

QUERIES ANSWERED.

An earnest and intelligent young Christian, in a letter, asks the meaning of the two following passages, viz.:

I. In I. Cor. xi. 27, 28, 29. How can this apply to us?

In what does the examination of myself consist?

II. What is the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost? Matt. xii. 31, 32.

I. In this chapter Paul blames the Corinthians for doing a certain thing in an improper manner, and not for being *unfit* to do it at all, for doing it wrong or *unworthily*. He uses the adverb and not the adjective qualifying the *action* of these brethren, and not the brethren themselves. To overlook this fact is to misunderstand the passage. This has been often done to the injury of many, causing true Christians who have a humble opinion of themselves to keep back from the Lord's table lest they should be *unworthy*, and eat and drink condemnation to themselves. The apostle blames these Corinthian brethren for making a drunken feast of the bread and wine that were to be used for the Lord's supper, and thus gratifying a carnal appetite instead of discerning the Lord's body, to the dishonor of the ordinance and their own condemnation.

"In what does the examination of myself consist?" Not in examining whether I am worthy to partake or not. All true Christians freely acknowledge their own unworthiness and trust all to the worthiness of Christ. It is to examine *how I partake of it*. If I make a meal of it as the Corinthians did I eat and drink unworthily. If I do it for a vain show I do it unworthily. Or if I do it merely as a custom, or because others do it, or in a thoughtless, indifferent manner, it is done unworthily. But if I consider its solemn import as the dying command of my loving Saviour, and eat and drink to remember that His body was given for me and His blood was shed for the remission of my sins, I do it worthily. Yes, indeed! we should examine ourselves *and so eat*.

II. What is the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost?"

The occasion and circumstances make the Saviour's meaning plain when He uttered these awful words, *Whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world neither in the world to come*. In the 32nd verse He calls speaking against the Holy Ghost what He calls in the 31st, the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost. We understand this to mean speaking falsehood against the Spirit of God knowingly and maliciously for ill intent. This was done on that occasion in presence of Christ the searcher of hearts.

The scribes and pharisees first denied that Jesus wrought miracles, as in the case of the blind man in the 9th of John. This was to persuade the people that He was a base impostor. But when His works were too many and mighty to be denied, their plea was that He was Satan's agent, and that he cast out devils by Beelzebub the prince of the devils. In this they knowingly slandered the Holy Spirit by calling His power the power of Satan, so as to excite the hatred of the people to Jesus. Jesus' reasoning with them on a house divided against itself, and Satan destroying himself, and their children whom they had employed in casting out devils being their judges, shows this sin to be against their conscience and to be inexcusable and unpardonable. Jesus says: If I had not done among them the works which none other man did they had not had sin, but now they have both *seen and hated both Me and My Father* (John xv. 24). See, also, verse 22nd and 23rd. Their witnessing the miracles of Christ and then hating both Him and His Father made them guilty of the unpardonable sin. They had no cloak for their sin. Paul was a great sinner against the Son of Man, but he obtained mercy because he did it *ignorantly* in unbelief. On the cross Jesus plead

for His murderers, "Father forgive them for they know not what they do." (Luke xxiii. 34). But there could be offered no such prayers for those blasphemers of the Holy Spirit; they *knew* their sin. D. C.

MATTHEW viii. 20.

In my first reading of Bro. Emery's exegesis of this passage, as found in the February number of the CHRISTIAN, I got quite a scare. I thought it is possible Bro. Emery is so cruel that he will take from us this Scripture of so much consolation! What would become of our prayers and exhortations! Why, this thought is the pivotal idea of our meetings that Christ is with us whether few or many. But in my second reading I found that he granted to us all we claim. "I take not my pen to-day to argue that Jesus is not present in the spirit with every child of God wherever he may be." This is enough to redeem the article from a flood of criticisms. I felt much better after reading these lines. If Christ is with one He will be with two or three, or any number who meet in His name. This makes the promise of this Scripture as true of us as of the apostles. This is why He gave it to His apostles, because it is a universal truth of all God's people. Christ told them in the nineteenth verse that "If two of you agree on earth..." it shall be done for them, and then to intensify the promise He had made to them, He gave them this general promise that is common to all God's children as found in the twentieth verse. So while it is true He applied this promise to the apostles, it is also true that the promise is applicable to us. As the "Living Oracles" gives it, "Wherever two or three are assembled in my name I am in the midst." The first promise, as in the nineteenth verse, is given to the apostles. He uses the second person—"Whatever two of you," etc. But the other promise is in the third person—"Wherever two or three," etc.—hence general. H. M.

Correspondence.

FROM HALIFAX.

We wish to thankfully acknowledge the receipt of \$7.00 from Charlottetown, P.E.I. The names of those who have donated are recorded in the list. Therefore we take this opportunity to express our thankfulness and also the joy it gives us to receive a helping hand, especially in the work of the Master. It indeed cheers us, because it is an act of kindness and also shows a genuine Christian spirit. This is a donation solicited and forwarded by our sisters of Charlottetown, as the list will show.

I must here take the opportunity of stating that since we began to collect for the upbuilding of the cause of Christ in this city, the sisters have greatly added to the fund; thus we take pleasure to acknowledge their work and labor of love for the advancement of the cause of Christ. May God abundantly bless all those who have responded to our call here in Halifax for aid in this great work. Every day our hopes grow brighter and our anticipations stronger, that in the near future we will have in this city a house of worship. We long to hail the day when in this city the gospel trumpet shall sound with greater vigor than it has ever done in the past. Thousands to-day are drifting down life's rapid current, hastening on towards the judgment-seat of Christ, whose hearts and minds have never been aroused by the true gospel of salvation. And in view of this fact, we are anxious to extend the helping hand to them; thus we would urge on the work, fully realizing life is short, and that we must work while it is day. Our prayer is that God will aid us to keep our armor bright, and

while we are battling for the Lord we know our armor will not get rusty. We have nothing to fear in this warfare; Christ is our Captain and will lead us on to victory, therefore we lean upon His omnipotent arm, and with the sword of the spirit we will continue to fight until the battle shall end here below; then we shall wear a crown of righteousness in that land where labour shall be at an end and parting and death shall not be known.

Brethren and sisters, one and all, in view of the fact that, as the Church of Christ on earth, as members of one body, we shall one day be gathered into His Kingdom where none but the pure shall enter; where we shall be rewarded for every kind act, for every sympathizing word, for all the labor we have done for our blessed Redeemer—in view of this let us endeavor to do all in our power to advance the glorious cause we love with the assurance that our labour will not be in vain in the Lord. H. E. COOKE.

FROM BETHANY.

In the January number of the CHRISTIAN Bro. Capp has made a strong, and, I trust, a successful appeal to the children of God in behalf of young men who need assistance to enable them to pursue their studies at College and thus fit themselves for the work of the ministry. Before leaving the Provinces I met two young men who longed to preach the word, but having not had opportunities to obtain knowledge they propose to enter other fields of labor unless the Lord provides some means for educating them. He may do this through His followers or He may devise plans which will, if utilized by the young men themselves, result in their education. We cannot read the mind of the Lord nor understand fully His ways of dealing with matters like these. It is reasonable to suppose that He will prompt the brethren to contribute to the "Educational Fund" which will be devoted solely to the assistance of needy brethren whilst at college, or, in other words, to the cause of Christ. Let not your interest in this matter grow cold lest the need of laborers in the Provinces be still more manifest. In the Provinces the "harvest is plentiful but the laborers are few; pray ye, therefore, the Lord of the harvest, that He will send forth laborers into His harvest." Pray ye the Lord to make use of your means in placing these men in their proper sphere of labor.

Allow me to speak of another matter. Bro. Gorrell, who will graduate at Bethany next June (p. v.), is thinking seriously of visiting the Provinces to labor for a season among you. I believe that steps are now being taken to procure his services. He is worthy of your confidence as a preacher of the gospel. He has a wife and two children. If you succeed in procuring his labor, you will add to your staff of preachers, not only an able expounder of the truth, but also a noble minded and a tender hearted Christian gentleman.

With love to you all,

T. S. K. FREEMAN.

Bethany, W. Va.

News of the Churches.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

SAINT JOHN.

Our Sunday School Anniversary was a very successful one in every particular. The scholars who took part in the exercises acquitted themselves admirably. A bountiful repast was furnished the children by the friends of the school. The collection amounted to \$17.50.

Bro. Capp started a Bible class last Friday evening. The object is a better understanding of the Bible. The first lesson proved a most interesting one.