

"Foxes have holes"—I think my heart had broken
To hear the word so said,
While Christ had not—were sadder ever spoken?
A place to lay his head.

"I would have flung abroad my door before Him,
And in my joy have been
First on the threshold, eager to advere Him,
And crave His entrance in."

Ah! would you so? Without a recognition.
You passed Him yesterday;
Or lest some woful penitent might touch them
And calmly went your way.

You catch aside your robes, lest want should clutch them
In its imploring wild;
Or lest some woful penitent might touch them
And you be thus defiled!

O dreamer! dreaming that your faith is keeping
All service free of blot,
Christ daily walks your streets, sick, suffering, weeping,
And ye perceive him not!

SELECTED.

FIELD STUDY FOR JANUARY.

THE HOLY SPIRIT.

HE promise of a baptism of fire was given by Jesus to his disciples. This, to the Jew, would bring up the scene of Sinai—the grand spectacle of the giving of the law, or the solitary awe of the burning bush—and with it, the idea of the immediate presence of God.

To obtain this baptism, Andrew and John leave their master to follow Jesus. But it does not come to them then. Years pass, and near the time of His death, Jesus speaks of it, and says that he must first go away, or the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, will not come. They do not understand Him, and do not expect Him to die, for they still think He will be king in Jerusalem. So when Christ was buried their hopes were gone.

His resurrection reassured them, and His command over nature and its laws, cleared away all doubt of His mission. From the Mount of Olives, where a cloud received Him from their sight, they returned with joy into Jerusalem; for had not Jesus promised, not many days hence, to endue them with the fulness of the Spirit. The long-expected baptism of fire was to be theirs.

Then come ten days of waiting. The one hundred and twenty gather daily, in the temple courts or in the upper room, and with one accord, watch and pray.

The eleventh day has come. The city is filled with people, come to celebrate the giving of the law amid the fires of Sinai. In that upper room, while they are praying, the fire again descends; not merely to be gazed on by the people, and approached only by the

leader, but as a token to all, anointing the brow of every faithful worshiper.

Now they go out, and tell with power that the Messiah has indeed come. They make themselves felt. An impulse moves the crowd, as they find that the story is being told in different languages, so, when Peter seeks to address the crowd, he has an audience.

What is the message he has for these Jews from all parts of the world?

"Repent—and ye shall receive the Holy Ghost, for the promise is to you and your children, and to all that are afar off."

Three thousand accepted his word, and afterwards remained steadfast. On another day two thousand more were converted, and by good authorities, the number of Christians, at the close of the first five years from the death of Christ, was at least ten thousand.

The symbol of fire, the gift of tongues, and the working of miracles, were not the essentials of the baptism of fire. Peter says of Cornelius and his family: "God put no difference between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith." This is the perpetual benefit to the church that every believer has the privilege of receiving, the baptism of spiritual and moral power.

Under the influence of the Spirit, weak men become strong, the feeble and timid become courageous. Ciphers by themselves are nothing, but placed at the right hand of another figure they are of great value. "One shall chase a thousand, and two shall put two thousand to flight." Men and women at the right hand side of Jesus, and filled with the Spirit, will ultimately accomplish the enlightenment and regeneration of the world.

The foregoing sketch, is a partial outline of a most helpful book, on the work of the Holy Spirit, "The Tongue of Fire" by William Arthur, a noted preacher and writer of English Methodism.

This is written, with the hope that it will be an introduction to the book itself. It has been a blessing to thousands, and we pray that its work may be extended still further.

O that the still, small voice of the Spirit, might be looked for and heeded in all our Bands; that we might open our hearts, and "be filled with the fulness of God."

—D.

QUESTIONS FOR JANUARY.

- What promise was given by Jesus to his disciples?
- What was it that reassured them after their hopes had fled?
- After Christ's ascension what did they do?
- How long did they have to wait for the Baptism of fire?
- What effect did it have upon the Disciples?
- What effect did it have upon those to whom they preached?
- What is said of Ciphers?
- What can men and women, mere ciphers, working with Jesus and filled with His spirit, accomplish?
- Of what book is this an outline sketch?