

"CAST THY BREAD UPON THE WATERS"

A little girl expressed to her parents one day a wish that they would give her two New Testaments. To the question of her parents why it must be two the child, replied that one was for herself, and the other to send to the heathen. She was given the two volumes, and in one of them she wrote: "A little girl who loves the Lord Jesus wishes, with all her heart that whoever reads this should also love and believe on him."

The New Testament went to India, and found its way to a station in the interior. A Hindu lady obtained it. She could read, but was unable to write; and as she longed to be able to write her attention was immediately drawn to the inscription on the fly leaf. The large and distinct characters of the child's handwriting attracted her so much that she tried to imitate them again and again. Gradually the sense of the words made an impression upon her, and the question arose, "May not those words have been written just for me?" She began then earnestly to read the New Testament; her eyes were opened and she learned to know and love her Saviour.

Years passed. The little girl had meanwhile grown up, and thought no more of the New Testament which she had sent once upon a time to the heathen. But her love for missions had grown with her, and it was her deepest desire to serve the Lord among the heathen. She was accepted as a missionary, and sent to a rather out-of-the-way station in India. Here she entered one day the house of a Hindu Christian lady. In the course of conversation the Hindu lady showed her visitor a book, a New Testament, and told how she, a Hindu heathen, had been by its means brought to Jesus her Saviour.

You may imagine the joyful astonishment of the lady missionary when she recognized in the book the same New Testament, on whose fly leaf she had many years ago, as a little girl, written those words which had served to show the poor Hindu lady the way to Jesus. Together they knelt down, praised God's wonderful ways, and thanked him who had drawn them both to himself. "Cast thy bread upon the waters, and thou shalt find it after many days."—A French Paper.

THY GENTLENESS HATH MADE ME GREAT.

2 SAMUEL 22:36.

The strength of God is very gentle. He does not make a great noise in lifting the tides or in speeding the stars in their courses. The sunshine is one of his greatest treasures of power. He turns the heart of stalwart sinners by the touch of infant fingers or by the memory of a pious mother's spiritual beauty and fidelity. By loving invitations, tender encouragements, and manifold ministries of patience and sympathy, he encourages the penitence and faith of sinful and weak human hearts. His children should seek more of his gentleness. We are too easily tempted to bluster and violence. We forget that gentleness is greatness as well as goodness. If we would do brave deeds, let us seek to be filled with divine gentleness.—Northern Christian Advocate.

THE WORLD-CONQUERING CHRIST.

Not quite a half century ago Strauss launched the famous "mythic theory." According to which theory, such wonderful person as Jesus ever lived, except in the minds of his apostles. The apostles imagined Christ. They materialized him out of the star dust of their messianic hopes and training. So imbued had they become with the Old Testament teaching concerning the Messiah that, by and by, they idealized a person to meet their own demands. Thus the Christ of the canonical gospels was merely an ordinary man, magnified by men's adoring love or commercial scheming into the Eternal Son of God. For a time it was thought that Strauss had dealt Christianity a fatal blow. Unbelief made such a bedlam as had not been heard since the Tower of Babel fell. The world had lost its Christ! Yet, before a quarter of a century had passed another scholar penned these words: "Whatever else may be taken

from us, Christ is left. It is no use to say that the Christ revealed in the canonical gospels is not historical. Who among his disciples, or among their converts, was capable of inventing, or even imagining, the life and character revealed in the gospels?" Thus skeptic has answered skeptic until, to-day, there is hardly an intelligent doubter who denies the historicity of Jesus' life and labors. And, for the average man, the Christ stands forth with greater wisdom and personal attraction than ever in ages past.—George Clarke Peck, in "Ringing Questions."

WHAT SHE COULD.

Booker T. Washington tells how a poor colored woman gave when he was trying to start a school for the colored people. An appeal had been made among the people of both races for direct gifts of money, and most of those appealed to gave small sums.

It was often pathetic to note the gifts of the older colored people, most of whom had spent their best days in slavery. Sometimes they would give five cents, sometimes twenty-five cents. Sometimes the contribution was a quilt, or a quantity of sugar cane.

I recall one old colored woman, who was about seventy years of age, who came to me when we were raising money to pay for the farm. She hobbled into the room where I was, leaning on a cane. She was clad in rags, but they were clean. She said: "Mr. Washin'ton, God knows I spent de bes' days of my life in slavery. God knows I's ignorant an' poor; but," she added, "I knows what you an' Miss Davidson is tryin' to do. I knows you is tryin' to make better men an' better women for de colored race. I ain't got no money, but I wants you to take dese six eggs, what I's been savin' up, an' I wants you to put dese six eggs into de eddication of dese boys an' gals."—Ex.

THE GREATEST NEED.

You want Christ in the evening of life, for evening is a lonely time without company. You will look for Jesus when the shadows gather and your earthly friends are gone. You may not see any need of having the Master at life's high noon or early in the afternoon when the sun is still shining, when your friends are many and life is gay and rosy with promise; but when evening comes there will be a change, and in that hour you will recognize your need of the fellowship of Jesus. To know the sweetness of his fellowship to-day and within its silent blessedness to walk toward heaven, is to fill both the day and evening of life with joy untold.—New York Observer.

What is false gratitude to God? Gratitude is false when, having received bountiful, undeserved spiritual and material gifts from God, people thank God for them with their tongue, and use them only for their own advantage, and sharing them with their neighbors, when they obtain them and conceal them in their treasuries, chests, libraries, thus depriving many of their brethren of spiritual enlightenment, or of food, drink, clothing, dwelling. . . . Such gratitude is false and impious. It means thanking God with the tongue, and meanwhile showing extreme ingratitude in deed.—John Sergieff.

The by-election in the East Toxteth division of Liverpool for a member of parliament in succession to Augustus F. Warr, Conservative, who has resigned the parliamentary representative of the division, resulted in the election of Austin Taylor, Unionist, with a majority of 397 over Herbert R. Rathbone, the Liberal candidate. The East Toxteth division of Liverpool has given Conservative majorities or elected Conservative candidates without opposition since 1895. Mr. Rathbone during the campaign denounced the education of the government and expressed himself opposed to coercion in Ireland.

MESSES. C. C. RICHARDS & Co.

Gentlemen,—Theodore Dorais, a sufferer of mine was completely cured of rheumatism after five years of suffering, by the judicious use of MINARD'S LINIMENT.

The above fact can be verified by writing to him, to the Parish priest or any of his neighbors. A. COTE.

Merchant, St. Isidore, Que., May 12th, 1898.

A LETTER FROM THE PLANTATION

La Finca de SAN SILVERIO EL OBISPO

PROPIEDAD DEL REPUBLIC DEVELOPMENT CO., NEW YORK, U. S. A.

G. A. TUCKER, ADMINISTRATOR, JAS READE WATSON, HORTICULTURIST,

TUXTEPEC, OAX., APRIL 22ND, 1902

MESSES. MITCHELL, SCHILLER & BARNES, INC., NEW YORK CITY,

DEAR SIR: I am glad to be able to report progress on this season's work. We have had a plentiful supply of labor, and have been able to select a full crew of efficient men. The new clearings at Camp 1 will be completed this week. All of the other camps are well up with their work with the single exception of Camp V, which still has the necessary time to complete the clearing assigned it. Our carpenter and his assistants are busy on a new corn warehouse which will hold 800 bushels. Its modern bins will be practically weevil proof. Two new dwelling houses for the men are rapidly nearing completion.

At the beginning of the rainy season, not later than June 1st, our next corn will be planted, as well as this season's rubber. We are just beginning to harvest the dry season corn crop, which will be used principally for home consumption, as the ears are smaller than those which grow in the rainy season. We still have two hundred bushels left of our last October harvest, which we are selling rapidly in small lots at \$1.50 a bushel.

In the barren region between here and the coast, is a large population depending on the plantations in the rubber belt for corn, beans, rice, etc. The Obispo affords us easy access to this market. The demand for our various products is greater than we can supply. The buyers land merchandise from the large river towns at our very door in exchange for corn in the field, saving us the cost of freight and the time a buying trip would consume.

We have three varieties of young cacao (chocolate) plants, six inches high, in the nursery, of this year's planting. We will set out twenty-five acres of ideal bottom land this year in this valuable product. As our shade is unusually even and the soil rich, moist, and well drained, we will plant five thousand seed at the stake, where the trees will permanently remain, thus avoiding the shock from which these delicate trees suffer so severely when transplanted. The plants in the nursery will be held in reserve to fill out wherever failures may occur. We have several thousand vanilla slips (two varieties), which will be nicely rooted during the present dry season, and will be planted as soon as conditions are favorable. Our nursery also contains rows of young orange, lemon, pomelos, coconuts, mango, papaya and numerous other tropical fruit trees awaiting the proper season for transplanting.

As to corn, Mr. Donaldson's figures are correct. We get about forty bushels in the rainy season and thirty bushels in the dry. These amounts could be increased by proper cultivation, by ploughing, etc. We hope to prepare some land especially next year for proper cultivation, but at present must use Mexican methods.

All the beans we harvested this year were raised on the same land with the second or dry season crop of corn. We were very busy at that time, and did not plant a large crop nor as early as we should. Beans will yield about 900 pound to the acre, (we go only about 800 pounds owing to the late planting), and we are selling out at six cents net per pound. They sometimes fall to four or five cents. It is possible that corn is a little higher priced this year than it will average. Perhaps fifty cents (gold) per bushel would be a fairer price than sixty cents.

Rice will yield one thousand to twelve hundred pounds to the acre, and is worth seven cents, Mex., to eight cents per pound. We can get a crop of corn off the same land after the rice is taken off. We expect to cut the timber on one hundred to two hundred acres of land this year that is particularly good for rice, so that next year it will burn up clean, when we can plough it and plant it in rice.

Our location is unusually good for selling short crops. We have Tuxtepec on one side, the railroad on another, and the plains on the third. The plains people come here to buy many things.

On the whole, I am more than pleased with the conditions on the plantation, and we may rest assured of continued progress for the remainder of the year.

Yours very truly,

MAXWELL RIDDLE.

Paid 7 per cent. January 2, 1902. 4 per cent. Guaranteed

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