

THE DOMINION PRESBYTERIAN

I need make no social, civic, or national application. The parable flashes its light everywhere. I am making a personal application. The reason why men beseech Him to go away is because the first word of His manifesto is the word "Right." He will insist on that. God forgives us if we ever attempt to lower His standard. The first word is not "Believe." The first word is "Repent," and "repent" for evermore means turning the back upon the thing that you know God disapproves.

Men send Him away because they know He will keep coming further into their life—further and further, always breaking down. Repentance is not an act at the beginning of life; it is an attitude maintained during the whole life. Ah, me! how many things I have had to put away, which for years I did not dream of as contrary to His will! Until the light came they were not sinful, but when the light flashes they must be put away at once. If you let Him in He will interfere not only with your individual life, but with your business. You will have to put out of it whatever is unprofitable or unholy. Jesus Christ will make no compromise with sin. Compromises are always born in hell, and fathered by the devil. Oh, whatever He breaks down, whatever He burns up, whatever He calls you to do, do not beseech Him to go, or He will go! Let Him in; for when He comes in Heaven comes in, God comes in, the Eternity of His light comes in!

OFFERING.

Dear Lord, I come to thee with empty hands—

No gift did I bring.
So busy was I, that there seemed no time

For garnering.

To one athirst beside me, Lord I gave
The cup I bore.

And to a weary comrade lent the strength
He needed sore.

A little, tender child, in tears, afraid,
Clung close to me,
And I him carried. So, to glean, my hands
Were never free.

Dear Lord, ashamed, I hide my face!
I came

Through golden lands;
And yet, at last, can only offer Thee
My weary hands.

—Bertha G. Crozier, in Harper's Weekly.

PRAYER.

O Lord, we thank Thee for the bliss of sunshine and the blessing of sweet spring rain. Would that the dew of Thy mercy might fall upon our hearts, making them blossom into that flower of perfect love for Thee without which life is but a weary sojourn in a desert place. Teach the doubting what it is to know Thee. Put it into the hearts of strong and loving men to instruct the people in the fulness of Thine ever lasting love, mercy, and grace, so that in time there may be none on the earth who do not know and bless Thee, and are not happier for this knowledge of Thee. And this we ask in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

WHY I LIVE.

I live for those who love me,
For those who know me true,
For the heaven that bends above me,
And the good that I can do;
For the wrongs that need resistance,
For the cause that lacks assistance,
For the future in the distance,
And the good that I can do.

—Selected.

A TRUE INCIDENT.

A gentleman living in the country had a large sum of money paid to him, and before depositing it in the bank, was obliged to go from home, leaving his wife and little daughter without a protector.

Some time during the night his wife was awakened with a feeling that some one was in the house. She listened and could hear footsteps moving about. The noise also aroused the little daughter. With childish trust she said, "Mamma" won't God take care of us now papa is away." Her faith seemed to strengthen the mother, who yielded to her entreaties to pray that they might be kept safely. She arose from her bed, and, kneeling beside it, poured forth a fervent supplication to the Heavenly Father to shield them from all harm, after which they again retired.

Upon going down stairs in the morning, they found everything as it should be, nothing had been disturbed. About two years later the father was sent to visit a man who had formerly been in his employ, and who then was lying on his deathbed.

He confessed that upon the night in question, he had entered the house for the purpose of robbery, knowing that the gentleman had received the money, and had gone away from home, leaving his home unprotected, but upon hearing the prayer of the wife, his conscience was smitten, and he dared not carry out his evil intention.

It was that prayer alone that prevented him from possible murder, which he would have committed, had it been necessary for him to do so in order to secure the money.—Our Dumb Animals.

RICH LIVING IN THE WILDERNESS

A wilderness diet may be more wholesome and satisfying than a banquet table. It is found to be if the wilderness is of God's ordering. An Oriental writer's comment on the fact that Moses led his flock to the back of the wilderness is suggestive and enlightening. It is pointed out that while the word for "wilderness" has the idea of "without population," it is by no means suggestive of vegetable life, and that therefore a wilderness may be the best of pasturage for a hungry flock. Certain it is that many a child of God has found in a wilderness experience spiritual food that is richer and more blessed than anything that prosperity could have furnished. When the Good Shepherd is leading, we may trust him for safe pasturage.

FISHERS OF MEN.

Fishing for souls is a personal work. It is not confined to the pulpit; every man or woman who possesses faith and an ardent love of Jesus should engage in it. It is not a "professional" business, restricted to a few, and to be done in a set fashion. Nor is it to be accomplished only by a whole church employing a huge net to bring in a multitude of converts at a single draught. Sometimes a powerful and general revival does this. But conversions follow individual effort with individual hearts. A pastor often accomplishes as much by an hour of close friendly conversation as by an hour of public preaching. The Sunday-school teacher can reach his or her scholars most effectually by a private visit, and a faithful talk with each member of the class. Personal work does the business; each fisher must drop his own hook, baited with love. No one is scolded to Christ, yet an unconverted person will bear a tremendously searching talk if it is conducted in a frank tender spirit and unmistakably prompted by affection. The real aim must be persuasion, that is, to persuade the sinner to let go his sin and to lay hold of Jesus. He is wise that winneth souls.

HOW OUR LIVES MAY BE CONSECRATED TO OUR COUNTRY.*

By Rev. W. D. Reid, B.D., Montreal.

1. We may be called upon to consecrate our bodies to our country. There are times in the history of every nation when it becomes necessary to go out into the battlefield, and fight for the right. War is a terrible curse, but there are worse things even than war. When unrighteousness and tyranny and injustice prevail, it is right that these should be wiped out, even if it must be done by war. In such a case, where men may be called upon to defend their nation, it is their duty to consecrate their bodies to their country.

2. We may consecrate our talents to the good of our country. The man of high and noble ideals, who enters politics for the purpose of defeating the schemes of selfish men, and for the giving of his country a pure and righteous government of the highest order, is indeed a true patriot. Such a man was Moses, and such an one was Nehemiah. The history of Britain and of Canada is not lacking in examples. We all have talents, and we may all consecrate them to the uplifting of our country.

3. We may consecrate our time to our country. The man in Britain who make the laws of the land, receive no financial compensation. They give their time to their country. While we may not all be able to do that, yet we can all spare a little time for the good of our land. At the least, on polling day, we can spare an hour or two to go and cast a ballot for the right man. When a moral issue is at stake, we should spend days, or weeks if necessary, in hard work for the good cause.

4. We may consecrate our influence to the good of our country. Every person has a certain amount of power in the world, for good or evil. We all wield influence among our friends and neighbors. Let us see that our influence is always thrown on the side of right and truth and morality, when any national question comes before us as a people.

5. Our prayers may be consecrated to the good of our country. We are enjoined in the Scripture to pray for our rulers, and we have instances, both in the Old and New Testaments, of saints "praying without ceasing" for their country's welfare. Let us follow their example, and never forget to pray for this land of ours.

Love of country and love of God are two of the noblest passions of the human soul. A man without a country is an exile in this world, and a man without God is an orphan throughout eternity.—Van Dyke.

John Knox consecrated not only his time and talents to his beloved Scotland, but his prayers as well. Once he was overheard in an agony of prayer pleading with Jehovah in the following terms:—"Oh God, give me Scotland or I will die." May God give us all the same interest in our country, when we approach the throne of grace.

Joan of Arc was a country girl brought up in a quiet, secluded home. One day she seemed to hear a call from God, to consecrate all her talents to the deliverance of her country, France. She was reasoned and expostulated with, but all to no purpose. She said:—"My time, my talents, all that I have and am, are at the service of my poor bleeding country." She went forth to the horrors of the battlefield and finally died a martyr's death—and all for her country.

The man or woman who believes well is apt to work well; and faith is as much the key to happiness here as it is the key to happiness hereafter.—Donald G. Mitchell.

*Young People's Society special topics
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