

began. They would arise to call their parents blessed. Thus fortified within, how speedily could the Church turn her undivided attention to missions and speedily win the whole world to Jesus Christ! Let parents live with Christ,

cultivate His spirit, nurture their little ones in His atmosphere, lead them to the sunshine of His presence in full dependence upon His Spirit, and then be assured of His promise—a godly seed.

### PREACHERS EXCHANGING VIEWS.

Conference, Not Criticism—Not a Review Section—Not Discussion, but Experiences and Suggestions.

#### Evading Responsibility.

A CLERGYMAN in a union meeting touches the question of dancing. It occurs to him, perhaps suddenly, that good people hold different views on this matter. Mentioning that fact, he propitiates both sides in this way: "I do not dance; I don't know how. I shall teach my boys to dance, of course."

The writer's mental criticism was: "If I believed dancing was the right thing to teach my boys, 'of course' I would sit up nights to learn. If I did not believe it right for me, I would not have it taught to my children."

A Christian minister is nothing but a Christian called to teach others of Christly truth and life. If he feels a thing to be inconsistent for him as a Christian teacher, let him look his responsibility squarely in the face and say, "I could not consistently do that." If other Christians feel that they consistently can, let him have all proper charity for their different views. But let him not flinch from the inference which men must draw, that what is unsuitable for the Christian ministry is somehow below the true type and ideal of Christian living. Let him not gloss the matter by any subterfuge, but leave them to adjust it with their own consciences before God.

A FORMER PASTOR.

#### Belittling an Issue.

At a recent meeting of protest against Sunday opening of saloons, it was painful to see how certain clergymen

tried to steer between opposition to this particular shade of vice and a lenient, if not genial, toleration of appetites and fashionable usages that might demand alcoholic gratification. They were so afraid they might be thought to be too earnest even to be "temperance fanatics," or possibly "cranks," that they spent more force in taking the edge off their protest than they did in protesting. One, a pastor of an important church, smoothed his utterances down into "*I don't consider it a mortal sin to take a glass of wine.*" Well, who does? But how many of a plain audience would make the theological distinction between mortal and venial sins? How many Protestant clergymen admit it?

A reformed man, who had long held out, came to that "temperance" meeting, heard that speech, went straight to a saloon, and was drunk before midnight.\* Apologies to the devil will not conquer the saloon, sustain the tempted, nor rescue the fallen. Let us dare to be in earnest.

A TEMPERANCE WORKER.

#### Answer to "Student's" Request.

1. THE expression "*the dead*" is plural in the Greek of the text cited. It does not refer to Christ directly, but doubtless to those saints who had departed this life, and who were the victims of much suffering before that departure took place because of their faith in Christ. In apostolic days it could be said, "All that will live godly

\* The fact came to me direct from the president of the meeting.