

THE GREATEST IN THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN

"Whosoever shall be great among you shall be your servants."

The grand distinction of the kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ is that he who rises highest in real eminence becomes lowliest of all. Being spiritual and not temporal, coming not with observation as invested with the pomp of this world, but permeating the soul with a secret light Divine, this kingdom knows only a pre-eminence of humility. To be as one that serveth, this is to be our ambition; to walk humbly before our God over the stepping-stones of our dead selves, this must be our aim. If we have a contest, let the strife be who shall be least among us and mightiest in that spirit of self-sacrifice which is so well-pleasing unto the Lord.

But the disciples nowadays, like the disciples eighteen centuries and more ago, learn their lessons of humility very hardly. Again and again, unhappily, the groups linger behind the Lord to dispute by the way who shall be first. While this mind is in us, true work for Christ is impossible. Pride and self-love, like a dense and poisonous mist, darken the eyes and stop progress. If we want to lord it over Christ's heritage, we have evidently mistaken our profession.

Fellow-workers in the labour for the Lord, let us in His name have none of this. We will keep the Sermon on the Mount distinctly above the rules of precedence, which often are a snare in Church organization. Let others strive for place, we want spiritual power, content, while many desire the chief seats, to be ourselves in the lowest room where, indeed, our Master is more likely to be found.

The best remedy for a worldly ambition is to get to the knees of penitence, and afterwards go out into the highways and hedges of civilized or heathen misery and try to bring poor wanderers in.

May God give us more and more of the child's heart with the man's strength; may we be daily more patient and tender as well as brave. Let us court the best gifts and desire that His blessed words may be written upon our memories: "Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven."

STRANGE PRACTICES OF THE CHINESE.

"One of our missionaries in China, Rev. Dr. Smith, who went to the New Honan mission about a year ago gives the following interesting but sad glimpses of life where he labors.

Writing May 25, to the *Canada Presbyterian* he says:

There is great need of thoroughly qualified medical men and women in China. Every day we see cases which prove their absolute ignorance of the first principles of medicine, and we are made to realize the number of lives that are yearly sacrificed to the barbarous treatment of the native doctors. The native doctors made up a certain plaster which they use for anything and everything.

TWO CASES

will suffice to show the danger of such treatment.

The first, a man about thirty years of age, who had had a boil on his cheek; a plaster was applied, and of course it became worse. The native doctor, regardless of the consequence, kept on with the plasters, and when, as a last resort, the man came to the hospital, it was found that the whole of the lower jaw on that side was involved, and that nothing short of a removal would save the man's life. He was unwilling to consent to the operation, and so returned to his home to suffer and die.

The other case was that of a little girl about two years of age; a more pitiable object could scarcely be found. The child, some eight months ago, had received a slight injury on the left cheek, and as usual, a large plaster was applied. The father brought the child to the hospital, but was told that it was too late. The whole of the cheek had fallen away, also half of the nose, and the eye was destroyed, and yet the child was alive and in great agony, although, I believe they had compassion on it and gave it opium from time to time.

Great numbers, especially among the women, suffer from violent fits of passion. They work themselves into a perfect frenzy, and then very often commit suicide.

One day, a woman was brought to the hospital in a chair; she was almost dead. On inquiry, it was found that she and her son had had a quarrel, and in the fit of passion, she swallowed a considerable quantity of native arsenic. The son was told that nothing could be done. From the hospital, she was taken to a native doctor, who pricked her all over with large needles, in the course of which treatment the poor woman died.

These are a few of the many sad cases that have come under my notice during the last six months.

Here is another case of a more laughable nature, a man who complained of his eyes. On examination, it was found that nothing very serious was wrong, but he kept saying that he was unable to see. We got him to count fingers, which he could do fairly well,