

# NORTHERN MESSENGER

DEVOTED TO TEMPERANCE, SCIENCE, EDUCATION, AND LITERATURE.

VOLUME XXII., No. 3.

MONTREAL & NEW YORK, FEBRUARY 11, 1887.

30 CTS. per An. Post-Paid.

## "HE IS A FOOL!"

A gentleman who visited with great regularity the Philadelphia Penitentiary, the inmates of which his piety prompted him to instruct, had given a Bible to a convict, who would ask him at each visit, with much shrewdness, some difficult question formed from passages of the sacred volume; each time declaring he would not go on if this was not first explained to him.

The gentleman was unable to persuade him that it would be best for him first to dwell upon those passages which he could easily understand, and which applied to his situation. After many fruitless trials to induce the convict to this course, his friendly teacher said:

"What would you think of a very hungry man, who had not eaten a morsel of food for the last twenty-four hours, and was asked by a charitable man to come in and sit down at a richly-covered table, on which were large dishes of choice meat, and also covered ones, the contents of which the hungry man did not know. Instead of satisfying his exhausted body with the former, he raises one cover after another, and insists on finding out what these unknown dishes are composed of. In spite of all the advice of the charitable man to partake first of the more substantial dishes, he dwells with obstinate inquiry on nicer compounds, until, overcome with exhaustion, he drops down. What do you think of such a man?"

"He is a fool," said the convict, "and I be one no longer. I understand you well."

## FACE YOUR TROUBLES.

"I had ploughed around a rock in one of my fields for over five years," said a farmer, "and I had broken a mowing machine knife against it, besides losing the use of the ground in which it lay, all because I supposed it was a large rock, that it would take too much time and labor to remove. But to-day, when I began to plough for corn,

I thought that by-and-by I might break my cultivator against that rock; so I took a crowbar, intending to poke around and find out its size once for all. And it was one of the surprises of my life to find that it was

little more than two feet long. It was standing on its edge, and so light that I could lift it into the waggon without help."

"The first time you really faced your trouble you conquered it," I replied aloud,

but continued to enlarge upon the subject all to myself, for I do believe that before we pray, or better, while we pray, we should look our troubles square in the face.

Imagine the farmer ploughing around that rock for five years, praying all the while, "O Lord, remove that rock!" when he didn't know whether it was a big rock or a little flat stone!

We shiver and shake and shrink, and sometimes do not dare to pray about a trouble because it makes it seem so real, not even knowing what we wish the Lord to do about it, when, if we would face the trouble and call it by its right name, one-half of its terror would be gone.

The trouble that lies down with us at night and confronts us on first waking in the morning, is not trouble that we have faced, but the trouble whose proportions we do not know. —Selected.

## "GOD IS NOWHERE."

An infidel was one day troubled in his mind as he sat in his room alone, while his little Nellie was away at Sunday-school. He had often said, "There is no God," but could not satisfy himself with his scepticism, and at this time he felt especially troubled as thoughts of the Sunday school and of the wonderful works of creation would push their way into his mind. To quiet these troublesome thoughts he took some large cards and printed on each of them "God is nowhere;" and hung them up in his study. Nellie soon came home, and began to talk about God; but her father pointed her to one of the cards and said, "Can you read that?" She climbed a chair and began eagerly to spell it out: "G-o-d, God, i-s, is, n-o-w, now, h-e-r-e, here; God is now here. Isn't that right, papa?" The man's heart was touched, and his infidelity banished, by the faith of Nellie, and again the prophecy was fulfilled, "A little child shall lead them." —North-Western Presbyterian.



MOSES STRIKING ON THE ROCK.

And the Lord spake unto Moses, saying, Take the rod, and gather thou the assembly together, thou, and Aaron thy brother, and speak ye unto the rock before their eyes; and it shall give forth his water, and thou shalt bring forth to them water out of the rock: so thou shalt give the congregation and their beasts drink. And Moses took the rod from before the Lord as he commanded him. And Moses and Aaron gathered the congregation together before the rock, and he said unto them, Hear now, ye rebels; must we fetch you water out of this rock? And Moses lifted up the rock twice: and the water came out abundantly, and the congregation drank, and the

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