

child is born of the Spirit—no one not a child of God would use such an expression or have such an experience." He was received because he had been praying out of his heart, and he has continued to pray out of his heart ever since—twenty years now—and he has persuaded others to pray out of their hearts.

This fear of childhood brings only the curse of barrenness. Christian men and women doubt them because they do not wear stove pipe hats or seal skin sacks; they cannot understand how it is that childhood can grow up into the image of Christ as easily and surely as they can into the image of their parents or grandparents. They do not understand how it can be that there are Christian children as well as Christian men and women, and how it is that child nature and Divine nature are compatible. The popular idea is, "keep them back," as this boy said buffeted by temptation, and if they can stand what often conquers adults, they may come to the Lord's table—the place where grown men and women say they reinforce their strength for temptation. In another figure, when they are awakened to a sense of their sinfulness and a Saviour's pardon, pitch them out into a snow bank for a fortnight and if they are still living at the end of three weeks, or months, bring them into the church to warm and nurture them. The outcry against them is that they may "go back." But those who have had most to do with them as church members say that a greater proportion of them remain faithful than of adults, and that the portion that does remain is worth a dozen of others in example, in spiritual life and its experiences, in giving, in teaching, in faithfulness and efficiency.

It was pleasantly said by a speaker at a missionary conference held lately in New Jersey: "A dime makes as much noise in a plate collection as a quarter, and both make more noise than a bill. If you don't want your left hand to know what your right hand doeth, put in a bill." A sharper point was given to a sentence by another speaker, when he told a story of a stingy man who, when asked to give something for a monument to General Washington, refused on the plea that he had Washington in his heart. "Well, then you have got him in a tight place," said the collector.

A SORROWFUL YOUNG MAN.

A young man who had been led by a teacher of so-called free thought and liberalism to cast aside the teachings of childhood and his faith in the Bible thus wrote from the far West:

I am one of his victims: Mr. ——— was kind to me in many ways, personally, but cruel in robbing me of my religion, which had been the motive power, previously, to keep my feet in the right paths.

I bitterly regret I left the "old, rotten wharves" of orthodox simplicity to survey and discover other religious hemispheres, that I became so "liberal, free-hearted, a young man abreast of the times, striding away ahead of the antiquated souls who were bound by the old trammels of the orthodox faith;" outgrowing the sweet religion given me in early years by one of the most noble and godly women that ever lived—*my mother*, who taught me the veritable truth that a religion which is "all mercy and no justice is one-sided, eclipsing one-half of God's glorious attributes."

How grieved I am to think I ever allowed myself to be inflated by deceptive flatteries, and seduced to believe I was throwing off the shackles of bigotry, narrowness and ignorance.

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My advice to young men is—beware! Hold fast to the rudder of the old ship. I would tell them to remain an occupant of the antique vessel, which has a never deceiving pilot.

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Distrust in God's Word is not unfrequently the first step to a downward career. Truly, God is a kind, loving Father who will remain true even when the sweetest of earthly friends forsake. He is the silver lining to the darkest cloud. He is the rainbow of hope and love when the storms beat heavily and the tempests rage furiously. When kin and flesh forsake he draweth nigh and whispereth gentle, tender, brotherly words of admonition and sympathy. But he is also a God of justice. Every line in his Word is verified daily.

I repeat, it is no trifling thing to tamper with God's Word, and reject his Holy Son. O, for a simple, child-like confidence. What is truer than this, "There is a way which seemeth good unto man, but the end thereof is death?" Yes, tears