

SABBATH-BELLS.

BY SADIE REFSOR.

Hark! the Sabbath bells are ringing,
In the soft and balmy air,
All ye nations cease your tolling,
'Tis the sacred hour of prayer.

Visitor Pulpit.

THE BEST WAR-CRY.

BY REV. C. H. SPURGEON.

"The Lord his God is with him, and the
shout of a king is among them."—Num. 23: 21

I. First, let me speak a little upon
GOD'S PRESENCE

among his people. It is an extraordi-
nary presence, for God's ordinary
and usual presence is everywhere.

Here we may say with great re-
verence that God is with his people
in the entireness of his nature.

My dear friends, we sometimes
hear men talk of
THE FAILURE OF THE CHURCH.

We are afraid that some churches do
fail. Wherever failure occurs, the
bottom of it is the absence of the
Lord of hosts, for he cannot fail.

And what an awe this imparts to
every true church of God! You may
go in and out certain assemblies,

unsanctified foot, and the prostrate
spirit.

Brethren, this presence of God is
clearly discerned by the gracious,
though others may not know it.

THE DEVIL KNOWS WHERE GOD IS
—none better than he. He hates the
camp of which Jehovah is the leader;

Let us look at Balaam for a
moment. May we never run in the
way of Balaam for a reward;

Balaam perceived that the God
who was in the midst of his people
is not a changeable God, not a false
God, not one who promises and for-
gets, or promises and eats his words,

My dear friends, we sometimes
hear men talk of

THE FAILURE OF THE CHURCH.

We are afraid that some churches do
fail. Wherever failure occurs, the
bottom of it is the absence of the
Lord of hosts, for he cannot fail.

The worst thing that can be said
of any christian community is this:
"Thou hast a name to live and art
dead."

II. To what your desire for this
let me pass on to the second head of
my subject, which is briefly to de-
scribe

THE RESULTS OF THIS PRESENCE.

Some of these results are mention-
ed in the context. One of the first
is leading—"God brought them out
of Egypt" (verse 22).

on with David to word it. "He lead-
eth me beside the still waters." We
want no other leader in the church
when we have God; for his eye and
arm will guide his people.

The next blessing is strength. "He
hath as it were the strength of an
unicorn" (verse 22). It is generally
agreed that the creature here meant
is an extinct species of urus or ox,

The next result is safety. "Surely
there is no enchantment against Ja-
cob, neither is there any divination
against Israel." The presence of
God quietly baffles all the attempts
of the evil one.

Upon these words "there is no en-
chantment against Jacob, no divina-
tion against Israel," suffer a few
sentences. There are still a few

FOOLISH PEOPLE

in the world who believe in witch-
craft and spells, but ye beloved, if
you love the Lord, throw such non-
sense to the winds. Do you not hear
people talk about this being lucky
and that unlucky?

When God is with his people he
will give them power of a destructive
kind. Do not be frightened. Here
is the text for it: "Behold the peo-
ple shall rise up as a great lion, and
lift up himself as a young lion"

A healthy church kills error, and
tears in pieces evil. She lives in con-
flict and victory; her mission is to
destroy everything that is bad in the
land. See

THE FEROCIOUS DEVIL OF INTemperance

how it devours men! Earnest friends
have been laboring against it, and
they have done something for which
we are grateful, but if ever intemper-

ance is put down, it will be when the
entire church of God shall arouse
herself to protest against it. When
the strong lion rises up the giant
of drunkenness shall fall before
him.

But now notice one thing in my
text, and with that I close this de-
scription. Where God is, we are
told, "The shout of a king is among
them." What is the shout of a king?
When great commanders are known
to have come into a camp what a
thrill of joy it causes among their
trusty warriors.

What next? When the king
comes and they have received him
with enthusiasm, he cries, "Now is
the hour of battle:" and at once a
shout goes up from his warriors who
are eager for the fight.

III. Thirdly, let us look at a very
important point, and a very practical
one too;

WHAT CAN BE DONE

for the securing and preserving of the
presence of God with the church?
This is a matter that would require
several sermons to discuss it fully;

Chillingworth said: "The Bible,
and the Bible alone, is the religion
of Protestants." That is not true.
Certain Protestants have tacked
many other things to the Bible:

But next, God will only dwell with
a church which is full of life. The
living God will not inhabit a dead
church. Hence the necessity of
having really regenerated people as
members of the church.

TARES WILL GROW

among the wheat. But if the ad-
mission of unregenerate men is usual,
and there are no restrictions, then
the Lord will be grieved and leave
us. God dwelleth not in temples
made with hands; He dwells in liv-
ing souls. Remember that text:

That being supposed, we next no-
tice that to have God among us we
must be full of faith. Unbelief
gives forth such a noxious vapor
that Jesus Himself could not stop
where it was. His strength was
paralyzed: "He could not do many
mighty works there because of their
unbelief."

With that must come prayer.
Prayer is the breath of faith. I
do not believe God will ever be long
with a church that does not pray;
and I feel certain that when meetings
for prayer, when family prayer, when
private prayer, when any form of
prayer comes to be at a discount,

Lastly, when we have reached to
that, let us have practical consecra-
tion. God will not dwell in a house
which does not belong to him. No,
the first thing with any one of us
is to answer this question: Dost thou
give thyself up to Christ, body, soul,
and spirit, to live for him and to die
for him?

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