

have is not for you to hide within yourself, but your light is to so shine before men that they may glorify your Father in heaven. And the sad part is that the salt will lose its savor, and the light go out unless applied as God intends. It is not enough for us to say we love Christ.

"Lovest thou me?" we hear the master saying
To Peter, standing by the river side;
Lovest thou me? then seek the sheep now straying
Afar from home, unfed, without a guide.

And still we hear him clearly, softly speaking,
As Peter heard him by the sunlit sea,
Lovest thou me, indeed? then cease self-seeking;
In loving service live and follow me.

Some one is disappointed that I have not said more about the great need of "missionary extension" in foreign lands. It is not that I do not think the need a pressing one, because I certainly do; but in my estimation the greater need is for Christ Christians at home. Let Christians be Christians and the gospel must go to all the lands of earth. We will not need to urge missionaries to go to foreign fields, nor contrive all kinds of ways and means to raise money for their support. As we take on the love of Christ, we widen our field of love; and as we grow in grace, we enlarge the boundaries until we can take in the whole world. Then we will begin to know the love of Christ which passeth knowledge and be filled with all the fullness of God.

Let us be enthusiastic in this great work of being missionaries. Let us not mind what the world says; their idols of to-day are effigies to-morrow. Let them say we are extreme. They admire enthusiasm in other matters, but when it comes to religion they call it fanaticism; but as some one has said, "The true Christian must gauge his zeal by what he sees and feels, and not by what the world fails to see and feel." It is not the preaching from pulpits that saves the masses, but the living, breathing Christ in each of his followers. Then let us have our lights so evenly trimmed and brightly burning by bearing the fruits of the Spirit, that they will shine with a true, strong light; and when they have ceased to burn, the after-glow will be so bright it will still cast its reflection on the earth and invite beholders to turn their gaze heavenward.

THE BIBLE versus INFIDELITY.

W. H. HARDING.

In every century of the Christian era there have been those who have opposed the religion of Christ. In a great many cases this opposition came because of ignorance; for the excellency of the Christian religion must commend itself to every right thinking man who will honestly investigate its claims. Many noted infidels have acknowledged the splendor of the life and teachings of Jesus. Then there are those who, being unable to reconcile the Bible to their own peculiar ideas, first reject, then oppose.

During the past fifty years Christianity has been spreading with almost unparalleled rapidity, but it must also be admitted that infidelity and atheistic literature have been on the increase. In nearly every city, town and village its effects are visible. Looseness of morals with laxity of principle is a close attendant in the train of modern scepticism. Young people who have been away from home, "in the States," return and talk up

their infidel views to their companions, and thus the seed is sown, and too often people are only too glad to listen to anything that has a tendency to ease the conscience, and help them live a life of pleasure and wantonness. Eternity alone will tell how many lives have been wrecked and hopes blasted in this way. As the night breeds darkness, so infidelity breeds sin and impurity. Is there nothing we can do to stem this tide of opposition? It will not do for us to say, "Well, our church teaches, therefore we believe it;" dogmatism will not do. We must prove all things, but hold fast that which is good. The Bible, containing, as it does, the evidence upon which we base our faith in Jesus Christ as the Son of the living God, is the centre of attack.

Not only do we need to teach the Bible, but also about the Bible. If we lived in a world where everybody accepted the Bible as God's revealed will, if our young people never came in contact with those who were sceptical, if they would never see nor read sceptical literature, then there would be no need to write about teaching "about the Bible." But we know that infidelity is in the land, that we do come in contact with sceptics, and that improper literature is being circulated, and many of our young people, as well as some that are older, are affected by it.

A great many valuable works have been written on "Christian Evidences," but in how many homes do you find them? How many of those who oppose the church ever read "Paley's Evidences," or "Butler's Analogy," or "Horne's Introduction," or "Reasons and Revelation"? Not one in a hundred. Yet these books contain just the information people need, and if such information were more widely disseminated, infidelity would not grow so fast. Truth has nothing to fear from investigation, and while we do not pretend to answer every foolish question that may be asked, we do maintain that the truth of God's word can be manifested in the face of all the opposition that can be brought against it. This cannot be done by means of parental authority, nor yet by ministerial intolerance, but by giving to the young and the old that knowledge which will make them strong in faith and steadfast in doctrine. In this way they will be instructed in the truth, and their minds fortified against the subtle influences of infidelity. I sometimes think that parents and friends, preachers and teachers, are alike in that a great many of them do not seem to think there is as much harm being done as some would make out. A young man comes along nicely dressed and of good manners, and he is welcomed into the homes of the people. Most of them knew him when he was a boy, but he has been away for some time. It soon comes out that he is a sceptic, doesn't believe the Bible, etc. Still, he is so "nice"; he escorts the young ladies home and wins his way along, at the same time sowing seed that will bring sorrow of heart and bitterness of soul. Ah! yes: the devil can do more when

his angels appear as angels of light, than when they appear in their true colors. Truly, we war not with flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

But the Christian has an assurance that he can overcome, and be more than conqueror. Christ says: "The gates of hell shall not prevail against it"—the church. We can say in the hottest of the fight, "God reigns." But can we not win back some of those who have been led away, or can we so instruct and fortify those that remain that they will be able to fight the tempter off? I answer, we can to a large extent if we only try. We need to give more attention to the "Evidences." But I am aware that few have the books to study on this line; many indeed would be glad of an opportunity were it presented. As I look at the scores of volumes on my shelves dealing specially with this great subject, I am tempted to take up my pen and write a series of articles, making the present one a sort of introduction. For several years I have been making a special study of these things, and have provided myself with the best literature on the subject.

I have in contemplation articles on such subjects as: (I.) "How we got our Bible," (II.) "The Harmony and Design of the Bible," (III.) "Fulfilment of Prophecy," (IV.) "Applied Christianity, or the Effect of the Bible on the World," (V.) "Archæological Testimony," etc. I do this at the request of some of our leading brethren. Truth is mighty and will prevail. The word of the Lord abideth forever.

West Gore, Hants Co., N. S.

GULLIVER'S COVE BUILDING FUND.

Previously acknowledged,	\$274 48
Harvard Eldridge, Sandy Cove, N. S.	2 00
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Total,

\$278 48

H. A. DEVON, Treasurer.

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Sister Annie Wallace, Waverly, Mass.	5 00

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An error made in last report of collections at Annual, viz., \$96.36 ought to have been \$91.36, and the \$5 00 ought to have been credited to Bro. Isaiah Wallace, West Gore, N. S.

HENRY CARSON,

Halifax, N. S., Sept. 23, 1895. Treasurer.

Mr. Spurgeon once said he didn't want any one who could be a missionary to drivel down into a king, nor one who was fit to be a missionary to die a millionaire. Quoting this, a writer in the *Medical Missionary Quarterly* adds: "Do not miss the high honor of being a missionary if you can help it. Think twice and pray oftener, before you adopt any other career."