

WHAT IS BELIEF?

Do we believe in God? We, Christians, I mean. The answer seems to come readily: "Surely we believe, or we could not be Christians!" But is it so? The devils also believe. Then in what are we better than they? But what is it, to believe? Surely it is not simply to know that a certain statement is true, but also to act as though we believe it; to appropriate it to our own use.

We read in God's word, that salvation is free; and it is only by accepting this great free gift that we prove our firm belief in the statement. We also read,

"For verily I say unto you, that whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith. Therefore I say unto you, what things soever ye desire, when ye pray, believe that ye receive them, and ye shall have them."

Do we as Christians believe that? We know it is true, but do we believe it? If we do, why is not the World in a better condition? If we do not, is it not making Him a liar? Is it not as though we said, All things are *not* possible with God! and that would be denying that he is God. Do we want the heathen converted? Let us ask it of him "who giveth to all men liberally and upbraideth not."

Do we desire the evil of Intemperance removed? Then let us ask for it: not at some future time, but *now*, and, according to His own word, it shall be granted unto us. Do we want the Earth purified and made like the Garden of Eden? like the Paradise our first parents lost through sin, and which we are losing through the sin of unbelief? O! then, let us consecrate ourselves anew to God, cast away our doubts and fears,—by which we have not only grieved, but dishonored our Lord and Master: and having prayed for forgiveness, let us ask first, for the power to believe, and if we believe *that* it shall be granted to us—then, "all things are possible to him that believeth." Hear the words of Jesus: "Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full."

A READER OF THE "INDEPENDENT."

Correspondence.

MR. HALL'S LETTER.

Dear Editor, I sincerely hope you will be encouraged in your work as Editor of the CANADIAN INDEPENDENT. I intend to do my part as heretofore. Will send you a letter occasionally, besides also speaking a good word for the magazine as I have opportunity. I wish you could just double the circulation at least.

It is a shame that so few of our people comparatively take in the denominational organ. Complaints are numerous throughout the country that it does not come to hand regularly, and in many cases not at all, through some fault of the post office department. Would it not be well to ask your subscribers to notify you of such delay, and then trace it and discover the delinquent. Then several have told me they have sent their subscriptions for the paper, but they have never reached the proper parties. Better to ask the subscribers to send post office orders, or to register their letters, or better still, secure an agent for the magazine in every congregation who will look after this matter and push the circulation.

What we want is a denominational organ in every family in our body. Instead of this I know for a fact that not more than one-fifth of our people take in the CANADIAN INDEPENDENT.

Last month I published a little paper advocating "Our Home Missionary Work," and sent thousands of copies throughout the churches. I have numerous communications from all parts commending the effort.

But several brethren, whose judgment I am bound to respect from their wider experience than my own, have expressed their fears that the continuance of that publication would greatly interfere with the circulation of the CANADIAN INDEPENDENT. Hence I have decided not to publish it for some time, at least, though I must confess I think they are mistaken in their opinion. Yet I would be sorry to be in any way a hindrance to the time-honored organ of the denomination. But depend upon it, we need information scattered among our people.

If you can induce the friends to adopt the CANADIAN INDEPENDENT, I will be satisfied. I