

THE PARABLE OF THE SOWER.

We pass from the consideration of the failure in the case of the seed that fell by the wayside to that of the seed that fell on rocky ground. The reference is to ground that thinly covers the imbedded rocks beneath, and that, therefore, presents no depth of soil. In such soil the seed finds comparatively little nourishment. Besides being thin, and little of it, it soon becomes parched, and the tender blades that at once spring up speedily, wither away, and there is no harvest. It is common to regard this ground as representing the man of hard and stony heart, but this does not appear to be the thought of the Saviour. His explanation is: "And he that was sown upon the rocky places, this is he that heareth the word, and straightway with joy receiveth it; yet hath he not root in himself, but endureth for awhile; and when tribulation or persecution arise because of the word, straightway he stumbleth."

The man of hard heart is not apt to hear the word with joy straightway. It is very difficult to reach such an one at all. Much time is required. But in the case of the rocky ground hearer he receives the word straightway joyfully. As in the case of the thin soil that is spread over the flat rocks beneath the surface, the reception given to the seed sown, which is the word, is a surface reception. The truth of God must be received deep within the heart. It must take possession of the inward man; it must dwell within the soul and have full possession. "Let the word of God dwell in you richly in all wisdom," says Paul. A surface reception will not do. Divine truth must have complete possession of the soul. It must possess us; and we must possess it, and cherish it as that which brings to us the unsearchable riches of Christ. Those Scriptures that speak of being established and grounded in the truth, urging that this shall be true of the Disciples of Christ, recognize the danger of receiving the truth slightly. The trials that come to all, sooner or later, demand that we shall have a firm hold on divine truth, that we shall be rooted and grounded in the love of truth, and that nothing else shall possess our souls. How many of those who bid fair to bring forth a rich harvest, disappoint the hopes of their friends. They begin their downward course by neglecting the reading of the Scriptures, by ceasing to pray, by failing to be present at the services of the church. The prayer-meetings is given up. The meetings on the Lord's day are attended only occasionally, and afterward not at all, and then Christian character goes, and apostasy comes, and the end is everlasting failure. Better never to have known the way of righteousness than thus to fail of the grace of God after having tasted of its joys.

There is another class of men who fail. They are represented by the ground that received the seed among thorns. The thorns sprang up and prevented the successful growth of the seed that was sown. The thorns prevented a harvest in two ways. first, by exhausting the soil, and second, by shutting out the light of the sun. Some who receive the truth allow the cares of the world, the desire for wealth, thoughts about business plans, to exhaust their minds until they can give little or no thought to divine things. Even on the Lord's day, when they are hearing the preacher as he speaks of the Saviour, and of our spiritual wants and duties, their minds are on earthly things. This is the choking process. There is no harvest. The light that beams from the face of the Sun of Righteousness is shut out from their souls, and there is no growth. We cannot serve God and Mammon. No field can yield thorns in abundance and a satisfactory harvest of grain. No mind can give its best thoughts all the days of the week in getting gain for the gratification of self, and serve

God acceptably at the same time. No man can serve two masters—two masters who are indeed two, with opposing interests. Jesus is to be our Lord and Master, and must be if we are to bring forth even thirty-fold. Even our worldly affairs are to be managed as the servants of Christ and used for the upbuilding of His kingdom among men. We are to realize that we are not our own, that we are the servants of Jesus Christ, and that all our powers and possessions are to be consecrated to His service. A failure to understand this leads to everlasting disappointment.—*Standard.*

THE LOVE OF JESUS.

Jesus Christ, my dear Redeemer,
Left His home so bright and fair,
Came down here to bleed and suffer,
That we might His glory share.

Yes, He died on Calvary's mountain,
On the cross was crucified,
And there flows a cleansing fountain
From the Saviour's bleeding side.

I'm so glad I learned to love Him,
Learned to read His precious word,
There to see His gracious promise
Unto all who faithful prove.

And He says, O come, ye weary,
Unto Me and be at rest,
Just forsake the way that's dreary,
And have peace within your breast.

CHARLES SHORTLIFF.

South Range, N. S.

THOMAS JEFFERSON'S TEN RULES.

1. Never put off till to-morrow what you can do to-day.
2. Never trouble another for what you can do yourself.
3. Never spend your money before you have it.
4. Never buy what you do not want because it is cheap; it will be dear to you.
5. Pride costs us more than hunger, thirst and cold.
6. We never repent of having eaten too much.
7. Nothing is troublesome that we do willingly.
8. How much pain the evils that never happened have cost us.
9. Take things always by their smooth handle.
10. When angry, count ten before you speak; if very angry, a hundred.

REAL COURAGE.

Boys who hesitate about doing what they know is right for fear they will stand alone among their companions may be encouraged by an incident which took place at General Washington's house near the close of the Revolutionary war. The occasion was a large dinner party, and, according to the custom of the times, wine was served. Among the guests was an army officer, who, just before the close of the dinner, was invited by his host to drink a glass of wine with him. "You will have the goodness to excuse me General," he replied with the heroism of a true soldier, "as I have made it a rule not to take wine." A murmur of surprise ran around the room, but the most astonished person was the man himself on hearing General Washington commend his course by saying, "I honor our friend for his frankness and consistency in adhering to a rule which can never do him harm." The boy who has the courage to decline a cigar or glass of beer from his companions may not always find an ally among them, but he may be perfectly sure of the approval of his very best and strongest friend, the Lord Jesus Christ.—*Exchange.*

"Dare to do right! Dare to be true!
You have a work that no other can do;
Do it so bravely, so kindly, so well,
Angels will hasten the story to tell."

GULLIVER'S COVE BUILDING FUND.

RECEIPTS.

Previously acknowledged,	....	....	\$14 00
Westport—			
Miss Carrie Payson,	....	....	50
St. John—			
Coburg Street Church,...	....	....	20 00
Total, ..	....	....	\$34 50

Many thanks to those who have so kindly given to this fund. We expect to finish the church in about six weeks. Much more is needed so that it can be opened free of debt. Brethren, won't you aid us in this good work. "What you do, do quickly." The friends at Gulliver's Cove and myself, will be ever thankful to those who assist us in building this house of worship.

H. A. DEVOE,
Treasurer.

Tiverton, Digby Co., N. S.

Married.

OUTHOUSE-O'NEIL.—At Tiverton, Digby Co., N. S., on Wednesday May 11th, 1892, by H. A. Devoe, George J. Outhouse, Esq., of Tiverton, and Sadie O'Neil of Sandy Cove.

Died.

STEWART.—Sister Jessie, beloved wife of Bro. Alexander Stewart, New Perth, Lot 51, P. E. I., died at her home, May 18th, 1892, in the 72nd year of her age. Sister Stewart was a faithful member of the church in Montague, and, when she had opportunity, was ever present in the assemblies of the saints. For some time physical weakness prevented her leaving home, but did not prevent her faith and her heart's affections resting on the dear Saviour to whom, long years ago, she had given herself. She sleeps in Jesus. O. B. E.

CAMERON.—Sister Elizabeth Cameron, of East Point, died on the 25th of March, aged 66 years. She had been for many years a member of the church meeting at South Lake. Her modest, kind and cheerful disposition made her a favorite with many. Many who enjoyed the hospitality of this house will miss the intelligent, Christian conversation of this kind sister, and she will be long remembered by the church as well as by the family who deeply feel her loss, though they hope to meet again beyond the power of death. D. C.

CHING.—Bro. Stephen Ching, of Red Point, who also was a member of the church at South Lake, died on the 13th of May, in his 54th year. Over thirty years ago he gave his heart and himself to the Saviour, who cheered him in his last days and enabled him to give up a dear Christian partner and loved children to his Heavenly Father's care. May they all meet again at Jesus' feet. D. C.

BAKER.—Died in his 31st year, at the Massachusetts General Hospital, on the 15th of February, Brother Hodgson Baker, son of Deacon Elisha Baker, of North Lake, P. E. I., from injuries received five days before, in falling from a building on which he was working. His body arrived at home on the 25th of February and was interred on the 27th. A large and sorrowing company met on the occasion, for "strangers and kindred were mourners that day." He was baptized by Bro. B. B. Tyler in 1856, and was a faithful member of the church at East Point till death. Our brother was noted from childhood for his truthful and amiable disposition. He was a natural genius, and in the home of his boyhood are articles that attest his skill. He had a talent for and a love of music, and for years taught the singing classes of his settlement. The circumstances attending his unexpected death make the stroke the more severe to loving parents and sister and brothers, but they have comfort in the assurance that he loved the dear Saviour who has taken him to be with Himself. D. C.

ROURKE.—In the city of St. John, on the morning of May 13th, Sister Elizabeth Rourke, widow of Andrew Rourke, passed away in the 87th year of her age. Her closing years were marked by great physical weakness, but strong and growing faith in her Saviour. A long time ago she confessed her faith in Christ and was buried with Him by baptism and rose to walk in newness of life. She ever adorned the profession which she had made and continued steadfast unto the end. For her to live was Christ, and to die was gain. It was her lot to see all her children go on before, and she leaves very few relatives behind, but they can all rejoice that she was more than conqueror through Him that died for her. "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord." H. W. S.

McAULAY.—Bro. James A. McAulay, Sr., of St. John, N. B., passed into the presence of the redeemed on Friday morning, May 20th. He was born October 15th, 1818, and so had passed the allotted three score years and ten. He leaves behind him his devoted wife, who is now only waiting till they are again united to part no more, and in the meantime is comforted by her children, but most of all by her Saviour. Bro. McAulay was baptized by Bro. Garrity, and since that time, now many years ago, he has tried to walk worthy of the vocation wherewith he was called, and by the grace of God was enabled to live soberly, righteously and godly. Having fought the good fight and kept the faith he has now entered into that rest which remains for the people of God. H. W. S.