

The Christian Visitor.

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth

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The Christian Visitor.

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(From the N. Y. Independent.)

SERMON.

BY HENRY WARD BEECHER.

"And as thy days, so shall thy strength be."

Deut. xxxiii. 26.

III. But this very providence which causes one thing to link with another, and which is for ever reducing events and results in natural succession, makes it simply impossible for us to foresee just how at any point of our experience, we shall be situated. Therefore, we cannot know what help will spring from our circumstances. No man can look forward and say, "I know how I am going to be helped in such and such emergencies."

A person who worries because he cannot see how he shall get along at a given emergency in the future, forgets that there is to be a natural evolution; and that before that emergency comes, a hundred things may happen which will take care of him.

I promise a young man and maiden that on their wedding-day they shall have fruits and flowers from my garden; and in December they go into my garden to see what the chances are. Where are my fruits and flowers? They are all under the ground, fast asleep. My hyacinths are long forked rods with nothing on them. You could not find an apricot or a peach in the whole garden. They go about and take an inventory of what there is in the garden, and they see no sort of signs of flowers or fruits; and they come to me and say, "You promised us hyacinths, and roses, and honeysuckles, and spiraea, and ranunculus, and other flowers, together with various kinds of fruit, from your garden; and we see no prospect of your being able to fulfil your promise." I say to them, "My friends, January will come after December, February will come after January, March will come after February, April will come after March, and May will come after April; and every one of these months is going to have a hand in fulfilling my promise." January will talk to the flowers, February will coax them out, March will help them up; and at last they will arrive at a state of perfection. The trees, also, will respond to the vivifying influence of these months. First the leaves will come out—and as much as ever; for the blossoms will be in about as great a hurry as the leaves. From the blossoms you would not suspect that there would be any fruit, if you had never been a gardener; but after the leaves and blossoms have come out, the germs will begin to swell themselves, and at last you will have the ripe fruit. The fruit will be developed out of the blossom, the blossom out of the leaves, and the leaves out of the wood.

Now let me apply this general view.

1. There are a great many persons that feel themselves called to follow their conscience against their interests. There are a great many persons that have, in life, been working their way into some vocations that they do not think to be consistent with Christian honesty or integrity.

They feel that they ought to change their course; and yet, they do not see how, if they peremptorily abandon evil, and conform their whole outward life to the dictates of their enlightened consciences, they shall get along.

It is this anticipation of trouble—vague, usually; for oftentimes they cannot put their hand on anything that they think will be a trouble—that causes them the greatest struggle in the work of their reformation.

That which deters them more than anything else from taking steps in the right direction, is the thought,

"If I should straighten my life by the things which I see to be right, my circumstances would be injured, and perhaps I should be reduced to bankruptcy."

But, in the first place, a bankrupt fortune is not near so much to be deplored as a bankrupt conscience; and in the next place, a man that is half a man will have confidence enough in his ability to sustain himself, even if he does, for the sake of honesty and integrity, give up a business that is incompatible with these things. Why should he, then, stand fretting over the edge of a good resolution, saying, "What would befall me if I should relinquish the investments I have made in things that are evil, and follow my convictions of right?" You would fall into the hands of God; you would fall under a safe providence; you would fall into line, as a soldier in the army of God. You have long been marching against God's will and wish. In doing evil, you have been violating your own sense of right, if not the canons of ordinary morality. In poisoning your worldly prosperity, you have been able to maintain yourself; and do you suppose that when you conform to the laws of nature and providence, and to God's moral law, you will find it harder to maintain yourself? In other words, has God put a premium on the road to hell? Are they the men that have a right to presume upon an auspicious Providence, who defy Providence? Is it not more reasonable to suppose that they are the men that have a right to expect prosperity, though they cannot see how it will come, who trust in God, and do their duty? I would rather take a clearance of that kind, than any other. I

will risk the perils of the voyage if I only have a good clearance.

If a pirate, or worse, the master of a slave-ship, has made a good thing of his unlawful traffic, I do not see why he should reluctance about going into a lawful traffic on the ocean, because he does not know what the ocean will do to him. If a man is safe in sailing against God's laws, and everything that is good, how much more will God prosper him if he applies to legitimate commerce the same skill and enterprise and industry that he is now applying to that which is illegitimate. I have seen men work ten times as hard to be villains, as they would have been obliged to work to honest men. The greatest slaves I know anything about, are those whom the devil has got the upper hand of, and whom he is compelling to dodge beneath the supreme law of God, and their worldly prosperity. They may secure some sort of prosperity, but you may depend upon it, they work hard for it.

There was a man in the town where I was born, who used to steal all his firewood. He would get up on cold nights, and go and take it from his neighbors' wood-piles. A computation was made, and it was ascertained that he spent more time, and worked harder, to get his fuel, than he would have been obliged to if he had earned it in an honest way, and at ordinary wages. And this thief was type of thousands of men who work a great deal harder to please the devil than they would have to work to please God.

(To be continued.)

(From the "Independent")

READING THE BIBLE.

Many are already in the habit of reading the Bible through at least once a year. Many more could do it, if they had a plan for doing it, and with a firm resolution would persevere in the undertaking. But it is of the first importance to read it as the Word of God, with deliberation, reflection, and prayer, and not as a task.

The following plan, which is an improvement on Rev. Joseph Emerson's, has the advantage over others, and over reading wholly in course, that a portion of the Psalms and New Testament is read daily, together with the other parts of the Old Testament. The table for every week in the year helps to keep the place, in case of interruption in the daily reading. By pasting it on the inside of the Bible cover, it will be easy of reference; and better still would it be, also, to mark each chapter named in the table with a pen and thick ink, and also the corresponding date at the bottom of the page.

TO READ THE BIBLE THROUGH IN A YEAR.—BY REV. H. W. ROBINSON.

Read 3 chapters daily, and 5 on the Sabbath; that is, 2 chapters in the Old Testament, and 1 daily,—3 on the Sabbath,—in Psalms, Prov., Eccl., Sol. Song, and the New Testament.

The Old Testament, without these 4 books, contains 2 chapters a day for the year; and the New Testament, with the 4 books, has 1 chapter a day, and 3 for Sabbath days, minus 8 chapters.

Read Ps. 119 as 11 chapters of 2 divisions each, and connect the short Psalms 117 and 131, with the next, and 133 and 134 together, thus adding 8 chapters to complete the year.

Five chapters a week will go through the New Testament in a year.

January 1—Genesis 1. Psalm 1.

8—" 15. " 10.

15—" 29. " 19.

22—" 43. " 28.

29—Exodus 7. " 37.

Feb'y 5—" 21. " 46.

12—" 35. " 55.

19—Lev. 9. " 64.

26—" 23. " 73.

March 5—Numbers 10. " 82.

12—" 24. " 91.

19—Deut. 2. " 100.

26—" 16. " 109.

April 2—" 30. " 119.

9—Joshua 10. " 119.

16—" 24. " 127.

23—Judges 14. " 138.

30—1 Samuel 3. " 147.

May 7— " 17. Prov. 6.

14—" 31. " 15.

21—2 " 14. " 24.

28—1 Kings 4. Eccl. 2.

June 4—" 10. Sol. S'g. 8.

11—2 " 24. Matt. 9.

18—" 27. " 18.

25—1 Chr. 13. " 18.

July 2—" 27. " 27.

9—2 " 12. Mark 8.

16—" 26. Luke 1.

23—Ezra 4. " 10.

30—Nehemiah 8. " 19.

Aug. 6—Esther 9. John 4.

13—Job 13. " 13.

20—" 27. Acts 1.

27—" 41. " 10.

Sept. 3—Isaiah 13. " 19.

10—" 27. " 28.

17—" 41. Rom. 9.

24—" 55. 1 Cor. 2.

Oct. 1—Jeremiah 3. " 11.

8—" 17. 2. " 4.

15—" 31. " 13.

22—" 45. Eph. 3.

29—Ezek. 2. Col. 2.

Nov. 5—" 16. 2 Thes. 2.

12—" 30. 2 Tim. 2.

19—" 44. Heb. 3.

26—Daniel 1. " 12.

Dec. 3—Hoseah 12. 1 Peter 2.

10—Amos 9. 1 John 4.

17—Nah. 2. Rev. 5.

24—Zech. 5. " 14.

WILL YOU BEGIN NOW AND PERSEVERE?

OPPOSITES IN RELIGION.

"Not forsaking the assembling of our selves together, as the manner of some is, but exhorting one another, so much the more, as ye see the day approaching."—Paul.

I believe I'll stay at home to-day, as it is rainy and I don't like to go and spend my time listening to Bro. W., for he can't preach much anyhow.—Fair Weather Laziness.

"Pray without ceasing, and in everything give thanks; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."—Paul.

"I can't find time to pray, and then I have so many things to attend to, and my mind is so taken up with the business of the day that I am not prepared to pray."—Worldly-mindedness.

"See that none render evil for evil unto any man, but ever follow that which is good, both among yourselves and toward all men."—Paul.

My neighbor has done me so much evil, and

Peace, good will toward Men."

THURSDAY, JANUARY 19, 1860.

THE YOUNG SIR HENRY HAVERLOCK.

A writer from England, who recently met this worthy son of a worthy sire, at a party given by the Lord Mayor of London, thus describes his personal appearance:

"Young Havelock is not more than twenty-two years old. He is slender, rather tall, quiet exceedingly in his aspect with nothing whatever of bravado or personal vanity in his being. There was not a glance that betrayed the lurking ambition that would say: 'I am the man who rode in upon a whole battery of guns, in India, through a storm of shot, and for that received the Victoria Cross.' His face is almost feminine in its features small, his neck slender; his hair and slight mustache black and glossy, and, beside those small ears, combative ness is not seen. Yet there is one full of courage—quiet and impassible as appeared his father—who yet, when occasion demands, would spring into the saddle at the summons of peril, and ride, without one moment's hesitation, with fearless, calm, unshaking courage, into the very thickness of the conflict. It is the true type of old English courage, and to its force was added the fear of God. Pleasant was it to see him, with genuine modesty, joining in the praises of God, and kneeling down devoutly, and covering his face with his hands, as prayer was offered."

Reverend and dear brethren, we beseech you to investigate the claims of the Total Abstinence Movement prayerfully, impartially. May the Holy Spirit lead you to such a conclusion as shall, most tend to the glory of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Temperance and Prohibition.

NEW TEMPERANCE MOVEMENT IN ENGLAND.

The Rev. Dr. Close, Dean of Carlisle, together with more than one hundred and fifty other clergymen of the Church of England, have presented their brethren of the same church with the following address. It appears in the London Times, and coming from that quarter we think is significant and encouraging:

Reverend Brethren:—We, the undersigned ministers of the Church of England, and total abstainers from the use of all intoxicating drinks as a beverages, having, we trust, at heart the glory of God and the welfare of our fellow-men, earnestly invite your attention to this appeal.

While heartily thankful to Almighty God for the efforts which are being made in our day for the religious and social improvement of the people in this land we cannot close our eyes to the fact that the same time an agency is at work which will nullify them all—we refer to the drinking usages of society—against which, and everything that tends to foster this fertile source of evil, we desire to send forth our earnest and conscientious protest. Parliamentary Reports, Beggars Returns, the evidence of the Commissioners of Lunacy, of Parish relieving officers, of physicians in hospitals, of chaplains in jails, as likewise the strong language of our judges on the bench, all unite in testifying that the prolific generator of the varied crime and