

Spring.

Nature, that lovely on the bier
Of Winter lay in its chill embrace,
Now pulses fresh with life and grace,
And, rising, whispers, "Spring is here."

Alternate rising hopes and fears
Cross new-born life with joy and
pain ;
Her face is wet with gentle rain
And then she's smiling thro' her tears.

O, I could wander with thee, Spring,
To view thy vivifying power
In sunny fingers, pattering shower,
And see the beauty that they bring.

A question I would ask of thee,
Sweet Spring, ere thou dost north-
ward go ;
O answer, Spring, that I may know
Each doubt is dead that clings to me.

Is ever-springing life His plan
For us, as well as flower and tree ?
Is there a life that's yet to be
For sinning, fearful, mortal man ?

When he must die, as fades the flower,
When once his feeble breath is sped,
Is there no rising from the dead
For him, thro' God's eternal power ?

From opening bud and singing bird,
From leafy bough and sunny field,
Their secret joy of life doth yield
A prophecy his prayer is heard.

—CHARLES CARLYLE in *Saturday Night*.

Certainty of the Resurrection.

The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the great miracle which puts the divine seal of approbation to the whole work of Christ. It is the immovable foundation of the Christian church and the pledge of the future resurrection of believers. "I live, ye shall live also." Nothing but a miracle can account for the sudden elevation of the disciples from the midnight gloom of despondency, into which the crucifixion had cast them, to the midday height of joy and triumph with which they boldly declared the resurrection at the risk of their lives. Only this miracle can explain the conversion of Paul, and the establishment of the Christian church. Without it, the church would be a stream without a fountain, a temple without a base, an effect without a cause ; without it, the gospel would be an idle dream, and Christ Himself a cruel deceiver. 1 Cor. xv. 17. But the fact is the most certain in history. It is distinctly asserted by our four evangelists, whose testimony nowhere shows greater independence of each other, and in the Acts of the Apostles ; it is preached directly or assumed in all the epistles ; it has been so believed for eighteen centuries and commemorated on every Lord's day.—SCHAFF.

A Treacherous Electorate.

On June 23rd, the great body of Canadian voters will go to the polls to vote, to exercise one of the most sacred offices ever given to man. Yet, despite the fact that to vote without first having fully and judicially considered the relative merits of each party would be a crime against the state, it is safe to state that not one half of those who mark ballots on that day will have considered both sides of public questions. The Conservatives will vote blindly in favor of Conservatives, and the Liberals will unthinkingly cast their votes for Liberal candidates. A judge who would condemn all accused persons brought before him would be at once removed from the bench ; a judge who allowed all such persons to go free would be loudly condemned ; and yet fifty per cent. of Canadian voters will perform just such unreasonable and inequitable action on the 23rd of June. Such is party rule.

There is another class of voters which may also be severely criticized. It consists of the men who, though their names are on the voters' lists, will refuse to go to the poll to make the cross which will assist the one party or the other. If voting is a sacred duty, then it is as criminal to refrain from voting as to do it blindly and without consideration. That a man does not approve of either party is no excuse for his refusing to vote for one or the other. Let him choose the one that comes nearest his ideal, attempt to guide it in the way which seems to him to be best, and vote for it despite the discord between the real and the ideal.

Then there is the class of men—no one will call them voters, for all voters are not men—who vote in a certain way for pecuniary profit, immediate or remote. Our election laws for the prevention of bribery are very strict, yet hundreds of dollars will be spent in every riding in Canada to assist in the degradation of its citizens and incidentally to secure votes. The great railways will use their means of transportation in peculiar ways, and employers of labor will see that their workmen have thorough ideas as to which party these said employers prefer. Bribery will be rampant in a hundred conceivable forms.

Less than six months ago, I stood beneath the roof of Canada's greatest legislative hall, and heard a leading party organizer remark that no man with any regard for his soul or with any sense of honor, would remain on the inside of present Canadian party politics ; that both the electors and the



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electors were stinking in their rottenness. One is led to wonder if these are some of the grand and glorious benefits of government of the people, by the people and for the people.

It is to be hoped that the better class of citizens will not allow a treacherous electorate and unscrupulous politicians to prevent a proper expression of true public opinion at the approaching quinquennial general election.—*May Canadian Magazine*.

"Can't I live a Christian life out of the church?" Yes, my young friend, just as easy as you can make a fire with one stick. Look at that wood fire. There must be three or four sticks to make a good fire. Now, take those blazing sticks out of the stove, and put them singly on the ground, and see how quickly they are black and dead.—*The Outlook*.

Our Will.

If Satan be the father of our sins, our will is the mother, and sin is the cursed issue of both. He could not make our sin without ourselves. It was the charge of the apostle that we should not "give place to the devil."—Hall.

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