

ONE RESULT OF UNANSWERED PRAYERS.

The late Mrs. Phœbe Palmer relates the following suggestive incident:—

“Said a young man who was a lawyer, and whose propensities seemed ever inclining him to go from cause to effect, ‘Mother, I don’t believe in holiness.’”

“Don’t believe in holiness!” exclaimed the pious mother; “Why, my son, what do you mean?”

“I mean just what I say, mother; I do not believe in holiness.”

“You believe the Bible,” said the astonished mother, “and you know, my son, the Bible speaks of holiness. Surely you believe the Bible?”

“Yes, mother, I believe the Bible, but I do not believe in holiness.”

“Why, my son, what *do* you mean?”

“I will tell you, mother, just what I mean. Ever since I can remember, you have been praying for holiness; and if there were any such thing as holiness to be attained, I am sure you would have had it long before now; and therefore I do not believe that there is any such thing as holiness.”

We wonder if it ever enters into the minds of the many Christians in our churches who profess to be seeking the blessing of holiness, to consider the direct and indirect influence which they exert upon others by their failure to obtain this experience. We remember how we were acted upon by many in the church in former years who ever were ready to take the position of seekers of this grace. We were taught from the pulpit that the grace of entire sanctification was free to all, that it required but a complete consecration to the God of holiness, and an act of glad acceptance on our part and it would be ours. The Bible was brought forward in many a quotation to substantiate all this. We as Methodists professed to believe it without cavil, and at revival meetings regularly were called to take our public stand as professed seekers of the experience. It was woven into nearly every prayer at ordinary prayer and class-meetings, and yet in the church in which we grew up to manhood’s estate the nearest experience we ever heard amongst ministers or members was the statement by one member at an enquiry meeting, that he believed he really enjoyed that grace once for a time during a severe sickness. Now, the most natural conclusion at which to arrive from all this is just that it