

It was, as I have said, a quadruped, as is usually the case with four-footed animals, and accorded with the schoolboy's definition of the same, in that "it had one on each corner." This much I can vouch for. It was in color a sooty black, not a glossy hair in its skin, which was hide-bound. It was sound in wind and limb; for not a splint, nor spavin, nor thorough pin, would have attached themselves to that structure of bones. Standing still, its looks were not for adding, but after a mile of driving, a little faster than a walk, all uniformity of action was at an end, and every part of the body moved of its own will, independent of, and out of harmony with, every other section. It was not a pacer, nor single foot. It was—I don't know what! This I know, it was from the "Temperance House" and was for hire. Another fact I know, and did not need to be told it, viz., that it was, and had been, a total abstainer from oats, or other strengthening, heating cereals—barley in no form. The skin gave evidence that with bran in various forms of preparation it was not unfamiliar—but on hay was centred its chief dependence for any delight it could have in living.

In this manner we proceeded on our journey—my fellow traveller chatting and laughing, perfectly oblivious to the disjointed actions of the four compartments of our locomotive. Perfectly content was he if these varied sections continued in any way to move eastward—which "thanks be praised," they fortunately did.

Sometime on Saturday night we arrived at Carleton Place, and finding my fellow student Peter Duncan, I cuddled in and found relief as one child does with another in telling our mutual griefs and woes, and laughing them to scorn. I slept a little nervously, contemplating what awaited me on the morrow.

From the foregoing learn, first—That owing to unpardonable mismanagement and bungling I was kept unemployed and dependent on others, and consequently deprived of matter to chronicle in my retrospect. And second—That trials and irritating disappointments of any kind, are never unmixed evils; but mostly in every case, interspersed with most delightful experiences. And third—That instead of being under the Home Mission Committee, I had chanced under the surveillance of the Foreign Mission Committee, my travelling expenses would have been paid clean, and my monthly allowance provided to honour my claim, employed or waiting appointment. In many respects the Home Missionary has the hardest lot.

NEMO G. D.

#### Desolation.

A rude log hut on a lonely hill,  
Snow on the north wind flying;  
Darkness within where a man lies still,  
And a woman sighing.

Night, but no stars. On the blizzard's blast  
Ride souls that have felt God's spurning,  
Hideous wraiths from the world's dead past  
For an hour returning.

They grapple the cabin on either side,  
Laughing and shrieking and twisting;  
The roof beams sullenly grumble, tired  
By the toil of resisting.

The watch dog starts from the floor to growl,  
The terrors of night defying.  
Away in the valley a lone wolf's howl  
And a nameless crying.

A rude log hut on a lonely hill,  
Deep sunk in the land-sea's foam;  
But Death steals in where the man lies still,  
And he gathers him home.  
Frank Putnam, in the "National Magazine."

#### The Laws of God.—IV.

BY GEO. W. ARMSTRONG.

This paper will close the short series; and yet the subject, The laws of God in their relationship to our every-day lives, our conduct and activities, gives such a vast opening for thought that I feel I have done no more than touch "the hem of the garment." I shall therefore submit as a parting idea that if we desire to make the laws of God the rule and guide of our lives, we shall require unflinching determination, a resolute will. Christ told His apostles and first disciples about persecutions and imprisonments, about cross bearing, etc., that one would almost think the tendency would be to discourage. Christ never deceives; His followers must be "determined" men. The work before them demands it. God told Joshua much the same thing: "Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law."

I don't know why it should be so, but we frequently find professing Christians afraid, when in company with worldly and ungodly men to acknowledge their allegiance to Christ. They try to conceal the fact that they are His professed followers, and in a large degree so conform to the spirit of the world that it is difficult to detect whether they are not themselves of the world. This state of things can only arise from a lack of moral courage, and not in many cases from a lack of love towards their Divine Master. Peter loved Christ ardently but when in company with His enemies, denied Him. Naaman the Syrian, desired not to offer sacrifices and burnt offerings to any god but the God of Elijah; still his moral courage was insufficient to prevent him from bowing in the House of Rimmon when he went there with his master, the King of Syria, to worship.

We live in a world the spirit of which is "enmity against God, and is not subject to the law of God neither indeed can be." The law of God and the spirit of the world are totally at variance with each other; and the simple fact that anyone is endeavoring to regulate his life according to God's law is sufficient to occasion the sneer and produce the laugh of the scorner.

It is necessary that we should be "strong and very courageous," for we shall have to encounter difficulties; and at times apparent success may appear to be within our reach if we only yield to the inclination of our own desires in neglect of the law of God.

Now, why need this moral cowardice exist? There is surely nothing in the law of God that needs bring to the cheek a blush, or faintness to the heart. No, but it is easier to swim with the tide than battle with the surging billow; and thus when men come out from the ungodly and separate themselves from sinners, it is the signal to bring down upon them unmerited reproach and tantalizing persecution. And who likes either to be persecuted or subjected to reproach? It is not in harmony with flesh and blood; and thus when men's hearts, yea, even Christian men's hearts, fail them from fear, they are disposed to hide their light under a bushel, and bow in the House of Rimmon. Be strong and very courageous is Divine counsel, and if we are weak and vacillating in ourselves, He who has counselled has also promised help. "They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength," and thus strengthened by Omnipotence,

overcoming difficulties and enemies is considerably simplified.

Sustained by this almighty power, Elijah displayed majestic courage when he faced wicked King Ahab and challenged the prophets of Baal; and by this same means was Daniel and his three companions able to manifest their truly heroic spirit which has received the commendation of all succeeding ages.

These men were giants in moral stature, and they feared not though hosts encamped against them. The courage they had seems almost superhuman, neither could they have stood so resolute in their own strength. God commanded, they obeyed; and His presence went with them.

The God whom they served is our God; and if He sustained them, He will just as surely sustain us, if we exhibit the same faith in Him and rely as firmly upon Him as they did.

"Fear not thou: for I am with thee; be not dismayed: for I am thy God; I will strengthen thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of My righteousness. Behold all they that are incensed against thee shall be ashamed and confounded; they shall be as nothing; and they that strive with thee shall perish." With such assurances what need any of us fear? Let us "put our trust in the Lord, for in the Lord Jehovah is everlasting strength." London, Ont.

#### Sparks from Other Anvils.

Ladies' Home Journal:—If fate has denied to any woman a home, a husband and a baby, let her take up art, or medicine, or blacksmithing, as she chooses, and try sincerely to make the best out of her life that she can. But to claim that these are nobler occupations than her own craft, the high calling of wifehood and motherhood, is the most shallow and dangerous of cant.

Lutheran Observer:—The teachings of the Bible are very plain and unmistakable upon the subject of eternal punishment. It is not mentioned once, but many times. This teaching runs all through the Scriptures. But some try to shut their eyes to this teaching, to disbelieve it, to disprove it, but their efforts all come to nought. God has spoken it, and there the statement stands, defying all human contradiction.

Catholic Register:—There is no better teacher than practical charity. Every young person should be taught to have a few poor to look after. It teaches them self-denial; it shows them the trials from which they are spared, and what is best of all, it layeth up treasure where rust consumes not, nor thief enter in and steal. It is only the chosen few who undertake the work; but many more could, and should, do it.

Christian Guardian:—In all revivals that have amounted to anything, clear, scriptural, and doctrinal preaching has had a prominent place. This is necessary to instruct the mind. To this was added earnest, rogent and stirring appeals to the emotions, the conscience and the will for immediate action. This method will never grow old, for it is as natural as it is scriptural. Man is a being of feelings, will and conscience, as well as of intellect, and the Bible appeals to the whole man. Therefore, let our preachers forget not to lay down the foundations of truth in all clearness, but let them also arouse the heart, awaken the conscience, and demand the immediate surrender of the will, for time is short, eternity is near, and the door of God's mercy will not stand open forever to sinful men.