

Original Contributions.

INDIVIDUALITY.

T. H. BLENUM.

I have much faith in the committee of one. What is everybody's business, is nobody's. Individualism is too often lost in associationism. Some men lose their consciences in stock companies and corporations. They sin in the aggregate, and then wash their hands in the waters of innocency.

So in our churches. The man who does next to nothing takes credit to himself for what others have done. He gives a cent in a collection, and then, with an air of the most charming hypocrisy, says: "That was a fine collection we had last Sunday night." He never offers a prayer, attends a prayer-meeting, Sunday-school or Bible class, and never points a sinner to Christ, and yet privately prates about what he "would like to see done." Is that honest? This is one of the dangers of our day. We expect too much from committees, and not enough from the individual. The individual conscience, duty, development and final reward are blended with the mass. We cannot repent for one another, or by committees; we cannot believe by proxy; we cannot shrink or escape responsibility by simply once in a while attending church. We will not die in companies. One by one we pass over the river. We will not be judged as assemblies, but as individuals. We will wear our own crowns in glory, and not appear in borrowed array. Hence, I am authorized to write, that any theory of life which tends to destroy, and not to assert the individuality of man, is inhuman, unreasonable and anti-Christian.

But we must distinguish between the true and the false individuality. We must remember the double nature in man, the soul life and the sensuous life. The latter has a seeming life, which is actual death; and the former a seeming death, with is actual life. Hence the language of scripture, "He that seeketh to save his life shall lose it, and whosoever shall lose his life shall find it." That is, the development of the unselfish nature, is life and true individuality. The purely selfish man does not preserve his individuality, for his life is sure to grow less. He loses his friends, the world drops him, humanity shuns him; alone he lives, alone he dies, and the wind and rain, as they wear out the letters on his tomb, are the only haunters of his pretentious grave. Hence, individuality is not a great bundle of selfishness, is not a nauseating, flaunting egotism, is not a personal isolation—but it is man escaping the curse of self-involvement and spreading his being over the world. The stronger the centre and more intense the heat and light, the more the radiation. Therefore let us be ourselves. Our peculiarities, or our eccentricities, as men call them, are our divine endowments for personal use and personal success. We should never let others do our duty and wear our laurels.

"Let no man take thy crown."

PARDON.

W. R. McEWEN.

We find pardon conditional, according to the gospel of Christ. The law of pardon is revealed in Acts, chapters 2, 16, and 22. What must I do to be saved? is the question asked under the reign of Christ, and today many answers are given which confuse the mind of the inquirer. Three times this question is asked and three times answered; first, in Acts 2:37, answer 2:38; second, Acts 9:6, answer 22:16; third, Acts 16:30, answer 16:31. While the inspired men of God were ministering to the world they gave no other answers than believe, repent, and be baptized.

Different opinions are held respecting these terms. Some think part essential and part non-essential; some say we are saved without baptism, because it is not given in the last answer. If so, a man might say we are saved without faith, as it is not spoken of in the first answer, and so of repentance as it is not found in the second answer. Giving way to such ideas, a man might rule all three answers out. It is not for us to say, when only one command is found in a passage, that we are saved by that alone. I might write a book about the human body, saying we live by eating, drinking, and sleeping; but should I dwell largely, in one or more of its chapters, upon drinking and sleeping, would that go to show that we live without eating because not mentioned in these chapters. Evidently not. It takes all three together to make a healthy body. So with the conditions of pardon, all must be complied with. Notice, Peter commands two things, repentance and baptisms; Ananias commands one thing, baptism; Paul and Silas one thing, belief; but all together command the three, faith, repentance and baptism.

The reason the Divine answers are different is to suit the inquirers. Peter would not ask his hearers to believe when they already believed, but Paul commanded the jailer to believe as he was an unbelieving pagan, and so Ananias tells Paul to be baptized because he was already a believer and a penitent man.

A person must do what is commanded in the book of God in order to enjoy the full and free pardon which is conditioned on obedience. There are commanded, belief to change the mind, repentance to change the heart, and baptism to change the state or relation.

The latter is not held to as having any virtue of itself, but is a test of faith. Noah was saved by water, says Peter. The antediluvians had just as much water as Noah, but no faith; so had to die. The soul that sinneth must die unless the requirements of the gospel are fulfilled. Let every soul then do as God bids and pardon will be his to enjoy in this life, and he shall have a home in the sweet bye and bye beyond the confines of the tomb.

Home Mission Notes.

MAY COLLECTION.—Do not neglect this good work. Our brethren over the line are showing, year by year, their interest in us by extending the helping hand. Let us prove that we are one with them for extending the cause that is dear to all. By our collections we can show our good will and be partakers with them in the glory and blessings of such wonderful victories for the truth.

Out of the small sum given to the home board last year the following results were reported: Helped 294 places in twenty-one states and provinces; organized 34 churches; 16,493 days' work done by missionaries, equal to fifty-two years and two months. Total number of additions by missionaries, 4,849, of which number 3,174 were baptized. Such splendid results claim our support. Give it in a greatly enlarged May offering.

Latest advices from Bro. Romig indicate that he will be able to give us eight weeks, beginning in July. It may be that the U. S. war will cause him to change his plans.

The grand results from Bro. Harding's meetings on Deer Island prove that we ought to have an evangelist in this field. How much longer shall we hesitate? Brethren, it is yours to say by your contributions whether you wish to see our work go forward. Over two-thirds of the amount pledged at the annual has been paid, the other third would be acceptable now.

A good sister says: "Though you have much sympathy and many prayers, they will not materially lighten your burden. Do not hesitate to remind us of our duty, we are prone to forget." This sister also said some things that made the heart of the secretary glad. He has been trying to remind the brethren of their duty in these provinces for nearly eight years; and the prospect of coming to the annual meeting in debt is not cheerful. When a man sees a necessary work undone, and calls on others for help, yet many answer not, nor give heed to the cry, how can he feel anything else but sad on account of their want of material sympathy.

Brethren, let me remind you again, we are in debt, and need over \$200 before the first of August to meet the grants made at the annual meeting. If every reader of THE CHRISTIAN would send a twenty-five cent piece at once, we would be able to pay as we go, and help other needy points as well. Send along the quarters and the dollars if you can. See how the money is flowing in the United States and Spain for the sake of each cause. Shall we not pour out our wealth for the sake of the Master's cause? Let all answer promptly and generously.

RECEIPTS.

Acknowledged, . . . . .	\$373 36
St. John, Coburg St. Mission Band, . . . . .	4 00
South Range, H. A. Devoe, . . . . .	5 00
Westport, Y. P. M. S., per Mrs. Bolton, . . . . .	2 00
"    per E. A. Payson, . . . . .	3 00
Thornvale, Hants Co., Mrs. A. L. McDougall, . . . . .	2 00
Taunton, Mass., Miss J. Dewar, . . . . .	50
Cornwallis, Mrs. C. Woodworth, per . . . . .	15 00
E. C. Ford, . . . . .	15 00

\$405 46

J. S. FLAGLOB, Secretary.