

## MINISTERS OF CHRIST FOR THE TIMES

## IX.

"Be sober"—2 Thess. v. 6.

The minister for the times is a sober man. He is sober in spirit, and always sober. Not that he never smiles;—not that he is gloomy, and without cheerfulness;—not that he possesses not one of the gladdest hearts among men. But he never trifles;—his thoughts are serious—his mind is grave. His meditations are not occupied with empty and frivolous topics. They habitually linger rather with great and weighty themes.

He is sober in conversation. Not that he is forbidding, or dull, or heavy. He may be inferior to none in vivacity, ease, and attractiveness; but he is not volatile—he does not jest. His words are not very many; but they are well chosen, graceful, gracious, and uttered with cheerful seriousness. His conversation never does harm—its influence is always salutary.

He is sober in his general aspect and manners. He never flirts. He does not hurry nor worry. He is not greatly agitated or disturbed. He avoids eccentricities and oddities. He is ever found the same serious, solid character.

He is sober in the sanctuary—he is sober in devotion—God is there; sober in sentiment, he avoids every untenable theory, every unscriptural or vain speculation; sober in manner, he speaks neither too long nor too loud. He indulges no gesture unsuitable to the pulpit, or incongruous with his theme.

This minister is sober. How, otherwise, could he pray, and praise, and rejoice evermore? How could he travel amid the great truths of revelation? How could he qualify himself to preach? How could he watch for souls, and save his people?

"He that negotiates between God and man, As God's ambassador, the grand concerns Of judgment and of mercy, should beware Of lightness."

## "NOTHING BUT LEAVES"

"I do not steal chickens." Good. "I did not beat my wife." Good. "I did not drink whiskey." Good. "I did not smoke cigarettes." Good.

So one makes a great list of his "negative righteousness." To most people the doing of some wrong thing is the great sin. They take little if any account of the things which ought to be done but are not.

God has called us to keep from gross transgression. But in a world of great moral issues and moral struggle, where the church and good people are trying to carry on for God—fighting the devil and all his works and seeking the salvation of souls and their upbuilding—it is as great a crime to try to be a neutral, a mere bystander, as it is to do some great wrong thing. We are called to build with the builders. The judgment will reveal not only our evil done but the good we failed to do.

"Nothing but leaves, and mem'ry weaves  
No veil to hide the past;  
And as we trace our weary way,  
Counting each lost and misspent day,  
Sadly we find at last—  
Nothing but leaves, nothing but leaves.

"Ah! who shall thus the Master meet,  
Bearing but withered leaves?

Oh! who shall at the Saviour's feet,

Before the awful judgment seat

Lay down, for golden sheaves,

Nothing but leaves, nothing but leaves.

—Selected

## 'ENCOURAGE HIM'

"If with pleasure you are viewing any work  
a man is doing,

If you like him or you love him, tell him  
now;

Don't withhold your approbation till the par-  
son makes oration

As he lies with snowy lilies o'er his brow;  
For no matter how you shout it, he won't  
really care about it;

He won't know how many teardrops you  
have shed;

If you think some praise is due him, now is  
the time to slip it to him,

For he cannot read his tombstone when he's  
dead!

More than fame and more than money is the  
comment kind and sunny

And the hearty, warm approval of a friend;  
For it gives to life a savor, and it makes you  
stronger, braver,

And it gives you heart and spirit to the end.  
If he earns your praise, bestow it; if you like  
him, let him know it;

Let the words of true encouragement be  
said;

Do not wait till life is over and he is under-  
neath the clover.

For he cannot read his tombstone when he's  
dead!"

## BE CONSIDERATE

Pray don't find fault with the man who limps,  
Or stumbles along the road,

Unless you have worn the shoes he wears,  
And struggled beneath his load.

He may have tacks in his shoes that hurt,  
Though hidden away from view

Or the burden he bears, placed on your back,  
Might cause you to stumble too.

Don't sneer at the man who is down today

Unless you have felt the blows  
That caused his fall, or felt the same

That only the fallen knows.

You may be strong, but still the blows

That were his, if dealt to you,

In the self-same way, at the self-same time,  
Might cause you to stumble too.

Don't be too harsh with the man who sins,

Or pelt him with words or stones,

Unless you be sure, yea, doubly sure,

That you have not sins of your own.

For you know perhaps if the tempter's voice  
Should whisper as soft to you

As it did to him when he went astray,

It would cause you to falter, too.

—Selected

"When Pravda, the Communist party organ in Russia, declared recently that no book had ever spread as far as the 'History of the Communist Party in the Soviet Union' (16,500,000 copies in 55 languages in the past two years), officials of the American Bible Society were quick to report that 51,000,000 copies of the Bible, in 1,039 languages, had been distributed during the same period."—Herald of Holiness.

## Temperance Column

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

Hon W. L. MacKenzie King, M. P.,  
Ottawa, Can.

Sir: We, the ministers and delegates of the Reformed Baptist Church of Canada in Quarterly Session at Killam's Mills, N. B., do hereby send earnest protest against the manufacture and sale of intoxicating beverages.

We deplore the awful conditions existing because of the same, and cannot cease to protest while we daily see the terrible results of the liquor traffic.

It is surely displeasing to Almighty God, and while we so need His help in the awful struggle of our Empire, can we expect the full measure of His mercy and blessing while such needless destruction is meted out to the bodies and souls of our people by the sale of alcoholic drinks?

Our country is under a curse, the curse of alcohol, and we humbly implore your faithful consideration of this matter as in the sight of God, that He may be pleased with the efforts made to remove this offence from before Him, and grant us victory in His Name.

In behalf of the Reformed Baptist Church:  
ALICE M. STERRITT,  
Distict Secy.

Note.—The foregoing is a copy of a resolution passed at our quarterly meeting held at Killam's Mills and sent to Ottawa.

## AIR TRANSPORT BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND CANADA

An arrangement has just been concluded between the United States and Canada under which air transport service between the two countries will be stimulated and developed. For example, a Canadian company may make regular trips to Chicago and an American company may make regular trips to Toronto. The agreement will apply to continental United States and Alaska and to the Dominion and its territorial waters. Each country will grant permits to air carrier enterprises under its own laws, but those enterprises will have to qualify under the requirements of the other country. Co-operation for service and safety is promised by both sides. The arrangement is hailed as another demonstration of the good will between the two friendly nations. It is, however, entirely commercial. There is no military significance to the agreement. It brings together the two countries into closer bonds of trade and travel. To the United States it is a step toward a direct air route to Alaska by way of the Yukon territory. That much-desired route was not specified in the agreement, but was indicated for further discussions.—Christian Observer.

## WALL STREET WANTS A REVIVAL

What America needs more than railway extension, western irrigation, a low tariff, a bigger cotton crop or a larger wheat crop, is a revival of religion—the kind that father and mother used to have; a religion that counted it good business to take time for family worship each morning right in the middle of wheat harvest; a religion that prompted them to quit work a half hour earlier on Wednesday so that the whole family could get ready to go to prayer meeting.—Wall Street Journal.