

The Quiet Hour.

Elijah on Mount Carmel.

S. S. LESSON, 1 Kings 18: 30-46. Aug. 21, 1904.

GOLDEN TEXT—If the Lord be God, follow him.—1 Kings 18: 21.

BY REV. W. J. CLARK, LONDON, ONT.

And Elijah said unto all the people, Come near unto me, v. 30. It was the time of testing, and the emotions of the people must have been aroused to the highest pitch; but the prophet was calm. He had nothing to hide. He desired that they should see all his preparations. It is only the man who is genuine who can thus call on the people to come near. The false man, the mere wonderworker, has something to hide, and would have the people blinded that they may be deceived; but he who honestly does God's work in God's name in the clear light invites investigation.

And he repaired the altar of the Lord, v. 30. All profanity and frivolity is a destroying of the altar of God. It is often done in mere thoughtlessness; the consequences, nevertheless, are the same. The frivolous and profane become the really God-forsaken. People seem especially prone in these days to this particular sort of sin. To keep our Yea, yea and our Nay, nay, to reverence God and the godlike in ourselves and others is, in the spirit of Elijah, to help stop the desecrating process.

And said, Fill four barrels with water, v. 33. We have here evidence of the strength of Elijah's faith. Had there been any trickery he would never have saturated with water the place where the sacrifice was to be consumed; but he made plain every detail of his preparation. We may see here what takes place in every day life. The man who is straight has nothing to conceal, no tricks to play, no schemes to work.

Hear me, O Lord, hear me, that this people may know that thou art the Lord God, v. 37. What an intensity of faith and of devotion breathes in this prayer. There is indeed a longing that his conduct may be justified, and the prophet would have been more than human if that had been left out, and he was after all a man of like passions with ourselves. But the burden of the prayer is that God's honor may be vindicated, and that the people who had been led astray through wicked queen and weak king may be brought back to faith in Jehovah. It is such a prayer as this that can be made with a very passion of faith. When self-seeking is almost forgotten, and the man's nature is ablaze with desire for the blessing of others, have we found our prayers fall back like broken-winged birds? Then let us see that the selfish desire is cast out of them, and we may beseech the throne of God with fervor and intensity of faith and of desire.

Then the fire of the Lord fell, v. 38. When men pray as Elijah, the fire of the Lord is sure to be given. We read in our religious papers of methods to be followed that there may be a revival of interest in the kingdom of Christ. Whatever methods may be adopted to improve on present ones, there must be a faith like that of Elijah's, and then, no matter how many things be against us, the blessing will fall upon those who thus seek and those for whom they pray.

And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces, v. 39. Blind though the people had been, there was no shutting their eyes against such a testimony as this. When

His servants are faithful and God manifests Himself in wonders, the multitudes are thrilled by it. They may be fickle and foolish, but the divine still appeals to them. Surely the lesson is to seek God, to wait upon Him if we are to have power with men.

And the hand of the Lord was on Elijah, v. 46. It had been a day of marvellous experiences for the prophet, and we could not wonder if he had been utterly exhausted. But there was work yet to be done, and as he was thrilled through and through with the consciousness of God's hand upon him, there seemed no undertaking that was impossible. When the spirit is fired with the consciousness of God's presence and help, it is wonderful what the body is capable of. And if that is true in regard to the bodily force, it is true in regard to all our equipment. It is not that we lack in what we have, but in the conviction that God will use us abundantly in His service. This is sometimes to be seen evidenced in the wonderful work which is accomplished by a servant of God, who is at the front of Christian work. And again it is to be seen in the case of some humbler worker, who is not prominent in the eye of the church, but who nevertheless in some quiet corner accomplishes great things for the kingdom of Christ. The great thing therefore in every worker is to keep in such constant and living touch with the Almighty, that he shall be at all times fitted with all the fullness of God.

Thanksgiving.

BY AMY PARKINSON

I thank thee, Lord, not only for the joys

I may have seen,
And for the days of quiet restfulness
That in my life have been,

But I thank Thee, too, for every suffering hour
That lies between.

I know not why some things that seemed so good
Have passed me by,
And things from which my spirit shrank with dread

Have drawn so very nigh;
But I take my lot with thankfulness, because
Thou knowest why.

I give Thee grateful thanks, for I am sure
No drops can fall
Of bitterness into the cup I drink,
But Thou dost count them all;
And I know no trial for Thy sympathy
Can be too small.

So, Lord, I take with thanks from Thy dear hand
All Thou dost send,
Knowing that every sorrow borne for Thee
To some great joy, doth tend,
Where the weary rest, and troubled hearts grow glad,
And pain shall end

Central Peace

If quiet and peace could only be had by withdrawing from the duties and occupations of active life, then quiet and peace for most of us could never be. It is not in our power to fly to some far and still retreat in whose quiet we may escape the evils and troubles here. And the corner will never be found in this world where care and evil shall be unknown by human beings. But the peace which the Saviour gives his own is peace of heart and mind amid daily duties. It is that "central peace" which may subsist at the heart of endless agitation.—A. K. H. Boyd, D. D.

The Passing of Christian Endeavor.

BY DAVID JAMES BURRELL, D. D., LL. D.

Let the young people keep their seats while this discussion is going on. There is no reason why they should lose their tempers over the simple statement of an indisputable fact. Christian Endeavor *is* passing; and what is to be gained by denying it? More than that, I for one say, Let it pass!

On the day Christian Endeavor was born—less than a generation ago, it "passed" the fondest expectations of "father Clark." It came into the world with seven-league boots on, and has been passing slow and sleepy things continually until this day. Now and then a pastor rushes to his church door or study window and sees it "passing" and—like a sailor who has caught a momentary glimpse of the sea-serpent—writes to his religious paper about it.

Wake up, brethren, and see it pass! In the year of grace, 1903, more than 2,000 new Endeavor societies were organized. A "passing" wonder! It broke the record. And more classes were organized for Bible study than ever before; more bands for missionary study; more money given for missionary work. Think of the "spent force," in such a movement as this! And how the Lord must rejoice to see the young people spending it in just this way.

The secretary of the Young People's Department of the Presbyterian Home Mission Board reports that last year the Christian Endeavor Societies were the only organizations in the church that did not show a deficit. "Passed" again!

More Endeavor Societies were engaged in Evangelistic and benevolent work last year than ever before. More pastors bore testimony to the loyalty of their young Endeavorers than ever before. More missionaries wrote to headquarters of their indebtedness to Christian Endeavor than ever before. In work for prisoners in our State prisons and among the soldiers and sailors the last year has been the best in the history of the movement. In view of these facts it is difficult to see how anybody can deny that Christian Endeavor is "passing." It is like "the Empire State Express;" one can hardly count the telegraph poles along the way.

The last Pennsylvania State convention had a registered attendance of over 18,000! The New York convention had 3,300 registered delegates with an attendance at the meetings of over 5,000 day after day. Shades of our political fathers, what were you thinking of to allow an Endeavor crowd to "pass" your great caucuses and conventions in this way?

Dr. Clark has just returned from the greatest trip that he has ever taken in all the history of Christian Endeavor. In New Zealand, Tasmania, Australia, South Africa, England, Scotland, Ireland, Wales, Germany, France and Switzerland, he was met everywhere with overflowing audiences, in some cases numbering over ten thousand, and in every case filling the audience room to its utmost capacity. Wherever he went he found Christian Endeavor going and growing. And he now returns to his native land to report the "passing" of this great movement to those who rejoice in the triumphs of truth and righteousness.

Now and then a local Endeavor Society gives up the ghost, as it ought to. There are churches where an Endeavor Society is as much out of place as a threshing machine would be in a girl's dormitory. But the movement was never represented by so many societies or so many members as to day. And these members were never doing such practical, definite work for Christ and the