

## ORIGINAL CONTRIBUTIONS.

## CONTINUOUS EFFORT WINS.

Industry, patience and perseverance are necessary in order to success in most business undertakings. They are absolutely so in religion. Peter says:—"Grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ." Paul says:—"Forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark." But, if we take Peter's exhortation, and Paul's example, how are we to go? Rapidly? Yes! as rapidly as you can go *steadily*, but no more so. It is better to go steadily even if you have to go slowly, because the Christian life is not a life of fits and starts, but of continued patient effort. In passing through the country, I have sometimes, in the season of hay-making, seen a man mowing in a field. My curiosity would be excited, and I would pass over the fence and to the man, who with every easy sweep of the glittering blade, was laying the grass low on the ground. I would try my hand with the scythe, but being somewhat unaccustomed to that kind of work, I would swing the weapon very rapidly, and the perspiration would soon begin to flow very freely, and the veteran would say: "You would not last very long at that rate," and it was true. I've been in the forest when the hardy woodsman, by powerful blows of his keen-edged axe, brought down the giants which had stood the storms for many years. But a novice takes the axe, thinking he can do just as well, and, indeed, he does work more rapidly than the other, while the woodsman looks on with a quiet smile. Soon the heavy end of the axe rests on the ground, and, panting and exhausted, our new friend realizes that he cannot equal the woodsman, not having the necessary skill and endurance which can only be acquired by long practice. So, in Christian life, some start as the young swimmer, with very rapid movements; but, not having practice, not being used to the Christian work, and being probably without advice, they run beyond their strength, and then, exhausted and weary, if they do not give up in despair, they are almost ready to do so. The prophet said: "Cease to do evil, learn to do well." The ceasing to do evil cuts off from the old sinful life, and the learning to do well forms the habits of the new life. This doing well is perpetuated by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, and, consequently, the life now led by him who once did evil is "a life of faith in the Son of God," etc.—a life of "patient continuance in well-doing, seeking for glory and honor and immortality."

There is a certain class of Christians who are always alive, or seem to be so, during what is properly called a revival, and as regularly go to sleep again when the excitement is over, and during the interval of calm they are very apt to come near to the conclusion that there is not so much in religion as some people seem to think. Possibly, too, there might be just a little danger of their being led in the way of temptation during this period of time. The people look at, and watch them, and ask—"Are these the persons who were so loud in professions of attachment to Christ so short a time ago?" This comes to their ears and they are ashamed of—well, they know not what, but they do not enjoy "the peace of God," nor do they enjoy "the pleasures of sin."

Brother, do not run too fast, nor give up too easily. Sit down and count the cost. Determine what you think of Christ. Is He your brother, and in sympathy with you? Is He the Divine Saviour, and able to sustain you? Is He your priest, having made atonement for you? Is He pure, and worthy as your example? Was He despised for you, bearing it meekly, to give you life beyond

this? Just sit down and think. Count the cost. As He has done so much for you, what are you willing to do for Him? He gave all, will you give all? Having determined these matters in favor of Christ, and righteousness, and truth, your life of Christianity need not be a life of spasmodic movement, but a life of righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit. By following Jesus, the path of holiness will become the most natural path, and the habit will be formed of doing right. Then, steadily, as the sun shines day by day, you will be a constant witness for Jesus, and wield a mighty influence in winning souls to Christ.

O. B. EMERY.

Deer Island, Oct 20.

## "TRY IT."

Coleridge said, "If you wish to be assured of the truth of Christianity, try it." The doctrine of Christ must be seen in our lives, in order to prove "the good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God." Christianity is not simply a doctrine, but a life. When the lives of those who possess the truth correspond with the doctrine of Christ, then we may confidently expect good results. But we never need look for any special good from gospel talk, unless it is reproduced in gospel walk.

Some one has truthfully said, "It matters not how orthodox we may be in creed if we are heterodox in life." Our deeds outweigh our creeds. We must hold "the mystery of faith in a pure conscience." The success of truth is not in truth itself. Much depends on the way it is presented, and by whom presented. The new wine of the Gospel or doctrine of Christ must be in new bottles, or, in other words, the truth must have true hearts and true lives. Preaching the truth and not living it is like a report of a report that has little value by way of evidence. In a court of law they will not take any hearsay evidence; they must have personal evidence. It is this personal evidence of the truth in our own lives that is of wonderful power. It is an evidence that carries conviction, and against which there has never been any successful argument. It answers every objection to Christianity. The man out of whom the devil had departed was commanded to return home, not to tell, but to "show how great things the Lord had done unto him." Here was the proof of Christ's Divine power. Our Divine Master has left us His inimitable life as an evidence of the mighty power in example. We find His injunction "Follow Me," to be the true interpretation of all His social precepts, as He exemplified every principle he taught.

We are able to see that Christianity in this, its true light, places within the reach of every one the grand possibilities of life, here and hereafter; that in all the varied conditions and circumstances of life, we can, by practice, preach the doctrine of the cross. It matters not where we are or how weak we are, we can let the light of Christ's love shine out in our lives. We have seen Christians with modest abilities, and in very humble circumstances, who possessed wonderful kindling powers, whose daily lives of love and godliness were constant benedictions of mercy, that would kindle in other hearts a love for the religion of Christ. We can hardly estimate the amount of good of such lives. They give a sweet and healthy condition to the atmosphere of church life, and thus the Gospel of Christ is tried, and proven to be the power of God unto salvation.

M.

The New York Society for the Suppression of Vice, during the past year has seized 219,386 lottery tickets, 71,759 lottery circulars, suppressed 6 lotteries in that State, and convicted 7 policy gamblers. It has also "raided" 54 gambling saloons and closed several pool rooms in New York City and Hunter's Point, seizing over 1,000,000 pool tickets.

## NEWS OF THE CHURCHES.

## NOVA SCOTIA.

MILTON.

Our meeting-house has been under repairs during part of the summer, and now we have a new and solid foundation, and a basement room that is a model of neatness. The floor has been sufficiently raised to prevent us from being flooded with water. We purpose now to have less water and more fire. The church is still quietly and peaceably moving along with its accustomed duties. I hear some say "they are going to do more than they have been doing." If it be true that "try is never beaten," we may expect something nice this winter. If we do not make an advance movement in our spiritual growth, with our privileges and abilities, we ought not to expect much of a reward. The Milton church has made a grand record, but, "the mill will never grind with the water that is past." We are still losing our members by removals. We trust, however, that our loss will be others' gain.

M.

KEMPT.

We labor in Kempt and in other towns of North Queens one-quarter of our time. Our last visit there we preached once in Maitland, three times in Grafton, twice in Northfield, and five times in Kempt. Our brethren in these different localities go to Kempt to worship, as the church house is located there. The interest that was manifested in the good work by the brethren and friends inspire a hope that the cause will be revived again in North Queens. We have true brethren there who have good hearts. God will bless them if they are faithful, and make the most of their abilities and the best of their opportunities. Success does not always depend on great things. He who does the best he can will succeed. A little thing done faithfully is really a great thing. To be faithful over a few things will make us a ruler over many things.

M.

## FOREIGN CHRISTIAN MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

The Annual Convention of the Foreign Christian Missionary Society has just been held at Cincinnati, Ohio. We copy from the *Standard* a few items from the Report of the Board of Managers. It has been eight years since the Society has been organized. During that time they have established eleven missions in different countries. The present membership under its care is 1,300. The Society has property to the amount of \$79,000. During the past year new missions have been started in India, Japan, and at the Isthmus of Panama. The coming year it has been decided to start other new missions, as it is thought at least three of the present missions will be self-sustaining. The total receipts from all sources during the year was \$32,185.12. It is certainly gratifying to see the healthy and vigorous growth of this Society. The following is from the concluding part of the Report:

"The good hand of our God has been upon us. He has prospered us beyond all that we asked or thought. The large measure of success that has rewarded our labors should stimulate us to devise liberal things for the time to come. We must not be satisfied with what we have done in the past. We must do better in the future, and better thence again, and better still, in infinite progression. We have put our hand to the plow, and must not look back. We have crossed the Rubicon and can not retreat. We must advance like a bannered army until the last stronghold of heathendom is dismantled, and until Jesus Christ is recognized as Lord of all. We must carry on the beneficent work which we have begun, until the songs of the