

THE DESIRE OF ALL NATIONS

"The desire of all nations shall come," cried the prophet Haggai as he gazed down the line of ages to see the coming Messiah. Poor humanity, struggling in blindness, burdened with guilt, deceived by false teachers, and cumbered with physical ills longed for the day when Shiloh would come and bring with Him a glory and deliverance that should transcend the glories of the former temple.

The coming of Christ to earth opened the doors to eternal hope. "He came unto His own, and His own received Him not. But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name." What a privilege! To become sons of God, yea, to become heirs of God and joint-heirs with Jesus Christ.

How can it be, Thou Heavenly King,
That Thou should'st us to glory bring?
Mak'st slaves the partners of Thy throne,
Decked with a never-fading crown?

Mankind is created with a capacity to fellowship with God. Having sinned and turned away from God, and become the victim of depraved and carnal appetites, he has ever sought to work out his own salvation. But alas! Generation after generation has made sad ship-wreck. Blest with an unfolding wealth of natural resources, he has worshipped the gods of material things and has sought, like the men of Babel, to get along without God. He has turned the rich products of nature into the most ruthless machines to destroy cities and nations and civilization. But down in the human heart, millions see the folly of it all and cry, "Is there no help anywhere? Come, let us return unto the Lord and He will save us." This is a universal cry and in every nation the desire of the soul of man reaches out for God. Many do not know how to express their need, or what to expect. All they know is that:

This world can never give the bliss for which
they sigh;
It is not all of life to live, nor all of death to die.

Just as the fish is made for water and the eagle is made to soar in mid-air, so the soul of man can only be satisfied with a complete adjustment to God.

David expresses the yearning of the awakened soul after God. He cries out of his inmost heart, "As the hart panteth after the water-brooks, so panteth my soul after Thee, O God." In other words he means, "You may take your houses and lands, your pleasures and treasures, your honors and positions. They are all perishing. They are but for a brief time. My soul cries out for that which is eternal, enduring and everlasting. My soul, being immortal, eternal, can never be satisfied with temporal things. It can only find its rest in that which is immortal, eternal."

Being reconciled with God, his soul is blest, and his deeper needs revealed. He cries for completeness:

Come and possess me whole, nor hence again
remove;
Settle and fix my wavering heart, with all Thy
weight of love.

He recognizes that his great need is that his entire being be harmonized with the Spirit and nature of God. Thus he sings:

A heart in every thought renewed,
And full of love divine;
Perfect and right and pure and good,
A copy, Lord, of Thine.

The soul, fully in unison with his God, looks on this world and its affairs in a different way. He no longer worries as he formerly did, over its politics and economics. Man has tried to run this world without God and man will continue to do so until Jesus comes. The great and blessed hope of the true church of Christ today is the early return of our Lord, to receive His church, put down the reign of sin, and bring in everlasting righteousness. The great judgments unleashed upon the nations are essential to bring this about. They may possibly be a school-master to bring many to Christ, for "when God's judgments are in the land the people will learn righteousness."

God is working His purpose out, as year succeeds to year;
God is working His purpose out, and time is drawing near;
Nearer and nearer draws the time, the time that shall surely be,
When the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of God,
As the waters cover the sea.

—Canadian Free Methodist

HOW WILLIAM COLGATE GAVE TO GOD

Many years ago a lad of 16 left home to seek his fortune. As he trudged along he met an old man, a captain of a canal boat, and the following conversation took place: "Well, William, where are you going?" "I don't know," he answered; "I must make a living for myself." "There is no trouble about that," said the captain. "Be sure you start right, and you'll get along finely." William told his old friend that the only trade he knew anything about was soap and candle making. "Well," said the old man, "let me pray with you once more, and give you a little advice, and then I will let you go." They knelt down upon the tow-path and prayed and then the old captain gave him this advice: "Someone will soon be the leading soap-maker in New York. It can be you as well as any one. I hope it may. Be a good man; give your heart to Christ; give the Lord all that belongs to Him of every dollar you earn; make an honest soap; give a full pound; and I am certain you will yet be a prosperous and rich man."

The boy arrived in the city. Lonesome and far from home he remembered his mother's words and the last words of the canal-boat captain. He was led to "seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness," and united with the church. The first dollar he earned brought up the question of the Lord's part. In the Bible he found that the Jews were commanded to give one-tenth. So he said, "If the Lord will take one-tenth, I will give that." And so he did; ten cents of every dollar were sacred to the Lord.

He engaged in the soap business, made an honest soap, gave a full pound and instructed his bookkeeper to open an account with his Lord and carry one-tenth of all his income to that account. He prospered and grew rich faster than he had ever hoped. He then gave the Lord two-tenths, then four-tenths, then five-tenths.

This is the story of William Colgate, who gave millions to the Lord's cause.—Wesleyan Methodist.

Temperance Column

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

THE NATURE OF ALCOHOL

There is no disease in the world for which alcohol is a cure. * * * More to the point is the fact that while it cannot be said to cure any disease, it does undeniably cause thousands of cases of disease, all of them fatal in the long run. Its use is ruinous to kidneys, liver, heart and the smaller blood vessels, and gives rise to the most common fatality, high blood pressure.

All this has been proved by innumerable tests. Two men may play tennis or chess equally well. Give one of them a single glass of beer and he will be easily defeated by the one who abstains. Start ten men of comparable vigor up a mountainside, five of whom have taken drinks as a stimulation. These five will fail in the climb. So mild a drink as beer will lessen their physical and mental prowess by ten to fifteen per cent.

"It has been shown that one spoonful of liquor lessens the ability to form quick judgment and to act on that judgment. Giving a driver alcohol endangers life.

"Alcohol is a habit-forming drug. Its high potency as a dangerous drug is a million times more harmful than any conceivable accruing advantage. It has no place in medical practice."—Dr. Howard A. Kelly, Emeritus Professor of Johns Hopkins University, in Ladies' Home Journal.

In San Francisco there are approximately 37,000 arrests for drunkenness every year; the county jail has 3,500 alcoholic prisoners, which is 75 per cent of the total jail population.—Richard Diaz, in the San Francisco News (a newspaper opposed to Prohibition).

The Christian church has lost its prestige in India because it has no direct law prohibiting the drinking of alcoholic beverages. Dr. Abbey says that Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, all have direct laws condemning the cause of alcoholic beverages. He quotes a Burmese leader as referring to Christianity as "the whiskey religion."—United Presbyterian.

CHOOSE THOU FOR ME

Thy way, not mine, O Lord,
However dark it be!
Lead me by Thine own hand,
Choose out the path for me.
Smooth let it be or rough,
It shall be still the best,
Winding or straight, it matters not,
It leads me to Thy rest,
I dare not choose my lot;
I would not if I might;
Choose Thou for me, my God,
So shall I walk aright.
Take Thou my cup, and it
With joy or sorrow fill,
As best to Thee may seem;
Choose Thou my good and ill.

—Horatius Bonar

A LIFE GIVER

Jesus Christ is not a lawgiver but a life saver; and one is not a Christian because he obeys the laws of God, but he obeys the laws of God because he is a Christian.—Lyman Abbott.

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