

The Tennessee Baptist

DEVOTED TO THE ADVOCACY & DEFENCE OF BAPTIST PRINCIPLES, & DESIGNED TO BE A MEDIUM OF RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCE FOR THE GREAT WEST.

DESIRING TO KNOW THE WHOLE TRUTH, AND DARING TO OPPOSE ANY ERROR—CHRIST IS MY JUDGE—J. R. GRAVES, EDITOR.

VOL. XIII.

TWO DOLLARS AN ADVANCE
THREE AT THE END OF THE YEAR.

OUR PULPIT

Jesus' care of His Disciples—A Sabbath Moral Meditation.

BY THE REV. C. H. SPENCER.

If you see me, let these go their way.—John xvii. 18.
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which these words were uttered. Our Savior in the garden with his disciples; a multitude commanded by the high priest came to seize him; he gave a bold defiance before them, and said, "Whom see ye?" They reply, "Jesus of Nazareth." At a break, they say, "We know the man." At the same time, they say, "We know the man, who can truly call himself the Son of God." —"If ye see me, let these go their way." These raw recruits must yet bear the brunt of the battle; let them pass on, until by long experience and great grace they shall be made mighty to die, and shall each of them in their turn wear the crown of martyrdom. But not now. Christ spared his people at that moment, since it would have been easier to have suffered them to go their way.

—"Ye see me, let these go their way."

—"In a very simple manner, I will, finally, draw a few thoughts from this occurrence, and then, hopefully, bring out a great truth which I think is hiddeunder in this utterance of our beloved Master.

1. THE CHARMING TENDERNESS.—Our Savior said:

"If ye see me, let these go their way."

Now, in this circumstance our Master showed his own indifference to his own life. His word was a miracle so powerful that none of the disciples were afraid; much, let us add, to death. There was Peter, who had drawn a sword and cut off the ear of the high priest's servant. We could naturally suppose, he would have been stoned at once, or sent to the cross; but he was not. He was the command of Christ that not a finger was laid upon his body. Peter, who had cut off the ear of the high priest's servant. We could naturally suppose, he would have been stoned at once, or sent to the cross; but he was not. He was the command of Christ that not a finger was laid upon his body.

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Then, when Christ said, "I have given you what I have given to me; none more could I have given to you; all were sufficient to go their way."

If Christ, then, by his simple word, delivered his disciples, how much more could I have given to you; all were sufficient to go their way?"

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THE TENNESSEE BAPTIST.

Editor & Publishers.—Are they Scriptural?

—*Editor:*—I enclose in my last letter, to our Lord abolished polygamy. Let us inquire into this point more closely. The prevailing law with all christians is that he expressly forbids polygamy, in his remarkable reply to the Samaritan who came unto him, tempting him, and saying: "It is lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause." And he answered, and said unto them: "Have ye not read, that He which made them at the beginning, made them male and female? For that cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall cleave unto his wife, and the two shall become one flesh?"—Whereupon (because God had indeed it at the first) they are at once won over, but now both. What, therefore, God hath joined together, let no man put asunder." They say unto him, "Why did Moses then command to give a writing of divorce, and to put her away?" He saith unto them, "Moses, because of the hardness of your hearts, suffered you to bear many wives; but from the beginning was not so." "And I say unto you (and here the law was again specially associated that no man has the privilege of an excuse for mistaking the will of God) whenever shall not any man put his wife, except it be for the cause of fornication, and shall answer another committed adultery."—The question is now, was polygamy or adultery? The propriety or impurity of polygamy was not the subject of conversation; nor does our Lord, if I understand him aright, tell us that the Pharisee who interrogated him understood him as referring to polygamy. It is not mentioned, that because of the hardness of their hearts, Moses allowed a man to have more than one, as this would have been no evidence of their bad hearts. It was the want of the party of putting away their wives for every cause, which was persecuted on this account. The house which our Lord designed to teach, was that man should be an institution of God in the beginning; who has never a relation, when properly turned, to be maintained by any legal enactment; that the parties themselves could not separate and marry again, without being guilty of adultery, the least of the other had caused such fornication. Is not even a man or a woman apt to get a divorce from the husband or wife and marry another with out shame?

It is written, "He made of twain, one flesh: Are we to understand from these words, that God prohibited a man from having more than one wife? Is not the law equally true, where a man marries two or more wives? Are they not made one flesh with the man, in precisely the same sense, and as truly one in that relation, as when the man marries one wife? Had not God, regarding polygamy as a transgression or an offence too low (in His eyes) that many of the Jews, and perhaps some of the ancients, were very prevalent polygamists, and still more regard the customs of idolatry as forbidden in view of these? Would he have hesitated to do more than it? As to the injunction of the Apostle, that a man and his son should be the hundred of his wife, and the prohibition proceed on the ground of the sinfulness of adultery, or consequences of profligacy and carnalism to their offspring in their respective classes? If the Apostle, who in a time at least, persecuted the dukes of nations or tribunes to the Church at Jerusalem, had no time to serve others, and ministers generally were required to give themselves wholly to their work, prayer and the ministry of the Word, would it not be quite as reasonable that they would be able to devote themselves to their proper duty to the church, endowed with the same respectability of a plurality of wives with their offspring? Is not this the chief reason for the injunction to be good in holiness and decency? The inference is plain, that polygamy was common in the churches of that day, from the very fact of the prohibition of more than one wife to these two classes of men; for if there were none in the churches, who had more than one wife, whence the necessity requiring a spouse or spouses to have one wife? And then polygamy had been regarded by the Apostle as unlawful or sinful, why did not he prohibit his brethren in these polygamous churches to the morality or immorality of the sinning, and forth it amongst christians generally? Or did the Apostle regard marriage as a purely civil institution, and as polygamy was recognized by the laws of the State, hence the practice of polygamy or monogamy to be decided by civil authority, without requiring the churches to make it a question of fellowship any more than lawholding?

Paul said, he had a good right to marry a wife (neophytes generally) and have her to assist him in his travels, as the herald of the Lord and Cephas had; but no man need to do so, least he might interfere in more measure with the speedy fulfillment of his great mission. If the portions I have assumed I categorically believe to be correct, it is not a great or in the sight of God, for a christians to marry one unbelieveing wife, since two christian women, (Samaritan's wife was not that he had married many wives, but he had "many strange wives") and if the laws of the State did not forbid polygamy, would not christians have less reason to condemn one man's fellowship for having two? Christians even, then if he had married one unbelieveing woman? And further: Would that brother's polygamy merit so unhappy an judgment upon the cause of religion that particular community or upon the prosperity of the churches generally (supposing that law and public witness concerned the cause, as was the case in ancient times); or the example of that brother who had not at length and violated an express statute of God, and yoked himself with an unbelieving wife?

This much, however, by way of digression, will conclude my letter with a few extracts from the excellent little work of Elder Mullam, bearing directly on the subjects under consideration.

Persons of opposite inclination and habits can be presumably together, only by keeping out of the way points wherein the differences originate. The Christian's mouth must therefore be closed on the matter of polygamy, and the departing from the church, where there is the least need to do so. Poor, at least, in some places, and doubtless the churches everywhere, by the exercise of a large measure of God, and memory of conscience."

That will not be possible for a time, as God to keep dark and silent on the subject, which may displease the heart; nor to avoid conflict which will have the result of holy profanity. In such consequence, solutions must occur. As we believe the Scripture, "Let us then bear it; for it is not in our power to do it." In other words, is submission to the will of God, and the exercise of great patience, the best course?—This will be a great trial, which will cause the difference to increase, and the separation to become more difficult. Marriage is a most important duty, and the daughter is in law against her mother, and a man's love shall be that of his own household.

Allowing exception to be a possible result, which no one will deny, and even suppose the consequence to leave a single companion, we would prefer a union formed on such a wise basis: "Blasphemy is the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth; You say, the Spirit, that the attitude of man is not denied, in the sight of God, by keeping quiet. If the wrath of man passeth not, yet it is not the word of man."

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before he comes sailing on his sail to the evening meeting, and perhaps in the house of God.

After marriage, they associate in the daily business of life, which sets according to regular character and established habits. It is not possible for a Christian and a sinner thus to associate without the shadow of disqualification. These disqualifications must be peculiarly irksome, because they relate to fundamental principles; their exhibition is continual and unavoidable; and the conduct of one party does not need to prove that of the other. How it is possible in such company to maintain the harmony, which is in the very essence of domestic felicity; and, keeping out of sight the feelings which might reflect upon our appearance. If the effort be fully made, much more; but fails, what hope can there be for better success after marriage?

See how parents training their children to purity, from their tenderest years. See the tears, the prayers, the entreaties obtained up to manhood. All has not produced conversion. The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth, so is every one that is born of the Spirit.

Resolved, That we boldly bow to the hand of divine Providence in this afflictive dispensation; we do deeply regret the untimely death of our beloved brother which has removed him from amongst us in the midst of his usefulness.

Resolved, That with his family in this, their sad bereavement, we do deeply and sincerely sympathize.

Resolved, That this Church is deeply sensible of the heavy affliction visited upon it by this stroke of Divine power, in depriving it of an honorable member and useful minister worthy of our love and veneration, who, being dead, yet speaketh through the force of an example left as his brightest legacy.

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions be transmitted to the afflicted family of the deceased.

Resolved, That the foregoing resolutions be forwarded to the Western Recorder and Tennessee Baptist for publication, and also recorded in the church book.

Elizabeth Westcott.

Departed this life, on the 11th of March, 1857, sister Elizabeth Waddell, daughter of Rev. S. W. and Judith Waddell, of Puttawee county, Miss. I never saw one more universally beloved. Long will she live in the hearts of her friends. Such was the temper of her mind that every one was made to feel agreeable in her presence. Whether in the family circle, in the school room, or church, oft have I seen her get happy, shout the praises of God and sit in the congregation in a blaze. When that awful pride to death, consumption, laid hold of her, and she must die, she was not afraid, but was always cheerful and pleasant. At several times I visited her, and on one occasion I found her happy. She related a dream that she had a few days before. In her vision, she was preaching; the hymn sung was, "As on the cross the Savior hung;" the text was Isa. 40: 31, "They that wait upon the Lord." As while relating her vision, the divinity seemed to sit on her dying brow. Shortly after death came, the power of the grave was there, and fearless did our sister in Christ pass the vale of death, and so doubt entered into that rest that remains for the people of God.

ISAAC EASTKELLY.

COLD WATER BAPTIST FEMALE SEMINARY,

OKLAHOMA, MARSHALL, O. MISS.

Faculty.

REV. JASPER HAMILTON, President.

Miss Anna Marion, Pianos and Organ.

Miss Julia M. Blane, Mathematics and English Literature.

Miss Margarette M. Peacock, Penmanship and History.

Miss Mary E. Burrows, Drawing.

Miss Elizabeth and Lucy, Howard's Department.

Misses E. and L. Howard, Mrs. Howard's Department.