

The Evangelical Churchman.

A CANADIAN FAMILY NEWSPAPER.

Vol. IX.—No. 8. Whole No. 424. TORONTO, THURSDAY, July 3, 1884. \$2.00 per Annum in Advance Single Copies 5 Cents.

The Evangelical Churchman

PUBLISHING COMPANY,

TORONTO, CANADA

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ROYAL JUNE.

BY AMANDA ELIZABETH DENNIS.

Oh! royal June! Oh! fair, glad time!
Sweet treasure-trove of all the year!
I weave your splendors into rhyme
And bind them with a wistful tear.
Too glad to hold your treasures scant
You give them in profusion rare.
The amber sunbeams, scarce aslant,
Like jewelled lances cleave the air.

The earth laughs out in joyous pride,
The soft sky slumbers like a sea
Of waveless azure, boundless wide—
Fit emblem of Eternity!
The sweet days fold their rosy palms,
The balmy nights glide slowly by,
God's sinless songsters trill their psalms
Amid the tree-tops broad and high.

Oh! happy June! Oh! fair, glad time!
Oh! sweet enchantress of the year,
Your music like an elfin chime,
Falls dreamily upon the ear.
And over miles of emerald plain,
And hill-tops crowned with fairer green,
The footsteps of your minion train
Grow brighter with unsandalled sheen.

I sit and watch the golden light
Drift down athwart the waving grain,
And ask myself what mortal blight
Could bring such weight of human pain
As to o'ercloud, for aye and aye,
June's royal wealth of light and bloom,
And fold away in shadows grey
Its living glory and perfume!

Oh! happy-hearted month of song!
Oh! happy-hearted month of bloom!

The fateful years are not so long
Crowned with wealth of your perfume.
Ah! could I lure one deathless boon
From tender nature's sweet control,
I'd beg the happy-hearted June
To drop her gladness in my soul.

And leave it nestling there for aye,
Sweet prophecy of happier days,
When grieving lips shall faltering pray
For strength to tread life's shadowed ways.
Oh! happy June! Oh! fair, glad time!
Oh! sweet enchantress of the year,
I weave your splendors into rhyme
And hold you doubly fair and dear.

Whatever pain the years have brought,
Whatever pain they still may bring,
I count it all less dearly bought
Because such tender memories cling
About this golden, radiant time—
This royal-hearted month of June,
So rich with hints of scented rhyme
And sweet sounds woven into tune!

Oh! happy June! Oh! fair, glad time!
Oh! sweet enchantress of the year!
I weave your splendors into rhyme
And hold you doubly fair and dear—
So rich, so rare, so sweet, so glad!
What heart could be so filled with care,
So numbed with pain, so wholly sad,
That could not find you sweet and fair?

ABIDE IN CHRIST, AS YOU CAME TO HIM, BY FAITH.

"As ye have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in Him: rooted and built up in Him, and established in the faith, abounding therein."—COL. II. 6, 7.

In these words the apostle teaches us the weighty lesson, that it is not only by faith that we first come to Christ and are united to Him, but that it is by faith that we are to be rooted and established in our union with Christ. Not less essential than for the commencement, is faith for the progress of the spiritual life. Abiding in Jesus can only be by faith.

There are earnest Christians who do not understand this; or, if they admit it in theory, they fail to realize its application in practice. They are very zealous for a free gospel, with our first acceptance of Christ, and justification by faith alone. But after this they think everything depends on our diligence and faithfulness. While they firmly grasp the truth, "The sinner shall be justified by faith," they have hardly found a place in their scheme for the larger truth, "the just shall live by faith." They have never understood what a perfect Saviour Jesus is, and how He will each day do for the sinner just as much as He did the first day when he came to Him. They know not that the life of grace is always and only a life of faith, and that in the relationship to Jesus the one daily and unceasing duty of the disciple is to believe, because believing is the one channel through which Divine grace and strength flow out into the heart of man. The old nature of the believer remains evil and sinful to the last; it is only as he daily comes, all empty and helpless, to His Saviour to receive of His life and strength, that he can bring forth the fruits of righteousness to the glory of God. Therefore it is: "As ye have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in Him: rooted in Him, and established in the faith, abounding therein." As you came to Jesus, so abide in Him, by faith.

And if you would know how faith is to be

exercised in thus abiding in Jesus, to be rooted more deeply and firmly in Him, you have only to look back to the time when first you received Him. You remember well what obstacles at that time there appeared to be in the way of your believing. There was first your vileness and guilt; it appeared impossible that the promise of pardon and love could be for such a sinner. Then there was the sense of weakness and death; you felt not the power for the surrender and the trust to which you were called. And then there was the future; you dared not undertake to be a disciple of Jesus while you felt so sure that you could not remain standing, but would speedily again be unfaithful and fall. These difficulties were like mountains in your way. And how were they removed? Simply by the word of God. That word, as it were, compelled you to believe that, notwithstanding guilt in the past, and weakness in the present, and unfaithfulness in the future, the promise was sure that Jesus would accept and save you. On that word you ventured to come, and were not deceived: you found that Jesus did indeed accept and save.

Apply this, your experience in coming to Jesus, to the abiding in Him. Now, as then, the temptations to keep you from believing are many. When you think of your sins since you became a disciple, your heart is cast down with shame, and it looks as if it were too much to expect that Jesus should indeed receive you into perfect intimacy and the full enjoyment of His holy love. When you think how utterly, in times past, you have failed in keeping the most sacred vows, the consciousness of present weakness makes you tremble at the very idea of answering the Saviour's command with the promise, "Lord, from henceforth I will abide in Thee." And when you set before yourself the life of love and joy, of holiness and fruitfulness, which in the future are to flow from abiding in Him, it is as if it only serves to make you still more hopeless: you, at least, can never attain to it. You know yourself too well. It is no use expecting it, only to be disappointed; a life fully and wholly abiding in Jesus is not for you.

Oh that you would learn a lesson from the time of your first coming to the Saviour! Remember, dear soul, how you then were led, contrary to all that your experience, and your feelings, and even your sober judgment said, to take Jesus at His word, and how you were not disappointed. He did receive you, and pardon you; He did love you, and save you,—you know it. And if he did this for you when you were an enemy and a stranger, what think you, now that you are His own, will He not much more fulfil His promise? Oh that you would come and begin simply to listen to His word, and to ask only the one question: Does He really mean that I should abide in Him? The answer His Word gives is so simple and so sure: By His Almighty grace you now are in Him; that same almighty grace will indeed enable you to abide in Him. By faith you became partakers of the initial grace; by that same faith you can enjoy the continuous grace of abiding in Him.

And if you ask what exactly it is that you now have to believe that you may abide in Him, the answer is not difficult. Believe first of all what He says: "I am the Vine." The safety and the fruitfulness of the branch depend upon the strength of the vine. Think not so much of thyself as a branch, nor of the abiding as thy duty, until thou hast first had thy soul filled with the