

and work. Cowper makes Alexander Selkirk, in his solitary abode on the island of Juan Fernandez, to wait out in verse his longing for companionship:

"Society, friendship and love,
Divinely bestowed upon man,
Oh, had I the wings of a dove,
How soon would I taste you again!"

It was but the reach of heart after heart, and it is worthy of note that the perfect man, Christ, had friendships the most perfect. The brain, nerves, and capillaries, if questioned concerning the flow of blood, might say it comes from the heart; so from the world-heart must come intensity to thrill the world, nerve and brain. Oh for hearts that are pure, to be fountains of life!

The heart of Christ yearns after the world of men as the father who, through long years has waited for the return of a wandering son. Souls hungry for sympathy wait along the highways of life for our coming, and the Christian religion realized—gloriously altruistic! Thus our zeal fed from on high will grow more and more practical seeking ever to bring wanderers back to the Christ, that they may be complete in Him. And so shall all wrongs be made right, the perplexing moral and social problems of the age solved, and "the whole round earth every way be bound by golden chains about the feet of God."

Melbourne, Ont.

THE ELEPHANT AND PYTHON.

DR. LOUIS ALBERT BANKS tells the following story, which has a most important lesson, especially for young people:

"About six months ago a baby elephant was brought over from Burmah and made a summer tour extending into the late autumn, with a travelling show. Then it was sent to the Brooklyn boarding-house to spend the winter. The elephant took a bad cold and the landlord dosed him with whiskey and quinine from a demijohn. The elephant did not like the liquor at first, but soon acquired the habit, and the other night, feeling thirsty, he knocked the head off the demijohn, which had been left in his quarters, and sucked out all there was left.

There was not enough to make him "dead" drunk, but just enough to make him feel big, and want to break something and have a great time. In his hilarity he overturned a glass covered case in which a twenty-foot python was asleep. The big snake was angry when he waked up, and with a vicious sparkle in his little eyes, he went for that tipsy elephant and coiled himself around its body.

As the coils grew tense about the elephant it trumpeted in agony, and struggled to shake the python off, but the snake had neither mercy nor fear.

The boarding-house keeper was awakened by the noise and rushed into the room, club in hand. He saw the peril of the elephant, and when the snake raised its head angrily at the intrusion

he hit it a savage blow. The coils loosened and the python fell to the floor. The elephant gasped and fell likewise. Its ribs had been crushed in, and in half an hour it was dead. The snake was put back into its box, but an hour later it was dead also.

The empty demijohn in the corner told the cause of the tragedy.

WON BY ONE.

BY REV. JOHN MCLEAN, PH.D.

SOUL-WINNING is the duty and privilege of every christian. It is not the prerogative of the minister, although he is specially responsible for the work. It is, however, the duty of every christian to lead men to Christ. "The



Specimen illustration from "The Beacon Lights of the Reformation."

JOHN KNOX.

true basis of all real work for souls must be a personal knowledge of Christ as the Saviour. Out of a rich spiritual experience the soul must speak. An unconverted man or a degenerate christian is not qualified to be a soul-winner. A man must know Christ before he can teach another how to find him. Otterbein and his coadjutors insisted that a vital union with Christ was essential to a true christian character, and this is necessary to impress men, and lead them to God. At a young ladies' prayer meeting the question was asked, "What is the first thing we must do if we would win others to Christ?" and the apt response of a young girl was, "We must live holy ourselves." Holy living is the secret of winning men for God. We must be mighty in the scriptures. A skilful use of the Word of God will convince sinners of the errors of their ways, and gently guide the penitent soul into the light. Use one Bible, marking it well and always carrying it with you that you may turn readily to the passages most appropriate for such case.

Without prayer you cannot hope to be a successful winner of souls. Begin the day with prayer and live in uninterrupted communion with God, and before each service and while you are dealing with souls pray to God. The study walls of Baxter were steeped with the breath of his prayers, and Kidderminster witnessed a mighty revival. There is no real revival without persistent, faithful, definite and agonizing prayer. You can do more in ten minutes when God inspires you, than you can perform in a whole day alone.

If you would save a soul from death, you must have a definite aim. Aim low if you would comfort men. Have some special object in view. Above the central door of Dr. Andrew Bonar's church in Glasgow, there is carved in the stone three Hebrew words, which translated mean,

"He that is wise, winneth souls."

This was the motto of that faithful soul-winner. Winning souls was his great work. In his biography we are told that it was the idea of the value of the soul that led him to become a minister; and there is evidence that every sermon he preached was more or less consciously shaped by this idea. This must be the supreme object.

There is need of intense earnestness in this work of saving men, a passion for souls, a burning enthusiasm and a heavy burden resting on the heart. Paul could wish himself accursed that Israel might be saved. John Welch, wrapped in his plaid, knelt in the snow unable to sleep and prayed mightily for the souls of men. John Hunt, of Fiji, wept and prayed for the souls of his people, and many were won for Christ. Spurgeon said, "If a man is to be a soul-winner, there must be in him intensity of emotion as well as sincerity of heart. You may preach the most solemn warnings, the most dreadful threatenings, in such an indifferent or careless way that no one will be in the least affected by them; and you may repeat the most affectionate exhortations in such a half-hearted manner that no one will

be moved either by love or fear. I believe, brethren, that for soul-winning there is more in this matter of earnestness than in almost anything else. I have seen and heard some who were very poor preachers, who yet brought many souls to the Saviour through the earnestness with which they delivered their message."

There is needed a firm belief that souls will be saved, such a royal faith as Moody possessed when he went to Great Britain for ten thousand souls which were given to him.

Personal effort is necessary if we are going to bring men to Christ. Sympathy with men comes not from observation afar off. Christ laid his hands on the sick and helpless and healed them by divine power, as he won them by sympathy and love. Personal experience is helpful in bringing men to Christ. Our interest in men must be a personal interest in the individual. The story which a man tells about himself is always interesting. What can thrill our souls more deeply than the artless story of conversion, told by a man