

PLUMMET—The plummet used by the masons of Syria and Palestine to-day consists of a small cylinder of wood, about three inches in length. In the middle of it there is a hole through it crosswise, through which a cord passes freely, and one end of this cord is attached to a ring in the base of a hollow cone of copper filled with lead. The diameter of

the base of this cone is exactly the same as the length of the piece of wood. One end of the wood is pressed against the top of the wall and the weight is allowed to descend slowly. If the rim of the base just touches the stones all the way down, the wall is perpendicular. To test the wall in this way was the finishing touch to the building.

APPLICATION

The angel that talked with me, v. 1. This same angel and multitudes of his glorious companions are still doing their work for men. Are they not all "ministering spirits" to the "heirs of salvation"? The messenger who announced to the watching shepherds the Saviour's birth, the strong helper who came to Jesus in the agony of the garden, the bright heralds of the resurrection, the heavenly guide of the God-fearing Cornelius, not one of these is idle, nor any of the great host that throng the courts above. At the command of their Lord they come, swifter than the wind, bringing instruction and comfort and cheer to every child of God. With these guides and protectors at our side, every path is safe and happy. Perils are thick about them, but they can never perish.

Waked me, as a man that is wakened out of his sleep, v. 1. "For so He giveth unto his beloved in sleep," we should probably trans-

late Ps. 27 : 2. And beautiful as the old translation is, there is even more in the new.

While we sleep, physical refreshing and renewal come to us. Without our care or watching, the grain grows for the morrow's food. And more than this, God often gives to us in sleep joyful thoughts, and makes known to us, as we slumber, His holy will. It was growing late one Saturday night, Mr. Spurgeon tells us, and his sermon would not come. He retired to rest, and awakened late, thinking there was now no time to prepare. But he was told that he had preached the sermon in his sleep, and the one who had listened, while he was all unconscious of his speech, reported it to him.

What seest thou? v. 2. Revelation does not dispense with man's faculties. The angel's information, valuable as it was, could

only be of service to the prophet as he bestirred himself to learn it. No

With Opened Eyes one can see with another's eyes. To the botanist the veriest weeds by the wayside have an interest all their own and a story to tell. But only he can read it who has opened his eyes from the sleep of self-satisfied ignorance and stopped to behold it. Nor is our case different in the study of God's word. It is full of glorious truths and sublimest images, but they lie hidden from the casual and inattentive glance. Before the angel speaks to us, he asks, "What seest thou?"

A candlestick all of gold, etc., v. 2. The Christian religion is the only true and perfect light in the world. It shines both through

A True Light the Bible and the life of Christian people. How needful that

nothing should distort or obstruct its ray! When the machinery in a lighthouse had become deranged, the men themselves by their own strength kept the great light revolving, and even when wearied, kept toiling at their task, for they said a hundred men on the dangerous deep had their eye upon that light, and if it proved false in its revolutions, it would deceive them and a hundred lives would be the penalty. Let us see to it that the Light of the World be not dimmed by our misdeeds nor distorted by our misrepresentations of it, but shine in all its scriptural clearness and brilliancy, for by it alone can the millions tossed on the restless sea of time find the haven of peace and life.

Two olive trees by it, v. 3. These olive trees gave of their life to feed the lamps. And it is personal power that counts in spreading the gospel. The gospel started

Personal Power from a living Person, Jesus Christ. His words had power

because He lived them before He spoke them