

A Pastoral Letter to Converts.

By Rev. James Roberts in *Hom. Monthly*.

MY DEAR FRIEND:—Last Sabbath ought to be a very marked day in your life. As the day on which you made a solemn and public profession of your faith in Jesus Christ as your Saviour, it should be forever a day of the most delightful memories to you. I earnestly hope that it will be. But knowing, as I do, something of the perils to which your Christian life will be exposed, I am deeply solicitous about your success in living that life. I am very anxious to see you continue as you have begun, that you go on and make rapid progress in your departure from a state of sin toward holiness. It is my great desire not only that you profess Christ before men, but that your daily conduct be in *exact accord* with your profession, that you so live the Christian religion as to honor Christ and commend Him to all with whom you come in contact. That my best wishes may be fully realized by you, in your own experience, let me now offer to you a few suggestions for your guidance:—

1. Let me counsel you to set up for yourself a high standard of Christian living. Don't be content to live just as other church-members live. Never try to justify your own failures in duty by the weakness and imperfections of others, however high their station or reputation. If others, who bear the Christian name, do wrong, that will not justify you in doing the same thing. *One* is your master, *even Christ*. Aim to be like Him. Make Him the example of your life—the model that you try to copy. Let the perfect Jesus be the centre of your thoughts and feelings and actions.

2. That you may know Jesus Christ, the glorious Master into whose service you have entered, *read and study* your Bible *daily*. It is the Book of books, and it is all about Jesus. As you read it, try to realize that in it God is speaking to you. Its precious promises, its abiding comforts, and its abounding consolations were intend-

ed for the good cheer and encouragement of all God's people, of all time, and hence they are designed for you.

3. Cultivate and cherish a habit of *secret* prayer. It is the silent, secret communion of the soul with God that fans the spark of spiritual life until it becomes the glowing flame. Remember that without *secret* prayer you will make sad and awful shipwreck of the good profession that you have just made.

4. Be constant and regular in your attendance upon the services and ordinances of your own church. Identify yourself, as far as possible, with all its meetings and organizations, and do all that you can to promote their interests—to make them instruments of good to others as well as to yourself. Be not only a hearer, but also a *doer*, of the word—aim to practice what you hear in the house of God.

5. In your home and social life aim to be a model Christian. The eyes of those who make no profession of religion are upon you. Therefore, in whatever position you move, show that you are the better for your religion. Be kind and gentle; be patient, forbearing and forgiving; be sincere and truthful; be consistent and conscientious in all things. Never go to a theatre. Be not fascinated by dancing. Have nothing to do with balls. Do not indulge in card-playing. The young Christian sometimes asks, What harm is there in these things? and my answer is: (1) The happiest, the most active and most useful Christians *do not indulge* in such amusements; (2) The uniform testimony of experienced Christians, who have tested these things, is that they are a positive hindrance to usefulness, and utterly destructive of the joys of spiritual life. To know this ought to be enough for you. Remember that the follower of Christ is commanded to avoid the *appearance* of evil. It is a strong evidence that you are on dangerous as well as doubtful ground when you ask, What harm is there in doing it? It is always best to give the safe and sure side the benefit of the doubt. As to strong drink, be a total abstainer. In *total abstinence* is your only