

solution to the question why our Master dwelt so long amidst sin. The lives of God-fearing men have preserved the race.

If, therefore, we can form communities which will advocate and practice all the duties laid upon us, it will do more than much theorizing by our preachers. We do not want isolated, self-contained colonies; but colonies that bear a share of all good work, will demonstrate that the sermon on the mount can be kept by collections of individuals and will be a positive aggressive force in every department of the work of the Kingdom.

The present advocacy of colony movements is, I think, advisable—indeed necessary.

SELF-KNOWLEDGE.

Extracts from a Sermon preached in Milton Christian Church by W. Alex. McCaffrey.

The duty of self-knowledge has both an immediate and an ultimate aim. Although the former is subordinate to the latter, yet they are inseparably dependent. We are servants—servants of time and servants of eternity. Members of one social compact we are, in the nature of the case, in duty bound to work for the harmony of the whole. This is what I mean by the immediate aim of life, if we pursue it with honest interest and undaunted courage, then deserve we the eulogy—faithful servants of time, vanquishers of the world. But he who conquers the world cannot hold it long; and Time—how soon he discharges his servants. What, therefore, doth it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his own soul?

Our needs are broader than our temporal interests. Would we were wide awake to this great truth. Let us have an eye to the eternal welfare of the immortal soul. This is what I mean by the ultimate aim of life. Are we faithful servants of Eternity? This is the all-important question which should urge us to diligence in self-knowledge. If we keep within view the soul's eternal interests, and following on in the course mapped out by the blessed gospel, press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God which is in Christ Jesus, we need not fear but that our lives shall have been well lived—deserving of the praises of men and honored by the everlasting blessings of God.

To know ourselves, to the end that we may become efficient for sincerely carrying out our right relations both to God and man, is a momentous obligation demanding our serious attention. Know thyself with regard to the eternal well-being of the immortal soul. It is the first duty of man. It is an irksome undertaking—a life long task. Not only so. It is a most disagreeable one. In self-study we are not only given the pleasure of smiling upon our virtues, but also the displeasure of frowning upon our vices. Very slightly acquainted are we with ourselves, if we are familiar only with our good traits. They are our bad qualities to which we ought to give earnest heed, in order that we may build battlements about them to hold them in check. Mark well the words of our Saviour, "It is not that which entereth into a man, which defileth the man, but which cometh out of him." To know ourselves so that we

shall be able to make a conscious acknowledgment of our corruption by nature and our unfitness for approaching the presence of God, is to each of us of vital importance. For we cannot accept a Saviour unless we are aware of the need of one. And if we are ever to feel our need of one, no stronger evidence can be imagined, nor shall be afforded us, to produce that feeling, than the evils which always have oppressed and do still oppress society—evils which have their origin in human nature. In time, therefore, we must prepare for eternity. Would we be convicted of sin while there is yet hope of forgiveness? It must be here. Would we lay hold of the righteousness of Jesus Christ unto eternal life? We must do so here. "Now is the accepted time; now is the day of salvation."

ACKNOWLEDGMENT.

DEAR SISTERS (and Brethren as well),—I want to thank you all for the many kind letters received by us during the past few weeks. I cannot write to each individually, but I do assure you that your words of sympathy and love were greatly appreciated, and did much to soothe and comfort in the hours of our deep sorrow and sadness.

Our hearts and our home are lonely indeed; but we are trying to keep before us the blessed thought, that the loss which we find so hard to bear is gain, eternal gain, for our precious little ones, that the tender Shepherd will keep them safely until we shall meet them again.

May we each be faithful to our trust, and at last receive an abundant entrance into that eternal kingdom.

Yours in Christian love,
ELLA E. FLAGLOR.

GOLDEN WEDDING.

Although the 17th of January was stormy, a large number of friends met at the home of Brother and Sister Robert Stevenson of North Rustico, to remember in a substantial way their wedding of fifty years before. Besides doing justice to the good things of the table, the time was spent in pleasant conversation and in music and recitation by grandchildren and others. At the proper time the company was entertained by addresses suitable to the occasion by different speakers. Bro. Stevenson spoke very feelingly of his long and happy union with one who had always studied how to make life profitable and pleasant. The happy meeting was closed with prayer and the singing of a parting hymn.

Our brother and sister are truly to be congratulated on the facts that their numerous children are nearly all with them in the Church of Christ, and the eldest, R. W., a beloved and successful minister of the gospel.

The best way for a man to get out of a lowly position is to be conspicuously effective in it.—*Dr. John Hall.*

It is not our talents which brings us the favor of the Master, but the use to which they are put.—*Lutheran World.*

SUNSET THOUGHTS.

By Miss GRAYBIEL.

To lighten other brighter lands, the Sun
Sinks from our sight;
O'er land and sky reflected glory shines;
Bright cloud, with loveliness of scene, combine
In beauty rare. Labor and task are done—
Fast comes the night.

In these bright rays reflected, lingering still
On hill and plain,
Is there not promise of a coming morn,
When, darkness done, light from the east new born
Again our land with life and joy shall fill,
And gladness reign?

But more than sunlessness on India rests!
Deeper the gloom
Than that which now enwraps the earth so drear!
Darkness of death and death's despair are here;
A rayless night the ancient land invests.
How like the tomb!

O, Lord of Light, our souls to Thee we raise!
The night how long!
Send forth Thy beams; let shadows flee away;
And from our darkened hearts call forth Thy praise
In ceaseless song.

Selected.

FREEDOM AND LOVE.

Did not Christ buy us with his own blood that we might be free from the bondage of sin? This fact should lead us to give to him the deepest affection of our soul and the best service of our life.

There is a story told of a man who, years ago, was taken captive in the Mediterranean by one of the corsairs which used to sweep those seas. He was sold as a slave, and endured the rigors of Mohammedan bondage. One day an Englishman came on board the vessel where he was, and talking with his owner made a bargain for him, paid the price and bought the slave.

The poor captive bitterly reproached his purchaser. "You, a free-born Englishman, buy me for a slave!"

But the purchaser said, "I have bought you to set you free."

At once the captive's sorrow was turned into joy and his reproach to gratitude, and falling at the feet of his new master he said, "I will be your servant forever."

Thenceforth nothing was too hard for him to do for a master who had bought him with a price that he might set him free. So Jesus has bought us, and so ought we to serve him.

JUST OBEY.

An Eastern king was once in need of a faithful servant and friend. He gave notice that he wanted a man to do a day's work, and two men came and asked to be employed. He engaged them both for certain fixed wages, and set them to work to fill a basket from a neighboring well, saying that he would come in the evening and see how they got along with their work. He then left them and went away. After putting in one or two bucketfuls, one of the men said: "What is the good of doing this useless work? As soon as we put the water in one side it runs out on the other."

The other man answered: "But we have our day's wages, haven't we? The use of