

CHRISTIAN PERFECTIONISTS.

THEIR INTERPRETATIONS AND MISINTERPRETATIONS.

BY A. J. FOSTER, D. D.

NO. X.

"If we say that we have no sin we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us."—1 John 1:8.

It will now attempt an analysis and an exegesis of this text, which will reveal the fact that not one word is said of man's "perfect love" for God, but much is said about God's perfect love for man, and with man. Let us notice the first clause: "Herein is love made perfect with us."

The question will naturally arise, is not God's love always perfect? How then can it be made perfect? The Greek verb, *teleiōtai*, rendered "is made perfect," means to accomplish a purpose, to reach an end, to fulfill a design. Now whose love is it that is made perfect, that accomplishes its purpose, fulfills its design? The foregoing context will show that God's love to man, and not man's love to God was almost the entire theme of discourse. For example, verse (10):

"Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins." The verse immediately preceding the one under consideration, reads: "And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love, and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God and God in him." Then comes the passage "Herein is love made perfect with us," viz, God's love reaches its end, and accomplishes its design with us, "that we may have boldness in the day of judgment." This leads us to consider the second clause of the verse, "Boldness in the day of judgment." Bold expression that is there any mortal on earth so morally conceived as to imagine his love to God so perfect that he can boldly march up to God's great white throne, of judgment (for this is their conception, that saint and sinner will stand before that throne) and be judged according to the deeds done in the body? But if I know the judge loves me perfectly, that his love is accomplishing its design, then I can have boldness in the day of judgment. "There is no fear in love, but perfect love casteth out fear; because fear hath torment."

"There is no fear in love." Whose love? God's love is perfect, and it casts out all fear. If the Judge loves me perfectly my fear is gone forever, my torment is impossible. Will we not love such a judge? Certainly, and the next verse tells us why we shall love him: "We love him because he first loved us." But there is another reason for no fear besides the fact of God's perfect love for us: "Because as he is so are we in this world." Here is God's love with us fulfilling its gracious design. As he is complete, so are we "complete in him." As he is accepted at God's right hand, so are we "accepted in the beloved." "As he is the Son of God, so are we the sons of God." As he is "not of the world," so are we "not of the world." As he is the image of God, so are we "changed into the same image." As "he shall reign forever and ever," so we "shall reign forever and ever." As he is one with the Father, so are we "one in Christ Jesus."

Thus God's love is made perfect, that is it accomplishes its design, when we "have boldness in the day of judgment, because as he is so are we in this world." Not as he was, so are we, as if it referred to his perfect walk on earth, or as if our "boldness in the day of judgment," rested on the perfection of our walk, or our perfect love. It is true, if we abide in him "we ought also to walk even as he walked." Still our acceptance and boldness depend not on this, nor on anything we say or do, but we may have boldness in the day of judgment "because as he is so are we in this world." And it is God's love for us that has made us one with Christ, and hence we may have no more fear of the judgment than Christ would have. How perfect the love of God! How it thus accomplishes its purpose! How it removes all our fears! How bold it makes us! "It is Christ that justifieth, who is he that condemneth?" "If he is for us who can be against us?" We may have boldness now as a present experience, no fears, no torment now, for "as he is so are we in this world." Let us

enter into the joy of God's perfect love for us now. If you would have joy now, and boldness hereafter look not within to what you are in yourselves, but look up to what he is, and what we are in him. We must never once think of the perfection of our love to God; but we must "know and believe the love God hath to us." Christ is to be our Judge, and he says to his Father, "As thou hast loved me even so have I loved them."

The Judge on the throne loved us enough to die for us. May we not then have boldness? Is it not entirely natural that such love on this part of the Judge should attain its end by casting out all fear of meeting him? Is not such love made perfect when it thus accomplishes its design of making us one with the Judge? There are other passages that make a similar use of the word perfect. For example, in the epistle of James, it is said, "By works is faith made perfect." That is faith is made to accomplish its object, to produce its proper results.

In this same epistle of John we also read: "Whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected." Keeping his word is the proper fruit, the design of the love of God. Or again: "If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us." His love produces its proper results, its design is accomplished when we love one another. And in the same sense, the design of God's love is accomplished when we have "boldness in the day of judgment," not because our love is perfect, but God's love is perfected, and produces in us absence of all fear.

It is not in the nature of my love for God to cast out fear, but it is in the very nature of God's infinite love for me to cast out all fear in the day of judgment. This passage is therefore mistranslated and misinterpreted by all Christian perfectionists, and is thus taken from them. There are several other passages in which the love of God for man is frequently mistaken for man's love to God. The first time we meet the expression, "love of God" in the epistles, is in Romans v. 5: "And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given us." It is not our love to God, but a sense of God's love for us that prevails the heart.

An eminent expositor of the Bible once called on a poor dying young man, and quoted this passage for his consolation, saying, "you have that blessed hope which maketh not ashamed, for you feel such love to God shed abroad in your heart, that it must be by the Spirit of God which is given to you." "Ah, sir," said he, "that is not the meaning of the text at all." "What?" said the learned expositor, "not the meaning?" What meaning then do you give to it?" "Ah, sir!" he replied, "it would be a poor hope I should have, if it was derived from any love I feel to God. When I think of what he has done for me, and how I ought to love him, I feel so cold and dead, compared to what my love ought to be, that I would despair instead of having a hope that maketh not ashamed, if my love to him was the ground of my hope. No, sir, it is God's love to us poor sinners, that the Holy Ghost sheds abroad in our hearts, and it is that which gives us the hope that maketh not ashamed."

"Read on, sir, and you will see it is." The great commentator read the next three verses, viz: "For when we were yet without strength in due time Christ died for the ungodly. For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet, peradventure for a good man some would even dare to die. But God commendeth his love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners Christ died for us." In the eighth chapter of Romans is another passage wherein the love of God for man is often perverted into the love of man for God: "Nor blight, nor depth, nor any other creature shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Again, "For the love of Christ constraineth us," is often interpreted as if it referred to our love for Christ, instead of his love for us, which acts as the motive power. Paul also exhorted the Ephesian converts "to be rooted and grounded in love," that they "may be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth and length and depth and height, and to know the love of Christ, which

passeth all knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God." This phrase, "love of Christ" in this passage is often mistaken for our love of Christ instead of the love of Christ for us. In 2 Thess. iii. v. we read: "And the Lord direct your hearts into the love of God, and unto the patient waiting for Christ." But it is in the first epistle of John that the words "the love of God" occur most frequently, and always in the same sense, viz, God's love for us and not our love for him. The very theme of the epistle is the assurance of "the love of God," "the love of the Father" for his children: "Behold what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us that we should be called the sons of God." "In this was manifest the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world that we might live through him."

Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins." Three times in this epistle we read of the love of God being perfected, and Christian perfectionists continually refer to these passages as evidences of their "perfect love" to God, whereas it always refers to God's love for man, and not man's love for God. It is a most singular perversion of three precious passages on God's love for us. But there are not only those who claim to have attained the blessings of "perfect love," so they can say, "As he is so are we!" but they profess to have perfect characters, and they quote another passage in proof to which we invite attention. It is found in Philippians, iii. 15: "Let us therefore as many as be perfect be thus minded." It is said that Paul and others at Philippi claimed to be perfect. We shall endeavor to show the misinterpretation of this passage by "Christian perfectionists." The New Testament often uses the word "perfect" to express not so much the idea of moral completeness, as that of physical maturity. For example, when Paul says, that he would have his converts to be "men in understanding," and when the epistle to the Hebrews speaks of "them that are of full age," the same word as this "perfect" in the passage under consideration is used. It means "full grown" in contrast with "babes," maturity of character, an advanced stage of development. Another argument to show that Paul did not refer to perfection of character, is the fact that those "perfect people" are exhorted to cultivate the idea that they had not "a ready attained, and that they were to be constantly reaching forth to the things that were before, so that a sense of imperfection of character, and a continual effort after a holier walk are the desires of Paul's perfect man." "And if in anything ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you." "Perfect" people may be possibly "otherwise minded," by which we understand not divergently minded from one another, but otherwise than the moral law of life would prescribe. Thus we see that the sacred writers call people "perfect," though they have many imperfections, not because they have attained or are already perfect in character, "but because they are following after, if that they may apprehend that for which they also are apprehended of Christ Jesus." Paul called those the "perfect people" who had not reached moral perfection, but were "pressing toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." Paul says: "Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect, but I follow after," etc. Paul would have us to understand that he is the most perfect Christian, the most manly character whose ideal was so high that he could never reach it in this life. Paul was always on the reach for something higher; his aim was always far above his attainments. He was always "thus minded," viz, always thus striving. And he says: "Let us therefore as many as be perfect be thus minded."

"That is, the more perfect or 'mature' a Christian is, the more humble he is, the less he talks of his attainments. He never owns that he has reached his high ideal. He never talks like the Pharisee, who said, 'God, I thank thee that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all I possess.'" And the publican stand-

ing afar off would not so much as lift up his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, 'God be merciful to me a sinner. I tell you this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.'

Here was a Pharisee boasting of his righteousness, and a publican crying over his sins. One was talking of his attainments, and the other was confessing his faults. One was congratulating himself on his perfection, the other was bemoaning his imperfections. Christ says the publican was nearer perfection than the Pharisee. Not because the publican was morally perfect, but his aim was so high as to make him conscious of his moral imperfections. In other words, the publican had said with Paul, "Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect." The Pharisee had said, "Stand by thyself, come not near to me, for I am holier than thou." The Pharisee was boasting of his attainments, and looking down upon other people. The publican was bowing his head, and looking up to God for something higher. The perfection of which Paul was speaking had two characteristics, viz: mental and practical. He exhorts the "perfect" to be "thus minded." This points back to the precious clauses in which Paul described his own mind, and feeling in the Christian race. How did he think of himself? "Not as though I were already perfect. I count not myself to have apprehended." A prominent characteristic of Paul's perfection was a constant consciousness of his imperfection.

A MANLY PROTEST.

UNDER this caption, the editor of *Word and Work*, one of the best papers in Great Britain, by the way, and one that may well be taken by Christians in this country, refers to a recent statement from Mr. Spurgeon. It appears that during a Baptist Conference in Leicester, England, a Unitarian made an address at a social gathering. Judging from recent events quite near [St. Louis] it is probable that few in the United States would object to the courtesy of recognizing Unitarians, although "a little off" perhaps, at a meeting for the interchange of thought upon Christian effort. But Mr. Spurgeon was deeply wounded by the conduct of his brethren, and writes as follows:

"In answer to anxious inquiries from some friends who feel themselves aggrieved, and from others who go farther, and are greatly indignant, I can only say that I think they have grave cause for their regrets. With the heartiest wish to see all things in a favorable light, I must confess that I cannot interpret certain parts of the sayings and doings of the Baptist Union at Leicester. The welcome given to a denier of our Lord's Godhead, I am informed by the authorities, was accidental, and it is distinctly repudiated, if it be called an act of the Union itself. So far I unreservedly believe the statement of those concerned, and I am silent, after earnestly protesting against any construing of the matter into a fraternizing with those who reckon our Lord Jesus to be no more than man, if even a perfect man. It is also asserted by brethren, in whom great reliance may be placed, that the loudness of loose thinkers in the meetings was no index of their number or their weight; and this I hope is correct, but no one can be sure. Certainly the bonds of unity have suffered a great strain. . . . Creeds are of little use as bonds; for men have learned to subscribe to words and to interpret them in their own sense; but there can be no real union among Ba'ists, unless in heart and soul we all cling to the Lord Jesus as our God, our sacrifice, and our exemplar. We must be one in a hearty love to the gospel of his grace, or our unity will be of little worth. It is my own personal belief that no number of men under heaven are heartier in their love to Christ crucified, and to one another, than the great majority of our brethren of the Union: with them I am heartily one, and in writing those lines I fear lost I may cause them pain; but I can say no less, if I am to bear a conscience void of offense towards God. I may only add that those lines are not written without

much careful thought, and earnest prayer. God grant that they may for the present suffice as a protest, not for myself alone, but for the many who share my anxiety."

It would have been better to call this "A faithful protest," rather than a "A manly protest," for a manly thing may be wholly of the flesh, and utterly worthless in God's sight. But here his servant is led through grace to be true to the Lord, and true to the teachings of the inspired Scriptures at any cost to himself. He distinctly announces that he can not have even the appearance of fellowship with those who dishonor his Savior, and if the brethren of his own church desire or permit such fellowship, he must cut loose from them also. Doubtless he is prepared for the sneer of the world, and for the sneer of many in the church, that he is a narrow-minded bigot, but doubtless he is prepared to say with the apostle, "None of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry which I have received of the Lord Jesus to testify of the gospel of the grace of God."

Upon this faithful protest, the *Christian World*, which seems to be one of the meanest papers in Great Britain, has the effrontery to say: "If mere social fraternization between men of irreproachable Christian character is not to be permitted, because their thoughts of their Master cannot be expressed in the theological language, it is a desperate attempt indeed to put back the clock of our civilization, and does violence to the very commonest dictates of religion itself." The assault here made upon Mr. Spurgeon, and the defense of the Unitarian wing of the Baptist church, are as forcible and plausible as anything that can be written in favor of "sweetness and light," and it may be well to glance at the words for a moment.

First, the writer speaks of "men of irreproachable Christian character" on both sides of the question, but how can there be a Christian character without Christ? There may be an irreproachable character in the sight of men, but how can there be a Christian character, unless the character is built upon Christ, as presented in the word, "Cover all, God blessed forever," and who asked for our sins according to the Scriptures? Ingersoll is said to be irreproachable as a husband, a father, and a citizen, but it would display amazing ignorance to say that he has an irreproachable Christian character.

Second, it will be observed that a writer says, "if mere social fraternization between men of irreproachable Christian character is not permitted because their thoughts of their Master." Why did he not say, "thoughts of their Lord?" Obviously, this did not suit his purpose. It would have ripped his plausible argument in two, and exposed its fallacy. Judas called Christ Master, but he never called him Lord, and the difference between the two is as wide as heaven is from hell.

Third, there is a shameful falsehood contained in the intimation that the only distinction between those who believe and those who deny the divinity of the Lord Jesus, is found in the fact that "their thoughts of their Master cannot be expressed in the same theological language." It is difficult to imagine that any one of ordinary intelligence, spiritual or of any kind, can look upon the difference between the gospel of the Son of God and Unitarianism as involving nothing more than the use of certain theological language.

The charge that Mr. Spurgeon's protest is "a desperate attempt indeed to put back the clock of our civilization" is not worth a thought, for what Christian cares a penny for the clock of civilization unless it keeps time with the testimony of Jesus Christ our Lord? The clock badly needs to be put back, as England and all Europe will find out soon, when Socialism and Nihilism and a Christless church will inaugurate the reign of antichrist.

Fifth, Mr. Spurgeon "does violence to the very commonest dictates of religion itself," which is no doubt true; but he does no violence to the commonest dictates of Christianity; and the critics of the *Christian World*—a name which shows great ignorance of the truth, for there can no more be a

Christian world than there can be Christian sin—evidently knows no difference between the two.

Remarks.—The reader can see that Mr. Spurgeon's protest against this union meeting, embracing as it did Unitarians—is based on the same principle we urged against the union meetings in this city. It was a public endorsement of the formulated doctrines of all associated as Scriptural, and their organizations as churches of Christ.

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FIFTH SUNDAY UNION MEETINGS.

DEAR BRETHREN:—We, the undersigned, were appointed at the last session of Big Hatchio Association to superintend the fifth Sunday mission meetings on and contiguous to the Memphis and Charleston railroad. After due deliberation we have resolved to ask all the churches in this district that can do so, to hold services on the fifth Sunday in this month, and take a collection for foreign missions.

Any church wishing the services of any of the following brethren may obtain them for this purpose by writing immediately: A. W. Lamar, W. H. Barksdale, R. A. Venable, and J. B. Canada, Col. Memphis; G. W. Johnson, and J. B. Canada, Col. Memphis; A. G. Parrott and J. D. Anderson, Germantown.

It is to be hoped that the churches will act promptly in this matter. We need not tell you that your prosperity depends in a large measure on the contributions you make to foreign missions.

There are noble, consecrated missionaries waiting for the Board to resolve money to send them to heathen lands. God has called them and given us the ability to send them—will we do it?

The collection should be sent to S. F. Thomas, Brownsville, Tenn., stating it is for foreign missions, and postal card to the undersigned secretary, with statement of the amount, that a report may be made in the papers of the on fire collection.

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J. B. CANADA, Moderator.

J. D. ANDERSON, Secretary.

November 2, 1885.

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The Tennessee Baptist.

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THAT IT MAY BE DISPLAYED BEFORE THE TRUTH.—17.

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of the word of God as the only and sufficient rule of faith

and practice. The Bible, and the Bible only, as opposed to

all human tradition in matters both of faith and practice,

we must claim as being a distinguishing doctrine of our de-

nomination—a doctrine for which we are called earnestly

to contend.

2. As Baptists, we are to stand for the ordinances of Christ

as he enjoined them upon his followers, the same in number,

in mode, in order, and in symbolic meaning, unchanged and

unchangeable till he come.

3. As Baptists, we are to stand for a spiritual and regener-

ated church, and that none shall be received into Christ's

church, or be welcomed to his ordinances, without confessing

a personal faith in Christ, and giving credible evidence of

regeneration of heart.

Church Policy.

The Baptists believe that a Christian church is a local con-

gregation, and complete in itself.

4. That, under Christ, each church is absolutely sovereign

and independent.

5. That to each church Christ committed the sole guard-

ianship and control of the ordinances—preaching the gospel

and administering baptism and the Lord's supper.

6. That all church rights and privileges, as voting and the

Lord's supper, should be limited to the discipline of each

church.

7. That no semblance of ecclesiastical authority can be

exercised save by a local church.

8. That each local church alone is invested with all eccle-

siastical power—power to elect and commission and depose

its own officers, power to receive, discipline and excommunicate

its own members.

Outstanding Policy of Historical Baptists.

The non-recognition of human societies as scriptural

churches by affiliation, ministerial or ecclesiastical, or any

kind of co-operation that is susceptible of being ap-

parently or logically construed by our members or theirs or

the world into a recognition of ecclesiastical or ministerial

equality with Baptist churches.

Patience is the most efficient Accomplish of Error.

IN looking over our exchanges, a thing we have

not been able to do for the past four months—

we find some things to gladden, and some things to

sadden us.

In what follows sadness and gratefulness are

mingled. Among the first papers we opened was

the Baptist Weekly, New York, when our eyes fell

upon this item, giving the first intimation of the

injury sought to be inflicted upon us and our busi-

ness in our absence from home and a critical condi-

tion of health.

"Fears are entertained as to the result of the

damning advertisement in the shape of a circular

which it sent out to Baptist preachers, and offered

an inducement to them to subscribe, 'A valu-

able sermon, and a skeleton each week,' and added:

'This skeleton can be filled out and used.' This is

one of the 'Six grand features' of the paper. Some

of us have been taught that plagiarism is wrong.

To take a 'skeleton, fill it out and use it,' would

be to be honest? What makes this thing more

to be remarked is, that the editor of THE TENNESSEE

BAPTIST is Rev. J. R. Graves, D. D., L. L. D. I will

not venture to criticize the editor or advertisement

in this case, but simply say, 'A cat can look at a

king.'

To this article Dr. Lasher, the editor, calls the at-

tention of his readers, and adds insult to injury!

Upon opening the Baptist Courier, South Caro-

lina, we found this reference to the Baptist

Weekly's remarks:—

"In alluding to the helpless condition of Dr. J.

R. Graves, and the unfavorable reports as to his

probable recovery, the Baptist Weekly regrets to

see that a paragraph has been started assailing the

financial soundness of THE TENNESSEE BAPTIST,

and comments as follows: 'Even if true, it is not

brotherly, especially when a man is laid aside by

sickness, to do anything which may injure his

credit or cause annoyance. With some of the

views Dr. Graves has advocated we have no sym-

pathy, but we admire his plainness of speech, and

hope his health may yet be restored.' Our cotem-

porary is exactly right, and no fair minded man

would use such means to injure a brother, while

the circulation of this report is unworthy a respect-

able newspaper."

It was a truly Christian and fraternal act in our

Bro. Patton, of the New York Baptist Weekly, to

say what he did for us, when we were unable to

say a word for ourselves, and Bro. Hoyt of the

Baptist Courier, endorsing the sentiment ex-

pressed by the Baptist Weekly, administered such

a stinging rebuke to our nameless assailant, who

we have ascertained is no other than Wil-

liam Henry Strickland, who has lately re-

moved from Nashville, Tenn., to Asheville, N. C.,

as to make another word from us wholly

unnecessary. We pray God to forgive him, and

the editor, Dr. Lasher. Most gratefully do

we appreciate the kindness of Brethren Patton and

Hoyt, which is in such marked contrast with the

editor of the Journal and Messenger. They have

shown to the world that they can treat us like a

Christian brother, although we do advocate a

closer pulpit, and strict observance of the Lord's

supper than they think altogether necessary.

Touching the financial condition of this paper,

whose credit this editor and William Henry Strick-

land have done all in their power to de-

stroy, we can say with grateful gratitude to the

Divine Helper, that notwithstanding our long

(fifteen months) and expensive sickness, and the

exceeding closeness of the times, over the whole

field of our circulation, every bill has been

promptly met at maturity, and our bank account

not once overdrawn (and to-day not one dollar

is owing for material or work); and we have thir-

teen hundred more names on our list than we had

one year ago, and the prospects of the paper are

far better for 1886 than for several years past.

The indebtedness of this paper is only a few

dollars on current bills for Oct. ber.—J. S. MA-

HAFFY, Business Manager.]

About those skeleton sermons that could be filled

out and used to which this "Cumberland" brother

calls attention, and about which several of our ex-

changes are some what exercised, do little because

they did not notice their character when they ap-

peared in this paper we have only to say:—

No one is more opposed to plagiarism than we,

and if we know it, we would by no means encour-

age it. But have we? is the question.

We submit one of these skeletons here, and most

respectfully and fraternally ask our Bro. Tucker of

the Georgia Christian Index, and Bro. Womack of

the Arkansas Evangelist, if it could be considered

plagiarism should a brother fill out and make a ser-

mon by the help of one like this.

SKETCHES OF SERMON.

Theme: The Good Shepherd. John x. 11-16;

Isaiah llii.

I. The sheep. 1. A stray. Is. liii. 6; 1 Peter ii.

25; Romans iii. 12. 2. In the midst of wolves.

II. The Shepherd (born in the midst of sheep

and cattle, first visited by shepherds). 1. Good.

John x. 12-14. 2. Great. Hebrews xiii. 20. Chief.

1 Peter v. 4. 3. Successful. Abraham's wealth,

Jacob's property.

III. How he herds the Sheep. 1. Knows them

—"My Sheep." (a) Individually. Luke xv. 4-6.

(b) As they are, not as they seem. John x. 14. (c)

Sheep know him.

2. Sympathy for sheep. John xxi. 16, 17; Mark

vi. 34. (a) Yet guided by prudence. (b) Too wise

to err, too good to be unkind.

3. How commended to sheep. (a) Lays down

his life for them. John x. 11-13. If life, then,

with that will he not freely give us all things? (b)

He is not benefited by his toil or travail. (c)

Seeks not ours but us.

IV. 1. The Shepherd's Fond Conception. John x.

16. "One fold and one shepherd." Eph. iv. 4-6.

2. Union. John xvii. 9-11; 20-23. 3. Psalms ed.

Hymn. "Come unto me when shadows darkly

gather."

The Central Baptist says: "Some good people

are dreadfully afraid of books containing sketches,

outlines, and notes of sermons. Spurgeon seems

to be of a different mind, for in issuing his second

volume of sermon notes, he says:—

"Possibly a lazy brother may boil his own pot

with my sticks, but even that I will not deplore, so

long as the food is well cooked."

EXPOSITION OF THE PARABLES AND PROPHECIES OF CHRIST.

By the Editor

NO. XIII. Concluded.

Definition.

"PARABLE. A figure or allegorical relation or repre-

sentation of something real in life or nature, from which a

moral is drawn for instruction."—Webster.

The Parable of the Mustard Seed.

THE advocates of that theory known as the

Church-Branch Theory refer to this parable,

and to this alone, for its support.

I suppose the misunderstanding and miscon-

struction of the parable originated the theory. The

mustard tree, they claim, represents the one true

church of Christ; and, as the tree is composed of

many branches, so the church is composed of many

denominations; indeed, that all the so-called de-

nominations, claiming to be churches, that have

existed or that now exist on this earth, taken to-

gether, have constituted, and do now constitute, the

church.

There are many and insuperable difficulties in

the way of this most irrational and absurd theory.

1. Christ has no visible or invisible organization

called "the church." There is no visible or in-

visible organization on earth known in the word

of God as the church, composed of all existing

churches. It is a mere conception, not a reality.

Whenever the phrase "the church of Christ" oc-

curs it is a figurative expression, by metonymy one

being put for all.

2. Christ did not say that his church was like a

mustard tree, but that his kingdom was. And the

branches of this tree would therefore represent the

constituents of which the kingdom is composed,—

all of Christ's true local churches.

3. The branches of this mustard tree, like the

branches of any other tree, were identically of the

same wood, and not each of a different kind of

wood. And these branches were organically

united with the one body, and therefore with each

other, like the members of our bodies.

But in the conceptional tree of the church-branch

theory the tree is all branches without any trunk,

or body. And stranger yet, if it is indeed possible

for anything to be stranger, each branch is of a

widely different species of wood, having no organic

connection with each other, and of course not with

its body, or trunk, for it has none! Most wonder-

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

QUESTION 334. Is it Scriptural for women to discuss questions in conference? The church of which I am a member passed a resolution recently making it the duty of the moderator, on opening conference, to invite sisters to take part in the deliberations.

W. M. L. H.

ANSWER 334. 1 Tim. II. 12; 1 Cor. xiv. 34, 35. We profoundly regret to learn that there is even one Baptist church in Texas that, in the very face of God's word, makes such a requisition of her pastor, or that there is a pastor in Texas who would comply with such an unscriptural requisition in open violation of God's word.

QUESTION 335. I should like your exposition of Luke xi. 21, 22. Who is the strong man armed, and who the stronger than he, and what are the spoils alluded to?

C. H. RALEY.

ANSWER 335. This is a simple illustration taken from actual life.

A strong man armed, entrenched in his palace or castle, would of course retain his possession, and keep all his goods (property) in security, until a stronger one than he should come. He would first have to overcome the strong man, and cast him out, before he could take possession of his property. This is taken for granted. It could not reasonably be supposed that the strong man would surrender his palace and his goods voluntarily and without opposition, or without being overcome by a stronger than himself. So in the application of this illustration to the case in hand. A demon had confessedly been overcome and cast out of the man: certainly not by Satan himself, but by one stronger than Satan, — Christ himself. And therefore Christ, whom they only recognized as Jesus of Nazareth, was stronger than Satan, and must therefore have been what he professed to be, — the Christ of God, the expected Messiah.

While this is forcibly applicable to the heart of a carnal man, which Satan has full and complete possession of, and which he never voluntarily and finally surrenders with all its possessions (a power stronger than Satan must first overcome him ere that soul can be redeemed), there is doubtless a prophetic application of this illustration. This world has been in the possession of this strong man armed since the fall of Adam. Satan is today the prince of this world: "Hereafter I will not talk much with you; for the prince of this world cometh, and hath nothing in me." (John xiv. 30.) "Of judgment, because the prince of this world is judged." (John xvi. 11.) He has had almost undisputed possession of this world for now six thousand years; but he is not, thank God, always to be its master and possessor: he is to be cast out of it, and all his goods to be taken possession of by the one who is stronger than he, — Christ: "Now is the judgment of this world, — now shall the prince of this world be cast out." (John xii. 31.)

This prophecy will have its fulfillment at the second coming of Christ, to take possession of all the kingdoms of this world, and to reign over them with his saints: "And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, and cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years should be fulfilled; and after that he must be loosed a little season." (Rev. xx. 1-3.)

The spoils are all the kingdoms of this world and the glory of them, which Satan once offered to give to Christ on condition that he would worship him; for Satan truly said: "All these are mine, and I give them to whom I will." All these Christ will despoil Satan of, and possess them with his saints.

JUDAS AND THE LORD'S SUPPER.

QUESTION 336. I want more light on the accounts in Matthew, Mark and Luke of Christ instituting the supper. It is plainly stated that Judas ate the supper, — ate the bread and drank the wine with all the rest. See Luke xxi. 17-22, Mark xx. 24, Matt. xxvi. 28.

T. B. GARNETT.

ANSWER 336. We cannot appreciate the practical importance which so many of our brethren

seem to place upon the assumption that Judas did indeed eat the supper with the rest of the apostles. Grant it, and what do we, as Baptists, lose, or what do open-unionists or even Methodists gain by the admission? According to all the laws laid down by Christ and his apostles Judas was a Scripturally qualified subject.

1. He, as well as the rest of the apostles, had been Scripturally baptized.

2. He, as well as the rest of the apostles, belonged to the apostolic family and to the visible kingdom of Christ.

3. Grant that he was a bad man at heart (but this was only known to him who knoweth the hearts of all men; and Christ has nowhere required or allowed his churches to judge the hearts of their members, but only their faith and their outward lives, in deciding if they are qualified to observe the supper), we cannot see of what advantage the case of Judas, granting that he did eat the supper with Christ, is to Methodists in justifying their course in inviting and urging all classes of persons, unbaptized sinners as well as saints, to their communion table, for, to all external appearances and so far as his fellow-apostles could discern, Judas was as clearly entitled to the supper as Peter or any one of the rest of them.

But, according to the unqualified testimony of John (see chapter xiii., who records all the circumstances connected with the supper in their chronological order, which the other evangelists do not), Judas did not eat the supper with Christ, but was sent from the company even before the pass-over supper, which clearly preceded the Lord's supper, had been eaten. The sop, bread dipped in a sauce made of bitter herbs, was eaten before the flesh of the paschal lamb, and John tells us that the treason of Judas was discovered and revealed to the apostles at the eating of the sop, when Jesus dipped it and gave it to Judas. His treachery having in this way been made known, Jesus commanded Judas to do quickly what he had decided to do; and Luke tells us that as soon as Judas had received the sop he went out, and this was certainly before the pass-over supper had been eaten, and the Lord's supper was instituted at the close of the pass-over supper, and therefore Judas was not at the Lord's supper. The unchronological narratives of the other evangelists should be interpreted by John's clear chronological statements. See our book, *Intercommunion, etc.*, for this history.

EPIGRAMS.

Bro. H. S. Casman of St. John, New Brunswick, renews for 1886, and says: "The weekly visits of THE BAPTIST I hail with joy. Its teachings are solid, and put to defiance all who practice unscripturally church relations. I shall endeavor to increase your list at this office." Thank you, Bro. C. Our growing list in the Canadas is a matter of encouragement to us. — As we declined to copy the article detrimental to Eld. W. G. Phillips it will be quite unnecessary for us to publish the proceedings sent us. — "The more I read the Old Banner the more I appreciate the valuable information it contains," writes T. H. Bridges of Crawford, Tenn. — "I am fully with you on church communion, and have so held for ten years past," writes Eld. W. A. Hughes of Pocahontas, Ark. He also gives the fruit of a nine days' meeting with Pleasant-grove church, — fifty-six additions, forty-three b. baptism and thirteen by restoration.

Bro. H., go round among them and get forty or fifty three or six months subscribers to THE BAPTIST. Try it, and report the result. It will make those converts intelligent, and thus strong, influential Baptists. — Bro. J. T. Craig, Arkansas: You have our tenderest sympathies in your long affliction. May the consolations of God not be few to you. You are credited one year on THE BAPTIST for those subscribers. — An intelligent and influential brother in Alabama recently said to his church: "Brethren, until I am shown some Scriptural authority for inviting all visiting brethren of sister churches to come to our table, thus making it a denominational instead of a church ordinance, I cannot conscientiously participate myself, nor can other brethren and sisters who believe as I do."

He says: "Next month will show whether my church has more respect for the rights of her own members than for, not the rights but the opinions, of a few members of other churches. There is one whiskey-drinking minister who is sure to accept the invitation. I will report how it turns out. The position of Dr. Robertson that this drunken minister, because not excluded from his own church as he should be, has a right to come to the supper spread in our church, which would exclude him at once, if he was within her jurisdiction, is as absurd as it is destructive of the independency of all our churches. Why cannot Baptists see that the advocates of denominational communion have as yet not used one argument to support it that is not a death-stroke to the independency of and very existence of Baptist churches?" If any one thinks our brother mistakes or mistakes the matter let him name the argument. — R. F. Barber, North Carolina: Yes, we always take off our brace at night, and wear it loosely when not preaching. Glad to hear you say it fits like a charm. It is the greatest temporal blessing a minister or public speaker ever enjoyed. — Bro. T. J. Lane and others: In our answer to your question two issues back in the twenty-third from the bottom read instead of "and not upon one who denies," "one who affirms" that such an act is both unscriptural and inconsistent, which is in fact a negative proposition. — We are in receipt of a most urgent invitation to be the guest of our Bro. J. A. Tate, proprietor of the Springs at St. Bethlehem, Tenn., in which his wife, she who was Miss Ambie White, author of the *Woman in Scarlet* heartily joins. Our comfortable condition, and the approaching changes of winter, forbid the thought of going farther north. The fragrant breath of the orange groves of Florida, and that warm, sunny south room of Bro. Moscoe's, are far more inviting, and promise us more relief. Our brother and sister will accept our hearty thanks for their proffered kindness; and we assure them that Dr. Sears would be congenial company to us. We should hope to convert him from his advocacy of the validity of alien immersions, and especially since the *Religious Herald* has frankly and manfully renounced them.

ITEMS.

If any church in Arkansas or Texas wishes to be put in correspondence with one of our standard Tennessee ministers, who has his heart set on going West, and will write to us, we will give his address.

The *Reflector* of this State and the *Witness* of Kentucky are engaged in by no means a pleasant discussion. The *Reflector* should remember that the *Gleaner* is a Kentucky paper, and if it prefers the mission plan of co-operation adopted and now worked by its General Association it should not be censured. The *Gleaner* is a staunch Baptist missionary paper.

The principal editors of the *Southern Baptist* are stoutly advocating the validity of immersions administered by the Antinomian Antimissionary Baptists. We thought Breth. Clark and Sample were anti-alien-immersionists. By unanimous consent Antinomian Baptist churches have been stricken from our statistics, with Freewill Baptists and Campbellites, as not Baptist churches.

We say to our Bro. C. C. Brown, the missionary secretary of our State Board, that the columns of this paper are always wide open to him for the advocacy of his work, and as a medium of communication with our churches. He will be pleased to remember that there are two State papers in Tennessee that will emulate each other in pushing on our State work. The word for 1886 should be, Say to people that they go forward.

We learn directly from Prof. Jarman, chairman of the faculty of our University, that there are a larger number of ministerial students in the University this year than at any former time in its history; and he adds: "We shall need every dollar we can raise to meet the board bills of those looking to us for help. A few of us have borne

the heat and burden of the day; and how grateful would we feel to have others put their shoulders to the wheel for a little while! No one in my knowledge has done so much as yourself to aid young ministers to prepare themselves to preach the word. If the University has done no other good than to educate such men as Halley, Eoff, Miller, Rosamon, Gardner, and a number of others, it should be deserving an endowment of one hundred thousand dollars." We have engaged, with the help of the patrons and readers of this paper, to pay the board of three young men this year (1885-86); and we trust that every reader will send us something. Help a little (one dollar) before January, 1886.

A writer to the *Christian World* says the following: "The Edict of Nantes, issued by Henri IV. in 1598, secured to the Huguenots of France some small measure of toleration. On the eighteenth of October, 1685, Louis XIV. ruthlessly revoked this edict, in the hope of eradicating heresy from his kingdom. To a certain extent he succeeded. All Protestant pastors were banished, and Protestant church-houses destroyed; and two hundred thousand persons, it is computed, either emigrated to other lands, or perished at the hands of the cruel soldiery." This has a mournful interest to us, since in that awful massacre all of our name, so far as we can gather from family traditions, perished, being Huguenots, save three young lads, who escaped with the fugitives to England; and, upon arriving at man's estate, two of them emigrated thence to America. From these two all the Graves of America have descended. We have never yet heard of a Graves who was a Catholic.

THY BURDEN.

To every one on earth
God gives a burden to be carried down
The road that lies between the cross and crown
No lot is wholly free;
He giveth one to thee.

Some carry it aloft,
Open and visible to any eyes,
And all may see its form and weight and size
Some hide it in their breast,
And deem it thus unguessed.

Thy burden is God's gift,
And it will make the weaker calm and strong,
Yet lest it should press too heavily and strong
He says, Cast it on me,
And it shall easy be.

And those who heed his voice,
And seek to give it back in trustful prayer,
Have quiet hearts that never can despair,
And hope lights up the way
Upon the darkest day.

Take thou thy burden thus
Into thy hands and lay it at his feet,
And whether it be sorrow or defeat
Or pain or sin or care
It will grow lighter there.

It is the lonely soul
That craves the life and light of heaven,
But borne with him, the soul, restored, forgiven,
Sings out through all the days
Her joy and God's high praise.

NEWS FROM THE STATES.

We desire that all our readers will send us every item of Baptist news that may come under their observation for these columns, and that, too, while it is fresh.

Bro. Mahaffy requests that all news items be written on separate sheets of paper from business letters. Please also give date and State.

MEMPHIS. — Bro. G. A. Grammer, late of Forrest City, Ark., was in the city last week, and attended the Wednesday evening prayer-meeting of the First church. — Pastor Venable made a flying visit to Nashville Thursday of last week. — Bro. Wesson, pastor of the church at Byhalia, Miss., was in the city one day last week. — The cost of the Central church building, when ready for dedication, it is estimated will have been one hundred and twelve thousand and five hundred dollars. — The subject of the sermon in the First church last Sunday evening was, *Evil Associations Corrupt Good Morals*. The aim of the pastor was to show the degrading and moral cancerousness of evil

companionship. — The Central church folk are under an effort now to get their house ready to be dedicated on the fifteenth of this month.

TENNESSEE. — The effort this year will be to get a contribution of money from every church in the State for the mission cause. Let each church raise some amount this year for this purpose; and it ought to be done weekly or monthly. — Bro. H. A. Deming writes: "Bro. Hurst has just closed meetings of twelve days' duration at Middleburg, which resulted in the accomplishment of great good. He was assisted by Bro. Owen. They are Jackson boys, and have many friends here. May God bless their labors. There were fourteen additions to the church, thirteen by experience and baptism and one by letter. May God bless Bro. Graves to long hold up the Old Banner, which I think the best of all papers."

ARKANSAS. — Bro. J. H. Fitzgerald of Mariana writes on October the twenty-third: "As it has been some time since I wrote you I will give you a brief note of my summer's work. I have just come in on the evening train from LaGrange, where I had been for several days, engaged in meetings. I baptized eight persons this morning. My summer's work was as follows: Number of days' labor, sixty-nine; number of places preached at, six; number of visits made, sixty; number of times preached, seventy-six; number of professions of faith, sixty; number of candidates baptized, fifty-seven; amount of money collected, sixty-one dollars and eighty-five cents. God be with Bro. Graves in his sad affliction, and give him rich supplies of his abounding grace for the few remaining days he has allotted him to dwell in the flesh." — The church in Forrest City is now without a pastor, as Bro. G. A. Grammer has resigned.

MISSISSIPPI. — Sister M. J. Coleman of Lee, Jefferson county, sends the money to renew her subscription, and says under date of October twenty-eighth: "An old friend and subscriber of your paper, Bro. Silas Coleman, died the tenth of this month." — Bro. E. Douglas of Tryon writes on October the twenty-second: "The Fair-iver Association has just closed one of her most interesting meetings. There were able and interesting discussions on missions, education, publications, temperance, etc. I tried to put in a word for the Old Banner and the old hero of Nashville and Memphis, and by so doing I obtained two subscribers for THE BAPTIST and a promise from a brother, who said he would forward his money from another point. The transactions of the Association will surely live long in the memories of the inhabitants of Monticello, at which place it convened."

LOUISIANA. — Bro. Gille Pavot of Johnson Bayou writes on October the twenty-fifth: "Bro. Dyson and I have just returned from the Calcasieu Baptist Association. We are bound to acknowledge we had a good time. The Lord and Savior seemed to manifest his love at that meeting. The Association convened with Occupy church, Rapied parish, beginning on October the seventh and continuing three days, and adjourned to meet with Sugartown church, Calcasieu parish, next year. I got three subscribers for THE BAPTIST."

KENTUCKY. — Bro. J. T. Thompson writes from Newroe on October the nineteenth: "The church at New Middlefork, Allen county, has just closed sixteen days' meetings. Six professed faith in Christ, and nine were baptized, one restored, and the church greatly revived. The preaching was done by Pastor S. H. Pope, N. Skaggs and the writer. To God be all the glory." — Bro. J. M. Peay, pastor of Pembroke church, Christian county, writes: "We have been in a series of meetings for sixteen days. We had thirteen additions. We will baptize nine (D. V.) to-night. Dr. W. P. Bennett of McLean county did most of the preaching. He is a man of God, and an able minister of the New Testament. This church employs all my time, and has a membership of one hundred and forty-two."

Brethren in all the States, do not forget that we want all the news that comes to your knowledge. Send on a postal-card once a week or month, and thus make your paper more interesting.

SECULAR NEWS.

Servia, is a note to the powers, expresses a desire for peace.

There seems to be a slight abatement in the smallpox epidemic in Montreal.

There is much suffering in Montreal from the smallpox, and the outlook is gloomy.

The opinion prevails in Bulgaria that the Balkan conference will prove a failure.

The British privy council has refused to interfere in Roli's case. He will doubtless be hanged the tenth of November.

Gen. George B. McClellan died suddenly in his home in Orange, N. J., October the twenty-ninth at three-thirty a. m.

An attempt was made October the twenty-ninth to assassinate M. De Freycinet, French minister of foreign affairs.

Russia thinks that Austria and Servia are intriguing for territorial aggrandizement at the expense of her Balkan interests.

England and France have informed the Porte of their readiness to take part in the Balkan conference.

Germany denies the claim of priority of Spain to the island of Yap, but Spain insists that Germany shall recognize her right of possession.

B. B. Battle of White county, Ark., was nominated for election to the office of supreme judge on October the twenty-second, to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Judge Eakin.

England is preparing to invade Burmah. It is thought by British officers that the campaign will be short. The Burmese are making all efforts to resist.

The average cotton yield for this crop in the Pine Bluff, Ark., district is three-fourths of a bale. The reports from the crop in the district immediately north of Little Rock are very discouraging.

Nissa, October 30. — It is officially announced today that the Bulgarian forces have blockaded the frontier, and that the officers have issued orders to shoot any men they find crossing from Servia into Bulgaria. The Servian troops have been ordered to reply in force in such an event without waiting special orders from the commanding general, or, in other words, they have received carte blanche in the premises. It is stated that bands of Bulgarians have commenced harrassing towns on the Servian frontier.

ADDRESSES WANTED.

Under this head we shall from time to time request the present address of parties with whom we wish to communicate. We will drop the names as soon as found. We give their post-office when last heard from. Any one knowing their present post-office will confer a favor by reporting the same by postal card, if the parties are dead we wish to know it.

W. M. Cooper, Elba, Ala.
W. T. Hawkins, Brazos Point, Texas.
Mrs. Belle Evans, Friendahip, Tenn.
Miss Mollie McIntyre, Union City, Tenn.
R. J. Pulliam, Union City, Tenn.
B. F. Barlow, Walnut Tree, Ark.
J. W. Jennings, Bloomfield, Mo.
W. J. Averett, Mexia, Texas.
Dr. W. J. Morris, Fairview, Texas.
C. P. Ellis, Hardison's Mills, Tenn.
G. W. Mitchell, Rossville, Tenn.
C. Parion, Maple Creek, Tenn.
H. Harper Guntown, Miss.
Eld. D. D. Hatcher, Valley Mills, Texas.
Willie Brown, Hall Hill, Tenn.

THE WORKS OF FLAVIUS JOSEPHUS.

We have received from the agents of the London publishers the agency for the above named work. It is printed from new plates, and is complete in one volume; nicely bound in cloth, which we can send postpaid, for \$1.50. We shall be glad to have your order for this book.

GRAVES & MAHAFFY, Memphis, Tenn.

The Young South.

MRS. NORA GRAVES HALEY, EDITOR,
To whom all communications for this department may be
addressed, Knoxville, Tenn.

POST-OFFICE.

DEAR CHILDREN:—It will take me a long time to show you the many votes and nice words of welcome that have been sent to Knoxville for that new uncle; so I will let a dear mother and her children talk to you in another column about the pillow-text answered this week, and not wait longer to open our doors to our new uncle, and introduce him as Uncle Orren. Here he is, children: he has a word for you.

To all the true cousins and readers of the Young South:—

DEAR CHILDREN:—Your cheering words of welcome warm all hearts of a cold reception. I am no "dressed up" wolf come to steal away Little Red Ridinghood, but a real friend and uncle, come to join your merry company in their labor of love. Come now, let us get acquainted, and learn to love each other, and then we'll do more work for the Savior. I have the advantage of the most of you. I have been hidden behind the rose bush watching your words and your works, as you so beautifully labored in the Lord. Many a time, when reading your letters, I have felt my heart swell with emotion, and tears of joy and sympathy have crept quietly out upon my cheek, and I said in my heart, God bless these dear children. Children, do you think it unmanly to weep? I do not. Jesus wept many times. That showed he had a tender heart.

So now that you all have invited me in I am come; for I love the Young South and all the little cousins, and the editor too. And best of all, I love God. Let us shake hands all round. Here is my **pillow-text**. Shall we not enlarge our borders? Make room here for some more! Who will come and join us? Let us have their names. Will not you who read this hunt up some others, and ask them to join us? Let us hear who will be the first to find another cousin. Tell them that we are all happy in our work, and we want help to be happy. "The more the merrier." You shall hear from me again. Your affectionate

UNCLE ORREN.

MRS. NORA GRAVES HALEY. — Inclosed find the contents of Miss Ida Morney's mite box for foreign missions, — one dollar and fifty cents. Ida is a nice little girl of about twelve years, and is a member of our church and Sunday-school. She was baptized in August last, and wishes to work for foreign missions in Mexico. I am glad to welcome you to East Tennessee. I love to read the Young South though near sixty-three years old.

Adolphus, Tenn. IDA'S SUPERINTENDENT.
I appreciate your welcome to East Tennessee, and your interest in our page. I know Ida must be a nice little girl, and we want to know her better. She has made a good start. Tell her to come again.

AUNT NORA:—You know I wrote you a letter last spring in which I spoke of a missionary ben. The venture has not been a very profitable one, but still it enables me to give something for Mexico. I send twenty-five cents for our two cousins in Mexico. I am proud to welcome Uncle Orren to our circle. I congratulate him upon his late good fortune. Here is a sweet little lass you may give him for his from yours and his little niece, Sallito, Miss.

ANNIE OWEN.

MRS. NORA GRAVES HALEY. — I have been reading your very interesting page, the Young South, and have been pleased to hear the children write such nice letters, and answer your pillow-texts so nicely. I want to contribute something for the education of those two Mexican girls. May the Lord help you in your noble work, and help those little children who are trying to do such a noble work. I send herein one dollar for that purpose. Your sister in Christ,

MRS. F. W. KRAFT.

Memphis, Tenn.
Strange I should know you better now than when we lived in the same city, Mrs. Kraft. But we can shake hands across the Tennessee River any how, and claim you as truly a friend in Christ. Let us hear from you again.

AUNT NORA:—I am so glad that Mr. Haley has not won your heart from us. It has been some time since I wrote to you, but I have not lost my interest in the work of the little cousins in Mexico; so I send you ten cents in this letter as a beginning of our winter's work. I vote for that new uncle to come into our circle, if he will promise not to forsake us. Your little niece, IDA KINCAID, Seaford, Ark.

Our Pillow-Text.

[I will give my young readers a text each week, with question: for them to think and read about; the Sunday and our, as a soft pillow, under their heads each night as they go to bed. And I will give a first and second

prize-book to the two cousins who will write me the greatest number of letters during the year about our "pillow-text," answering all the questions, and telling me what it made them think about, etc. Let me hear from you, dear young readers. — AUNT NORA.]

"Rise, take up thy bed and walk."

Where can these words be found?

Who spoke them, and to whom?

Tell us the whole story.

Where did Christ next find this man, children?

Is there any lesson here for you and me?

"Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him and he with me." Rev. iii. 20. John was commanded to write the beautiful words. It is Christ that stands at the door daily and knocks. We feel that we have supplied with him and he with us. "Ask and it shall be given you, seek and ye shall find, knock and it shall be opened unto you. For every one that asketh receiveth, and he that seeketh findeth, and to him that knocketh it shall be opened."

PARKER AND THOMAS McCREGOR.

AUNT NORA:—As I have a good opportunity to write a letter I will write you and the cousins a few lines. I will first tell you about trying to collect missionary money. I went around yesterday evening to get some. I got fifteen cents. I think I will be very sure of some more. We have no Sunday-school here now. If we had one I think I could get a right good sum of money. Pray that I may be successful in this undertaking. I went to the Association, and had a nice time. I did want to meet with you, but failed to do so. I met with your father and Mr. R. G. Craig. I stayed with Mr. Craig while I was in Memphis. I am glad we have a new uncle, for all our other uncles have all forsaken us. There has not been a letter in the Young South from Uncle Tom in a great while. Well, as I have nothing more of importance to write I will close with love to all the cousins, Aunt Nora and Uncle Orren. Inclosed find twenty cents to pay off my dues for August and September.

The pillow-text for October the third is found in Rev. iii. 20. John the divine, Christ. I have not opened the door to him. No. "Ask and it shall be given you, seek and ye shall find, knock and it shall be opened unto you. For every one that asketh receiveth, and he that seeketh findeth, and to him that knocketh it shall be opened." Matt. vii. 7-8. I remain your nephew, Galloway, Tenn.

Why have you never opened the door of your heart to Christ, Layton? Is it because you like Grace and Homer, of whom our story tells us this week, "never thought of it in that way," or are you "just putting it off?"

I told you only a short while ago that a new uncle was waiting for admittance just outside the door of our circle, and lo! quick as the mails could carry the answers back came the unanimous vote for his admittance, with many words of welcome. His heart is made glad. He walks in, and is supping with you this week. Can you find it in your hearts to treat Christ more cruelly than you have this stranger? Surely Layton and children all, if you have not thought of it in this way it is time you should. Dare you keep putting it off?

Pillow-text answered also by Ida and Hattie Moody, Pearl and Flora Longmire.

A MOTHER'S STORY.

"GRACE, dear, bring your chair to this side. Homer may take the stool, and little Horace will sit on his throne,—in mama's lap. Now, children, what shall my story be about?"

"Something nice," said Horace. "Tell the story you told the night Cousin Mabel was here."

"Would you not rather hear a new one?"

"Yes, Horace, let mama tell us a new one."

"I will tell you a story I heard when quite a little girl. A gentleman, Mr. Elverton, sat one evening in his library in a deep study. He had been reading his daily newspaper, and was so engaged with his thoughts he scarcely heard a rap at the door. It was repeated, and he roused himself and opened the door. A stranger entered. After greetings he said:—

"Sir, do you not recognize me? I am the man who saved you from drowning five years ago. I was called to this city on business, and, knowing this to be your native place, I inquired for you. I have been unfortunate in business, and am scarcely able to pay hotel charges, and so must ask your hospitality for a short time."

"I remember you and the great service you rendered me," said Mr. Elverton, "and I assure you I will never forget it; but it will not be convenient

just at present to entertain you. I regret that it is so, since I am indebted to you for my life. My daughter has issued invitations for a large party to be given to-morrow evening; and some of her school friends from a distance will, as a matter of course, have to remain. I am sorry, my friend, but do come again to see us."

"O mama," said Grace, "how could he turn away a man who had saved his life, and besides, was too poor to pay hotel bills? He must have been a very hard-hearted man. Homer, if you were a man would you be so cruel? I should be tempted to disown you if you were."

"Indeed I would not. Would I, mama? I would give him the very best I had if my house were full of company."

"So would I, mama," said little Horace. "And he should have all my prettiest playthings, and — and everything he wanted."

"I hope my children will always have such tender, loving hearts. But, Grace and Homer, are you not keeping a friend waiting at the door who did even more for you than Mr. Elverton's friend did for him?"

"Why, mama? they both exclaimed. "What do you mean?"

"I mean that you have not opened the doors of your hearts to your Savior. He says: 'Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him and he with me.' If you refuse are you not more hard-hearted than Mr. Elverton?"

"O mama, can it really be so bad as that? I never thought of it in that way. I ought to give my heart to my Savior, but I keep putting it off!"

Homer, after starting in the fire a few minutes, looked up: "Mama, I am worse than Mr. Elverton; but I never thought of it in that way."

You will find that our Juvenile Library contains a nice list of interesting books for children. These books will be sold separately as well as all together. We solicit your orders for these books, which should be addressed to Graves & Mahaffy, Memphis, Tenn.

Little Workers for 1885.

We, the undersigned, pledge ourselves to give ten cents a month toward educating a young Mexican lady in the Mexican Institute, Sallito, Mexico, who is fitting herself to become a missionary among her own people.

Parker McGregor, 12 mos.; Thomas McGregor, 12 mos.; Fannie Reynolds, 12 mos.; Charles Reynolds, 12 mos.; Hannah Reed, 12 mos.; John Moody, 12 mos.; Waverly Earl Smith, 12 mos.; Eddie Pennington, 12 mos.; Lela Flinn, 12 mos.; Elora Canfield, 12 mos.; Alma Canfield, 12 mos.; Eunice Canfield, 12 mos.; Fuller Canfield, 12 mos.; Jessie Canfield, 12 mos.; Cora Canfield, 12 mos.; John Overton Barclay, 12 mos.; Van Farrow, 12 mos.; Rosa Sherrouse, 12 mos.; Ada Sherrouse, 12 mos.; Clarence Wingo, 12 mos.; Mary Irene Owens, 12 mos.; Ernie Phillips, 12 mos.; Ida Lee, 12 mos.; Sadie Jackson, 12 mos.; Johnnie Jackson, 12 mos.; Anna Starnie, 12 mos.; Ella Farmer, 12 mos.; Esther Wingo, 12 mos.; Mabelle Stary, 12 mos.; Annie May Belcher, 11 mos.; Robert Wilson, 11 mos.; Georgia Wilson, 11 mos.; Tammie Martin, 10 mos.; Lela May McLean, 10 mos.; Willie Garig, 9 mos.; Hattie Moody, 9 mos.; Layton Wall, 9 mos.; Pearl Longmire, 8 mos.; Fatou family, 8 mos.; Naomi Graves Hall, 8 mos.; Lillie Graves, 8 mos.; Mattie Ayres, 8 mos.; Flora Longmire, 8 mos.; Rebecca Quinn, 4 mos.; Maggie Boone, 4 mos.; May Johnson, 3 mos.; Ada Harris, 3 mos.; Annie Borum Nixon, 3 mos.; Lela Sherrouse, 2 mos.; Lela Finney, 2 mos.; James McKinney, 1 mos.; Clara Flinn, 1 mos.; Mabel Flinn, 1 mos.; Hattie Morris, 1 mos.; W. E. Cornelius, 3 mos.

Our Missionary Fund.

We want all our young friends to help us with their nickels and dimes to educate two young ladies in Mexican Institute, Mexico, who are fitting themselves to become missionaries among their own people.

Alonso Stanley, 10 cts.; Maggie Woodall, 25 cts.; Henry Gill, 25 cts.; Lillian Caldwell, 10 cts.; Lela Caldwell, 25 cts.; Lilla Gertrude Galloway, 10 cts.; Olive Heulan Green, 10 cts.; Laura Young, 25 cts.; Janie Hutton, 10 cts.; Linnie Apple, 10 cts.; Lela McKinney, 10 cts.; Mabel McKinney, 5 cts.; Willie Malone, 10 cts.; Parker McGregor, 10 cts.; Matt Walden, 5 cts.; John Henry Hinkle, 5 cts.; Belle Watson, 10 cts.; Jessie Watson, 10 cts.; Antioch S. S. Lee, 10 cts.; Texas, 30 cts.; Cecelia Latta, 10 cts.; Mary McKinstry, 10 cts.; Nora Edwards, 5 cts.; Annula Edwards, 5 cts.; John Rand Kuhn, 10 cts.; Carrie Latta, 10 cts.; Canale Latta, 10 cts.; Anna Canfield, 5 cts.; Maggie Goodson, 10 cts.; Annie Orkney, 25 cts.; Alice Ann Hutton, 10 cts.; Carrie Wright, 25 cts.; Robbie Lawrence, 5 cts.; Carley Leun, 10 cts.; Mrs. F. W. Kraft, 10 cts.; Mabelle Quinn, 10 cts.; Lela Kincaid, 10 cts.; Ida Morney, 10 cts.; Esther Wingo, 5 cts.

Traces Club.

Elora Canfield, 25 dozen.
Parker McGregor, 4 dozen.
John Kray, 4 dozen.
Layton Wall, 4 dozen.
Robert Wilson, 2 dozen.
Ida Moody, 1 dozen.
May Holster, 1 dozen.
Nannie G. Hall, 1 dozen.
Alonzo Stanley, 2 dozen.
C. E. Doyle, 1 dozen.
Ida Steele, 1 dozen.
Thomas McGregor, 1 dozen.
James McKinney, 1 dozen.
Janet Alexander, 1 dozen.
Ida Lantip, 1 dozen.
Earle Smith, 1 dozen.
Mabelle Goodson, 1 dozen.

Woman's Province.

THE DUTY OF THE GENTLER SEX—
HOW BEST FULFILLED.

What a great task is assigned to woman. Its dignity cannot be belated. It is not her province to make laws, to lead armies, nor to be at the head of great enterprises, but to her is given the power to form those by whom the laws are made, to teach the leaders of mighty armies and the governors of vast empires. She is required to guard against having the slightest taint of bodily infirmity touch the frail creature whose moral, intellectual and physical being is derived from her. She must hold correct principles, inculcate right doctrine, and breathe into the soul of her offspring those pure sentiments which in time to come will be a part of themselves, and bless generations yet unborn. Yes, to woman is given the blessed privilege of aiding the sufferer in all the various stages of his existence. She smiles serenely at the Christening, and weeps at the burial, while she soothes the bereaved heart. This is her province and duty. Yet how can she fulfill her mission unless possessed of a strong and healthy body? The preservation of Dr. S. B. Hartman, and known as PRIMA, is just the thing for persons suffering from a majority of the complaints incident to this change. It is invaluable to women, and Mrs. J. W. Reynolds of New Lisbon, Connecticut county, Conn., is a noted example of its use at the instance of Dr. S. She says she has suffered for years with congestion of the lungs, catarrh in the head, and was troubled with a bad cough. She had tried a number of physicians, but they all failed to cure her. She was induced to try PRIMA, and immediately a marked change took place. After using one bottle her cough ceased and in a short time her other ailments were cured. She is now completely restored to health, and gives all the credit to PRIMA. Mr. J. W. Reynolds' husband was a confirmed invalid. He could not sleep well, and his chest was sore. He used PRIMA, and in a short time he was completely restored to his former vigor and strength. He says he now looks like a new man.

Mr. Berchert, St. Clair, St. Clair county, Mich., says: "I have thoroughly tried your PRIMA in the various diseases to which parents and a large family of children are ever liable, and I find it never fails to be just the thing needed. No family can honestly be without it."

Nancy Peterman, Cookport, Indiana County, Pa., says: "Gentlemen: Your valuable PRIMA is the best medicine I ever used."

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THE SUNDAY-SCHOOL.

THE SEVEN LAWS OF TEACHING.

JOHN M. GREGORY, D.D.
NO. 11.

To discover their laws let these seven elements be passed again in careful review and enumeration as follows: 1. A teacher. 2. A learner. 3. A common language or medium of communication. 4. A lesson or truth. 5. The teacher's work. 6. The learner's work. 7. The review work, which ascertains, perfects and fastens the work done. Is it not obvious that each of these seven must have its own distinct characteristic, which makes it what it is? Each stands distinguished from the others, and from all others, by this essential characteristic; and each enters in and plays its part in the scene by virtue of its own character and function.

It may seem trivial to so insist upon all this. Some will say: "Of course there can be no teaching without a teacher and a pupil, without a language and a lesson, and without the teacher teaches and the learner learns; or finally, without a proper review, if any assurance is to be gained that the work has been successful, and the result is to be made permanent." All this is too obvious to need assertion. So also is it obvious that when seeds, soil, heat, light and moisture come together in proper measure plants are produced, and grow to the harvest; but the simplicity of these common facts does not prevent their hiding among them some of the profoundest and most mysterious laws of nature. So too a simple act of teaching hides with it some of the most potent and significant laws of mental life and action.

Each element here described has its own great law of function or action, and these, taken together, constitute the seven laws of teaching. — *Best Teacher.*

A WONDERFUL TRIBUTE.

Dr. Anderson wrote to the mother of his wife, Ann Hazeltine Anderson, after her death, the following very touching words:—

"And the desolation that death has made I take up my pen once more to address the mother of my beloved Ann. I am sitting in the house she built, in the room where she breathed her last, and at a window from which I see the tree that stands at the head of her grave, and the top of a small rude fence which they have put up to protect it from incursions of intruders. I was away, and she died alone. Sometimes she complained thus: 'The teacher is long in coming, and I must die alone. Tell him how I suffered and died.'"

"With what patience and meekness and magnanimity and Christian fortitude she bore these sufferings! And can I wish they had been less? Can I sacrilegiously wish to rob her crown of a single gem?"

Though her lonely grave has been watered and brightened by the rains and sunshine of nearly sixty years, yet what name is dearer to the Christian heart to-day than that of Ann H. Judson? "The righteous shall be in everlasting remembrance."

Dr. J. H. Bowen, Clinton, Ga.

Dr. J. H. Bowen, Clinton, Ga.

Dr. J. H. Bowen, Clinton, Ga.

Dr. J. H. Bowen, Clinton, Ga.

Dr. J. H. Bowen, Clinton, Ga.

A CAMPAIGN SECRET GIVEN AWAY.

In the campaign of 1884, the two candidates for governor in a "pivotal" Western State arraigned for a series of joint disquisitions. Both men were popular, both of fine appearance, and were so well matched in mental force and as orators that the contest between them promised to be a magnificent one. For several weeks the scales balanced evenly.

But one day the brilliant Republican candidate came up ailing. He seemed overcome, and spoke laboriously. The next day he was even less effective. Later he was compelled to ask his opponent for a postponement of certain appointments, which was granted. Before the campaign ended he had abandoned the field altogether.

Meantime the Democratic candidate continued his canvass, seeming to grow stronger, cheerier, and more effective with each succeeding week. He was elected. One evening in December while entertaining several gentlemen he said:—

"I will tell you a campaign secret—which gave me the election. With the opening of my campaign I began caring for my liver. I know that a disordered torpid liver meant dullness and possible sickness. I took something every day. When my opponent began falling I knew his trouble to be his liver, and felt like proscribing him, but feared if I did so he might beat me! I grew stronger as the campaign progressed, often making two speeches a day. Even my voice, to my surprise, did not fall me out. All because Warner's safe cure kept me in A 1 trim." Ex-Governor Jacob of Kentucky, also had a campaign tour under precisely similar circumstances, and says he kept up under the exhausting strain by the use of the same means. — *Rochester Union.*

PEARLS.

He who believes that nothing is due him never believes himself abused.

Dr. Pierce's "Pellets"—the original "Little Liver Pills" (sugar-coated)—cure sick and bilious headache, sour stomach, and bilious attacks. By druggists.

Men's lives should be like the days, more beautiful in the evening; or like the seasons, aglow with promise, and the Autumn, rich with golden sheaves, where good works and deeds have ripened on the field.

Let us make note of this as a point of spiritual wisdom, never to restrain an impulse to pray. Who can tell with what treasure he is laden "when the Holy Spirit in this way knocks at the heart's door?"

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Simmons Liver Regulator, purely vegetable, is equal in power to blue mass or calomel, but without any of their injurious properties.

"I have used Simmons Liver Regulator, and find it a most excellent medicine, acting like a charm on the liver. It is a most excellent substitute for calomel. Have tried it in several cases of bilious disorders, chills and fever, and find its effects a cure in a most satisfactory manner."

"E. G. Love, Ph. D.,"

Late analyst New York State Board of Health, and United States Government Chemist.

Enjoy present pleasures in such a way as not to injure future ones.

POLITICAL.

Last Tuesday's elections resulted as follows: Gov. Hill of New York, Gen. Fitzhugh Lee of Virginia, Gov. Robert Lowry of Mississippi, all Democrats, were elected governors of their respective States. The result in Maryland was also a Democratic victory. The following States were carried by the Republicans, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, Iowa and Nebraska.

ANALYZING THE BAKING POWDERS.

Under the direction of the New York State Board of Health, eighty-four different kinds of baking powders, embracing all the brands that could be found for sale in the State, were submitted to examination and analysis by Prof. C. F. Chandler, a member of the State Board and president of the New York City Board of Health, assisted by Prof. Edward G. Love, the well-known late United States Government chemist.

The official report shows that a large number of the powders examined were found to contain alum or lime; many of them to such an extent as to render them seriously objectionable for use in the preparation of human food.

Alum was found in twenty-nine samples. This drug is employed in baking powders to cheapen their cost. The presence of lime is attributed to the impure cream of tartar of commerce used in all their manufacture. Such cream of tartar was also analyzed and found to contain lime and other impurities, in some samples to the extent of 93 per cent of their entire weight.

All the baking powders of the market, with the single exception of "Royal" (not including the alum and phosphate powders, which were long since discarded as unsafe or inefficient by prudent housekeepers) are made from the impure cream of tartar of commerce, and consequently contain lime to a corresponding extent.

The only baking powder yet found by chemical analysis to be entirely free from lime and absolutely pure is the "Royal." This perfect purity results from the exclusive use of cream of tartar specially refined and prepared by patent processes of the N. Y. Tartar Co., which totally remove the tartrate of lime and other impurities. The cost of this chemically pure cream of tartar is much greater than any other, and on account of this greater cost is used in no baking powder but the "Royal."

Prof. Love, who made the analysis of baking powders for the New York State Board of Health, as well as for the government, says of the purity and wholesomeness of "Royal":—

"I have tested a package of 'Royal Baking Powder' which I purchased in the open market, and find it composed of pure and wholesome ingredients. It is a cream of tartar powder of a high degree of purity, and does not contain either alum or phosphates of any injurious substance."

"E. G. Love, Ph. D.,"

Late analyst New York State Board of Health, and United States Government Chemist.

Enjoy present pleasures in such a way as not to injure future ones.

This is a key to the correct understanding of the whole Word of Christ, and the prophetic Scriptures, embracing a full Eschatology as well as an unbroken history of all Mosaic, Bible Teachers and Students.

"This great life-work of Dr. J. R. Graves has been received. It is a magnificent work of some six hundred pages, and is bound in a handsome, elegantly bound. We have not had time to read it through. It is a week of the ages; the world-drama; a history of the world; a prophecy of the future. We must have full time to take up its pages, and its teachings, before we can write much about it. To be sent to the *World's Evangelist*, St. Louis, Mo.

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1. The first step is to identify the problem or question that needs to be answered. This involves understanding the context and the specific requirements of the task.

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Our Pulpit.

THE CHURCH AND MINISTER

BY ELD. JOHN GRAHAM, SPINKS, MISS.

"Take heed therefore, unto yourselves, and to all the flock over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God which he hath purchased with his own blood." Acts xx.

THE ministry.

1. The ministry should be a converted one.

That a gospel minister should be a regenerated man is so necessary that no one will dare to contradict the proposition. We read in Isaiah lii. 11. "Be ye clean that bear the vessels of the Lord."

Read the fifty-first Psalm, and hear what David says: "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me; then will I teach transgressors thy ways, and sinners shall be converted unto thee."

No man is fit to undertake the glorious work of a gospel minister who has not felt the cleansing power of the saving blood of the crucified One. He must have an actual, individual experience of God's saving grace. How can a minister who has never been converted, whose soul has never been subjected to the baptismal fire of the Holy Spirit, how shall such an one comprehend the spiritual process of regeneration? and how shall he unfold the rationale of the wondrous plan of salvation, set forth in "the glorious gospel of the blessed Lord"? He cannot do it. Give us converted men, regenerated men, men who have been made "new creatures," give us such men to preach the gospel for us.