

Northern Messenger

5 Wm. Bronscombe 30:07

VOLUME XLII. No. 3

MONTREAL, JANUARY 18, 1907.

40 Cts. Per An. Post-Paid



From 'The Children's King.'—Religious Tract Society.

The Blind Man's Testimony.

(John Hay, late Secretary of State of the U. S. A.)

He stood before the Sanhedrim;
The scowling rabbis gazed at him;
He recked not of their praise or blame;
There was no fear, there was no shame,
For one upon whose dazzling eyes
The whole world poured its vast surprise.
The open heaven was far too near,
His first day's light too sweet and clear,
To let him waste his new-gained ken
On the hate-clouded face of men.
But still they questioned, Who art thou?
What hast thou been? What art thou now?
Thou art not he who yesterday
Sat here and begged beside the way,
For he was blind.

And I am he;

For I was blind, but now I see.

He told the story o'er and o'er;
It was his full heart's only lore;

A prophet on the Sabbath Day
Had touched his sightless eyes with clay,
And made him see, who had been blind.
Their words passed by him like the wind
Which raves and howls, but cannot shock
The hundred-fathom rooted rock.
Their threats, their fury, all went wide;
They could not touch his Hebrew pride;
Their sneers at Jesus and His band,
Nameless and homeless in the land,
Their boasts of Moses and his Lord,
All could not change him by one word.

I know not what this man may be,
Sinner or saint; but as for me,
One think I know, that I am he
Who once was blind, and now I see.

They all were doctors of renown,
The great men of a famous town,
With deep brows, wrinkled, broad, and wise,

Beneath their wide phylacteries;
The wisdom of the East was theirs,
And honor crowned their silver hairs.
The man they jeered and laughed to scorn
Was unlearned, poor, and humbly born;
But he knew better far than they
What came to him that Sabbath Day;
And what the Christ had done for him
He knew, and not the Sanhedrim.

The Bright Side of Growing Older.

(Frances Ridley Havergal, in the 'North-western Christian Advocate.')

And thine age shall be clearer than the
noonday; thou shalt shine forth, thou shalt
be as the morning.—Job. xi., 17.

I suppose nobody ever did naturally like the idea of getting older after they had at least 'left school.' There is a sense of oppression and depression about it. The irresistible, inevitable onward march of moments and years without the possibility of one instant's pause—a march that, even while on the uphill side of life, is leading to the downhill side—casts an autumn-like shadow over even many a spring birthday; for perhaps this is never more vividly felt than when one is only passing from May to June—sometimes earlier still. But how surely the Bible gives us the bright side of everything! In this case it gives three bright sides of a fact, which, without it, could not help being gloomy.

First, it opens the sure prospect of increasing brightness to those who have begun to walk in the light. Even if the sun of our life has reached the apparent zenith, and we have known a very noonday of mental and spiritual being, it is no poetic 'western shadows' that are to lengthen upon our way, but 'our age is to be clearer than the noonday.' How suggestive that word is! The light, though intenser and nearer, shall dazzle less; 'in thy light shall we see light,' be able to bear much more of it, see it more clearly, see all else by it more clearly, reflect it more clearly. We should have said, 'At evening time there shall be shadow;' God says, 'At evening time there shall be light.'

Also, we are not to look for a very dismal afternoon of life with only some final sunset glow; for he says it 'shineth more and more unto the perfect day;' and 'more and more' leaves no dark intervals; we are to expect a continually brightening path. 'The future is one vista of brightness and blessedness' to those who are willing only to 'walk in the light.' Just think, when you are seven or ten, or twenty years older, that will only mean seven, or ten, or twenty years' more experience of his love and faithfulness, more light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ; and still the 'more and more unto the perfect day,' will be opening out before us! We are 'confident of this very thing!'

The second bright side is increasing faithfulness. Do not let us confuse between works and fruit. Many a saint-in the land