

THE SPIRIT OF CHRIST.

The *Advance* says:—"Let no mistake be made concerning what is meant by a Christian spirit. Let us not, as is too often done, take one side of the character of Christ in forming an estimate of the whole. The passive virtues of meekness and forbearance and suffering for righteousness sake are properly brought forward as illustrations of his spirit. But is this all? Then love is added, and men speak of the loving kindness and gentleness in Christ as though these virtues made up his whole life. This is a great mistake.

An English writer said he had found boys enough who loved God, he wanted to find one who hated the devil. The wrath of God against sin was incarnate in Christ. It was he who denounced the hypocrisies of the Pharisee, laid bare the sins of society, stripped men of falsities pronounced woes on the heads of evil-doers. It was he who overthrew the tables of the extortionate money-changers he who made a whip of small cords and drove them as thieves out of the temple. Any spirit which exalts love and forbearance out of their relation to justice and hatred of sin is not the spirit of Christ. It is a weak and flabby sentimentalism without a body and without a soul."

LIVING IN HOPE.

What hope? The hope of perfect resemblance to Christ in heaven. But let us remember that this is awarded only to such as delight in spiritual things here. "Every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as He is pure." This is the day of His appearing. He invites us to look unto Him. Obeying Him, we become like Him in as real a sense as are the glorified in His immediate presence. We are now "the sons of God," though the feature completeness of moral conformity baffles our power of conception. Still, the resemblance begins here; and "from glory to glory," even as by the Spirit of the Lord, we advance in likeness to him.

If you stand a quarter of a mile off from your father you will be sorely puzzled to know what he says or what he means; but if you go within five feet of him every thing will be plain. So, my Christian brother, if you stand off and away from God, your Heavenly Father, in the midst of earthly absorptions, you

will undoubtedly be much at a loss to know what is his will; but if you live near to Him, walking with God (as the Scripture expression so significantly gives it), you will have no difficulty of this sort.—*Howard Crosby.*

Kind looks, kind words, kind acts, and warm handshakes, these are secondary means of grace when men are in trouble, and are fighting their unseen battles.—*Dr. John Hall.*

A LESSON FROM SIR JOHN.

When Sir John McDonald dismissed the deputation of liquor dealers, who waited on him some months ago, he is credited with given them a piece of advice, which, if true, shows him to be possessed of profound knowledge of men and things. "Friends," said Sir John "go home and make money, and learn how to use it wisely; don't howl so much at churches and preachers. The preachers are generally good men; but they are mostly simple and innocent men. Their weakness lies, first, in a too great love for their own branch of the Church which prevents unity of action, and second, the majority of them have pet schemes, which they are anxious to further. Judicious liberality on your part in helping along these schemes, will keep things pretty smooth. Very few of the preachers like your business; but it is also hard to resist money judiciously placed. When the churches shut out all connected with your trade, refuse your help for their schemes, and unite as one in demanding the prohibition of the liquor traffic as illegal, you may make your preparations to migrate—your time will have come. Remember I have told you."

No thoughtful man can gainsay this opinion. The small shot with which we pepper the tavern keeper and bar-tender, will have to give place to the boom of the cannon of a united Christian army, united under the captain of our salvation, before the stronghold of Satan can be captured and destroyed.

It will be a sad day for the Church of God should she allow any other agency to precede her in carrying out the great work; it is her work, and must not be delegated to others.—*Watchman.*

The serene, silent beauty of a holy life is the most powerful influence in the world, next to the might of the Spirit of God.—*Spurgeon.*