "Lord, make me an extraordinary saint." Yes, there are many ordinary Christians, who will finally get through to heaven, though on a slower train, while others will come in with flying colors on time. Oh, for more who will reverently challenge God to do His best on them and with them! Those who will gladden the heart of Jesus as He lovingly looks upon them and sees the "travail of his soul, and is satisfied" that they brought as much glory to His name as He saw was possible. We sometimes sing an old hymn:

"Be as holy and as happy

And as useful here below

As it is your Father's pleasure;

Jesus, only Jesus, know."

If this is a good standard, let us examine ourselves closely. Friend, are you as holy, happy and useful as God would have you?

Have you done your best to win your loved ones to Christ? Could you not have done more by prayer and fasting? In witnessing? In loaning good books, or sending a religious paper? When you see them in the coffin it will be too late then to upbraid yourself.

Have you done all in your power to get up close to that opposer, or distant brother? Could you not have humbled yourself a little and laid aside your dignity and pride? What if, at first, he does resent it? A soft answer and a kind approach with tears will generally win out.

Have you done your best with your spare moments? Could you not be more methodical, always having something on hand to read? Or keep some tracts ready to give out? Or find time to visit that sick one around the corner, or in the hospital? "Redeem the time, because the days are evil."

Have you done your best to get out of debt? Perhaps you cannot pay all at once, but by self-denial and self-sacrifice could you not reduce the total a little each month? This would prove your sincerity and compel respect. And, who knows, it may do not only this but cut your bill in two.

Have you done your best with your money and property? If you know the end would come in one year, would you not give more freely? Why wait until death compels you to relinquish your hold, then let ungodly relatives handle your hard-earned savings? Why not get some solid satisfaction by doing something nice personally before you go? It is wicked to clutch tightly a bag of securities until the last breath, then say, "Here it is, take it, and do all you can with it for it nearly damned my soul." Better lend it to the Lord now, and He will repay it with big dividends. —Free Methodist.

It is easy for us to think that no grace or blessing is truly ours till we are aware that God has blessed some one else with it through us.—Phillips Brooks.