

Need Taught by Possession.

BY ANNA D. BRADLEY.

A friend of mine has just had her house re-modelled and enlarged, and is wonderfully well pleased with the change. Yesterday she conducted me all over it, and as I commented upon the new beauty and luxury, she said:

"Now that I have it, it seems I have been needing it all the while; only," she added, laughingly, "I did not know it. My ignorance of all this added space and convenience is all that has been making me contented."

We chatted on pleasantly as we wandered through the beautiful rooms. That evening I read from C. H. Spurgeon, "I verily believe that many people discover their needs only by receiving their supply."

I paused and recalled my experience of the morning when my friend told me she had only been content with her former mode of living because she had not known her need of better things.

Often it is thus in spiritual matters. We do not, we cannot, know the precious comfort of having a Saviour always near to guide and bless, until we have really felt the warm clasp of His helping hand and yielded to Him our every care. I think the gentle Master fore-saw all this, and so He only said, "Believe on the Lord and thou shalt be saved."

"Ah, but," says one, casting a stumbling block in his own way "I would believe on Christ if I could feel any need of His help. I am not penitent. My heart is as cold as stone. The thunders of the law do not affright me, neither do the wooings of love have power to melt my spirit."

Ah! what a fearful stumbling block is this, and how many souls have fallen across it, only to sink in deeper darkness than before.

But, praise God, it has never been said: "Who so ever *feels the need of* Christ shall be saved." Nor even, "He whose heart responds to the wooings of His love." It only cries, "Who so ever believeth on Him shall not perish, but shall have everlasting life."

Lately there was the possibility of a smallpox epidemic in our city. The authorities ordered every child in the public schools to be vaccinated. Some few, in the diseased vicinity, felt the need of prevention before they obeyed, many thousands realized no special need, but still obeyed, and all alike received immunity from the disease. Nature had decreed that vaccination should be a safeguard from smallpox. Feeling, desire for protection—no mat-

ter what the motive which prompted one to yield to the order of the city council, counted as nothing. Those who, in time, were properly vaccinated were saved; many, who neglected, fell a victim to the loathsome disease.

"Who so ever believeth on Him shall not perish but shall have everlasting life."

Just believe, that is the condition upon which hangs eternal life. We cannot realize our need of Christ until once Christ is ours. A thousand times more do I realize my need of a Saviour to day than I did when I first resolved to trust His saving power, and every day is the knowledge pressed more keenly home to my hungry, dependent heart, "He that BELIEVETH is not condemned." Belief will not only bring us into communion with Christ, but the heart, now so hard, will melt at the sight of love so divine; and the terrors of the law will seem more frightful when we, looking backward, are enabled to realize our escape. Indeed, there is often no way by which we can realize our need save by receiving our supply. The heathen cannot know his need of a higher social, mental or spiritual life; but when these are pressed upon him, and he begins to feel their influence, then does he commence to realize something of his need.

A few years ago an agent came to my house with an article for domestic use, of which I had never even heard. Of course, I had felt no need of it; how could I? But when he showed it to me, and explained its use, I saw it was the very thing which I had long been needing, but I did not know it. In truth, "it filled a long felt want" of which I had been densely ignorant. When I became accustomed to its use I was wont to wonder how I had so long managed without it; and every day I feel more and more the need of what, once, I knew nothing at all.

"WHO SO EVER BELIEVETH!"

I wish I could sound out those words so clearly that never again would a soul fear to trust—just as it is—a Saviour's wondrous love. Where faith leads, all other gifts will follow. Repentance, love, a sense of need, knowledge of pardon—everything—is his wish, whether in sunlight or in shadow, will boldly, or even tremblingly, say—"I believe on Jesus as my only and all sufficient Saviour, and I trust the promise that, Who so ever believeth on Him shall not perish but shall have everlasting life!"

But must I not repent? says one. Yes, but repentance comes when once we believe, for this is but another

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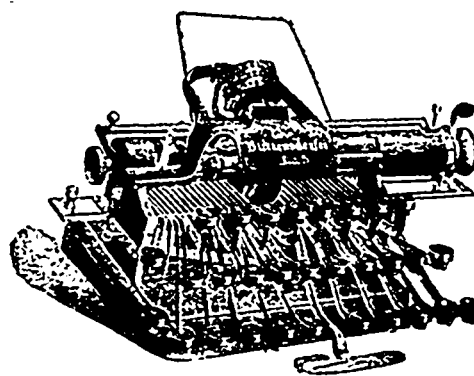
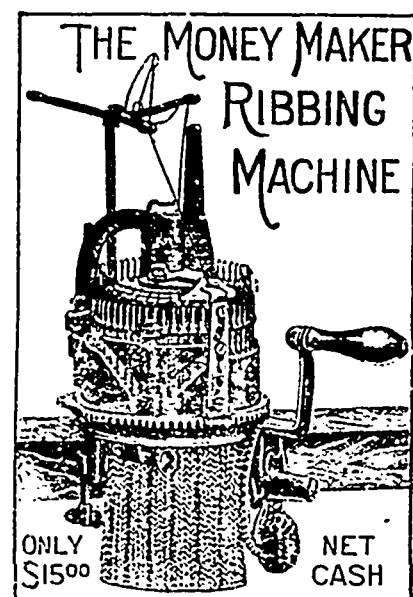
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all things possible to him that believes. God help us to fall down flat upon the promises divine, and as Christ opens our blinded eyes and unstops our deafened ears, the unwonted possession of sight and hearing will prove to us how sad has been our need. 'Who so ever believeth on Him shall not perish but shall have everlasting life.'