

The Teachers Monthly

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Vol. XVIII.

Toronto, April, 1912

No. 4

Anticipating Our Difficulties

By Rev. R. B. Layton, B.A.

Carrying sweet spices with which fittingly to honor the body of their beloved Master, a small group of women were hurrying early in the morning to the sepulchre. And, as they went, one thought arose again and again in their minds: "Who will roll us away the stone from the door?"

Their purpose could not be accomplished if the stone were not rolled away. They fully understood this difficulty; yet they hurried forward as if it might not prevent them. They found the stone rolled away. That which had been beyond their strength had been done for them by Him whom they desired to honor.

When other friends of Jesus go out to honor Him, there is often a stone to be rolled away. Difficulties beset the path of every Christian worker. But they are like the lions which Christian saw beside his path. They are unable to injure those who keep straight forward. Many of these difficulties can be overcome by the workers themselves, others only by Jesus. His help is always given to those who do everything else that they can do first, who anticipate the great difficulties in Christ's service by acting as if they were not there.

How are we anticipating our difficulties? Are we paralyzed through fear of them? This fear is a cause of much unfruitfulness among Christ's followers. Because in the distance they see great and seemingly insurmountable difficulties, they make no effort at all to honor Christ. Far away hills appear steeper than they really are. Every "Hill Difficulty" has its half way "Rest-house."

Now whether these difficulties in Christ's service lie in ourselves, because we feel unworthy; or in the thing to be done, they may

be overcome. Either we will find that we ourselves are given power to overcome them, or else Christ will remove them for us. All that is done by us for Christ before we meet these difficulties is not lost. Jesus protects the work of His servants from loss. It is required of us, therefore, that we should serve Him in the strength that we have, and have no fear for the results.

Or on the other hand, do we anticipate our difficulties by finding them a source of inspiration for greater service? They are a challenge to us. We hate to be beaten. The twice-born man has an unconquerable will from Christ. We make the more careful preparation. It becomes a matter for special consultation with the Master. We strengthen ourselves on the living Bread. Then, having begun, we hope that the momentum of our effort will sweep all before us. Should we then fail, we turn again to our Master, and leave to Him that which we have honestly tried to do, and could not. He will roll us away the stone.

Halifax, N.S.

Growth in Christian Life

By Rev. D. McTavish, D.Sc.

I. THE INDWELLING SPIRIT

Bishop Moule has remarked, with his usual fine spiritual discrimination, that "a life may be *truly* Christian and yet far from *fully* Christian." Then he adds in explanation, "A man may have come really to Christ, and have really confessed Him, and be really seeking to serve Him, and yet be keeping back, perhaps quite unconsciously, whole regions of the life from Him." Is it not sadly true that we may be treating Christ as a Guest in the home, rather than the Master to whom the house belongs? Many