

THE KING'S HIGHWAY

An Advocate of Scriptural Holiness

— THE ORGAN OF THE —
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EDITORIAL

DO WE DARE FACE THE FACTS?

A man once came to Jesus in a state of great anxiety. His concern was not for himself, but for his son. The boy was possessed with a devil, and was ruthlessly tormented by an indwelling evil. So vehement were the assaults of this unclean spirit that only the father's watchful care saved the boy from total destruction by being cast into the fire or into the water. But though he had succeeded in guarding the son from a terrible death, he was pained in his heart as he saw him wasting away under the fearful influence of the powers that mastered him.

Help had been sought from the apostles, but, try as they would, they could not heal him. The case was pronounced as incurable. The trouble was too deep-seated, the devil was too strongly entrenched. But Christ's appearance, fresh from the glory of the Transfiguration and its revitalizing communion, changes the scene. After listening to the father's story of the disciples' failure, and being moved by the plea, "if thou canst do anything, have compassion on us, and help us," Jesus said, "Bring him to Me." Then, by the word of His power, He ordered the evil spirit to depart, healed the child, and restored him to his father.

It was an embarrassing situation for the disciples. Their explanations of the cause of failure seemed quite logical until Jesus shattered them by a word of rebuke and an act of restoration. But let this be said to their credit, they dared inquire into the cause of their failure. They had the courage to ask: "Why could not we cast him out?" They knew they were exposing themselves, but they would know the truth. Never again would such an awkward and painful defeat be suffered, if there was any way to avoid it. Never again would they pronounce a case hopeless, if such an unhappy conclusion need not be reached. "What then is the cause of our failure," they asked. "Why could not we cast him out?"

We who seek to turn men to God, and deliver them from the spoiler's hand, in these times, find that we have no easy task. The powers of darkness seem to hold undisputed sway in some lives. Sin is very deeply seated in the souls of many. Impelled by the call of God, and the compassionate urge of His love, we seek to alleviate, comfort, and deliver. But sadly, our success seems too meagre.

Many whom we have definitely sought to reach continue in their selfish or unholy ways. Hearts that we fain would heal are still infected with the dread malady of sin. We have revival efforts but often they are more of an effort than a revival. We try to break into the enemy's defences, but they often remain intact. Is this not the confession of the candid inquirer?

The defeatist attitude, that the days are evil and the people indifferent, will neither better the situation nor relieve our embarrassment. There is a way to victory even in these times. God can turn failure into success, sorrow into joy, barrenness into fruitfulness, if we dare. Yes, here is our first move. Dare we take it? Have we the courage to scrap our humanistic explanations of failures, and inquire of Almighty God concerning the cause of them? Are we prepared for a shock? Can we profit by rebuke? Will we allow the embarrassment of our setbacks to bring us to ultimate victory?

I am persuaded that this is our starting point.

"ALL THAT GLITTERS IS NOT GOLD"

By the Associate Editor

Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment. John 7-24.

I suppose some of us have used the poet Shakespeare's proverb, "All that glitters is not gold," many times without thinking of the similarity between it, and the words of our Lord in the foregoing scripture, where he is telling the Pharisees to not judge him or his work by appearances. Of course all our readers have learned from experience or observation, that we cannot correctly estimate the value of a thing—or the character of a person by first appearances.

When this writer was a boy we learned the truth of this proverb to our sorrow.

We had a great desire to own a gold watch and chain, and nothing but gold would satisfy us. So, one day we read in a paper an advertisement, saying, that for the sum of five dollars, a certain company would send us our much desired gold watch and chain, with several other things besides. We happened to possess five dollars which we had received for several days of hard labor. So, we sent our cash, and in a few days we received through the mail, our beautiful time-keeper with chain, and all the other trinkets. Oh! how that watch and chain did glitter; they surely did look like gold, and we were delighted with their appearance. But, our joy was short-lived, and disappointment took its place, for the beautiful glitter very soon faded, and our yellow gold watch and chain not only changed their color, but the watch stopped and refused to keep time any more. Hence, our first real lesson on judging things by their appearance.

Many times since that experience of our boyhood days, we have met people who made us think of our first watch and chain, and of Shakespeare's proverb. They appeared to possess such a pleasing personality, such a good disposition. We thought we surely had found a person of real sterling character, one who would be a real friend.

But, like our experience with our watch and chain, we were again doomed to disappointment, for what we admired so much in them at first, seemed to evaporate, like the glitter on our jewels.

These folk whom we sometimes meet in social circles, and often in religious life, where they seemed to be so promising for the work of God, make us think of God's message by his prophet Malachi in his complaint against his people anciently: Hosea 6-4. "O, Ephraim, what shall I do unto thee?" (The divine mind seemed to be perplexed with them) for your goodness is as the morning cloud and early dew it goeth away. Our watch looked all right as long as it was well protected from weather conditions, or the wear and strain of being used. It was ornamental, but no good for practical purposes. When subjected to the test it failed, and showed what it was made of.

Real gold is not changed or hurt by weather conditions, or fire or acid. When jewelers are uncertain about the value of metals which look like gold, they apply the acid test; that reveals their true character. If they are gold, they keep on shining. The acid leaves no bad effect.

So people who often look and act well under ordinary circumstances in life, when things are going to please them, will fail and change under trials or testings. They will often have spells of anger, or show a sulky disposition, or pride or covetousness, or a spirit of retaliation or revenge, and unkind criticism.

The trials do not change people's real nature, but only reveal what it is, or what is in their heart and their true character. Trials are the acid test to most people. Now the Bible teaches us that there is a cure for the evil tempers, so people will not fail or change under fiery trials. Jesus said to the Laodicean church: "Buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich." God wants His people to possess the real spirit in Christian experience that will stand the wear and tear of every-day life, and prove to the world that He can save to the uttermost all that come unto Him: All that get scripturally saved, by being born again, and also baptized with the Holy Spirit which burns out and cleanses away the depravity of the heart, and leaves the real gold of perfect love, which Paul says: "Never Fails," which not only glitters for a time, but shines brighter under fiery trials like the pure gold.—H. S. DOW.

SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

"At any price, give me the Book of God! I have it: here is knowledge enough for me. Let me be homo unius libri. Here, then, I am, far from the busy ways of men. I sit down alone: only God is here. In His presence I open, I read this Book; for this end, to find the way to heaven. Is there a doubt concerning the meaning of what I read? Does anything appear dark or intricate? I lift up my heart to the Father of lights. Lord, is it not Thy word, 'If any man lack wisdom, let him ask of God?' Thou 'givest liberally, and upbraidest not.' Thou hast said, 'If any be willing to do Thy will, he shall know.' I am willing to do: let me know Thy will. I then search after, and consider parallel passages of Scripture, 'comparing spiritual things with spiritual.' I meditate thereon, with all the attention and earnestness of which my mind is capable. If any doubt still remains, I consult those who are experienced in the things of God; and then, the writings whereby, being dead, they yet speak. And what I thus learn, that I teach.—John Wesley.