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WHOLE No. 143

Why He Stopped Drinking.

No, I won't drink with you today, boys," said a drummer to several companions, as they settled under his nose and indulged in many jokes at his expense, but he refused to drink, and was rather serious about it.

His words were greeted by shouts of laughter by the jolly crowd around him; they put the bottle under his nose and indulged in many jokes at his expense, but he refused to drink, and was rather serious about it.

"What is the matter with you, old boy?" sang out one. "If you've sworn off drinking, something is up; tell us what it is?"

"Well, boys, I will, although I know you'll laugh at me. But I'll tell you, all the same I have been a drinking man all my life ever since I was married; as you all know, I love whiskey—it's as sweet in my mouth as sugar—and God only knows how I'll quit it. For seven years not a day has passed over my head that I didn't have at least one drink. But I am done. Yesterday I was in Chicago. On South Clark Street a customer of mine keeps a pawnshop in connection with his other branches of business. Well, I called on him, and while I was there a young man of not more than twenty-five, wearing threadbare clothes, and looking as hard as if he hadn't seen a sober day for a month, came in with a little package in his hand. Trembling he unwrapped it and handed the article to the pawnbroker, saying:

"Give me ten cents."

"And, boys, what do you suppose that it was? A pair of baby shoes, little things with the buttons only a trifle soiled, as if they had been worn only once or twice.

"Where did you get these?" asked the pawnbroker.

"Got 'em at home," replied the man, who had an intelligent face and the manner of a gentleman, despite his sad condition. "My—my wife bought them for our baby. Give me ten cents for 'em—I want a drink."

"You had better take the shoes back to your wife; the baby will need them," said the pawnbroker.

"No, s-she won't because—because she's dead. She's lying at home now—died last night."

"As he said this the poor fellow broke down, bowed his head on the show-case, and cried like a child. Boys," said the drummer, "you can laugh if you please, but I—I have a baby of my own at home, and I swear I'll never drink another drop."

Then he got up and went into another car. His companions glanced at each other in silence; no one laughed, the bottle disappeared, and soon each was sitting in a seat by himself reading a newspaper.

Concerning Angels.

Albert C. Applegarth, Ph. G.

The angels are a company, not a race. They are not male and female. They neither marry nor are given in marriage. Angels therefore are not developed from an original stock. With them, there is no such thing as descent. Each one is a special creation. Consequently, they have no common character nor history. Neither have they any common nature, binding them together, as is the case with man. The fall of one is no wise involved the destruction of the other. To be sure, some lapsed into sin. But others remained holy. And this may be one reason why salvation was never provided for the fallen angels. Jesus Christ could join Himself to humanity by assuming the common human nature, for all men are the children of Adam.

But the impossibility of doing this with the angels becomes evident. To rescue them from ruin, a separate atonement would have to be made for them individually.

The House Beautiful.

"Where there is Faith there is Love.

"Where there is Love there is Peace.

"Where there is Peace there is God.

"Where there is God there is No Need."

A "House Beautiful" indeed, with such apartments as Faith, Love, Peace, God, No Need! "In my Father's house are many mansions."

FAITH, the quiet, stately hall of subdued lights, classical furnishings, ennobling art! Noon's glare does not enter. A cool, restful, sanctuary for gentle talk, deep meditation, fervent prayer. "Have faith in God." "Without faith it is impossible to please Him."

LOVE, the "living room" of light and books and music and family and friends! "Love never faileth." "Behold what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us that we should be called the children of God."

PEACE, the secluded chamber of deep and blissful repose! Here, weariness, burden, care, give place to strength, courage, hope. "My peace I give unto you." For so He giveth His beloved sleep.

GOD, the tower room of boundless horizon! By day, fields, forests, mountains, sea; by night, stars. By night and day, human life, human need, human possibility. "For in Him we live and move and have our being." "And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us and we beheld His glory."

NO NEED, the spacious banquetting room of the soul. "He brought me into His banquetting house and His banner over me was love." "My God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus."

REV. JOEL B. SLOCUM.

Faith in Impossibilities.

By C. H. Wetherbe.

In these days when rationalism is controlling an increasingly large number of people, many of whom are professing Christians, it is especially necessary that the office of true faith should be frequently set forth and emphasized. It is a noteworthy fact that Christian faith triumphs most gloriously where mere human reason utterly fails. It is because a high type of faith, as represented in the lives of noble men of God in the past ages, apprehended many things which mere reason declared to be impossibilities that we have a Bible of such marvelous history as it contains. It is safe to say that our Bible would never have come into existence if the leading men in all Bible times had not exercised an unflinching faith in what mere reason asserted were impossibilities. If the records in the Bible which state occurrences that natural reason pronounce

impossible were to be taken from the book, it would not only be a much smaller volume than it is, but it would be far less divine, much less glorious, and vastly less mighty in meaning and moment. A Bible containing only such statements as pure human reason would accept as being true and sensible, would not be a divine book, nor even a divinely inspired volume. Noah would not occupy the place in Bible history which he does hold if he had not exercised a most practical faith in relation to coming events which sheer reason said were impossible to transpire. He believed God's word as against all human reason. Hundreds of thousands of people in his day said that it was utterly impossible that such a flood as Noah described would come upon the land. It was Noah's faith in the impossible that linked him with a salvation which preserved him and his family, while the many thousands of other people, governed by their reason, and hence refusing to believe the unreasonable, were destroyed by the very thing which they said would be an impossibility. Furthermore, there are many great truths, brilliant lessons, and most inspiring sentiments which are wrapped up in those Bible statements that rationalists pronounce to be impossible history; and those precious riches of thought, of inspiration, and helps to Christian hope, are available to those who gladly believe in impossibilities.

Holland Patent, N. Y.

God's Plan.

Don't forget the fact that God has a plan which covers the entire history of this world. Sometimes we lose the impression of this great fact. In the Old Book you will read again and again the words: "And it came to pass." "And it came to pass." "What was it that came to pass? The answer is: The things that fulfilled the will of God. Our heavenly Father has planned everything; not a sparrow falls without His knowledge, let alone the deaths that occur, the history that is made, the conversions that take place, the struggles that go on, and all the other things that make up the lives of the inhabitants of this world, singly and collectively. You will find everything work out to the glory of God and the happiness, the eternal happiness of His children. He has so planned it, and moreover again and again stated it in such expressions as the following: "To them that love God all things work together for good."

You will therefore see that another expression much like the first that I have given has its place in our thought here. I refer to this one: "And it shall come to pass." Here God manifests His authority, and as we hear Him speak and as we ponder His words, we are led to realize the fact more than we have ever done so before, that this old world and those that live in it are all under the touch of our omnipotent Father, and that He is leading all things unto a glorious consummation, even to the complete fulfillment of His plan of this world's history. And as He is the God of Peace we will certainly find that He has an indescribable and wonderful peace which this world is to eventually enjoy and which will be universal and eternal.

A fool's voice is known by multitudes of words. Eccl. 5:3.

Whoso keepeth his mouth and his tongue, keepeth his soul from trouble. Prov. 21:23.