

## DELUSIONS.

A friend with whom I was conversing in one of our inquiry meetings lately, said to me:—"I know that I ought to become a Christian; I fully intend to become one; but O! how I wish it was over with!" I said to her, "My friend, suppose that you came into a dining-room very hungry, and when invited to sit down to a loaded table would you say, 'I feel half-starved, but I wish I was well through with this business of eating this dinner?' The Lord Jesus has spread for you the amplest provisions of his grace, and said 'Come' for all things are now ready."

Another delusion which rocks thousands into a perilous slumber is that they will yet have abundant chances to secure heaven. "I need be in no hurry; time enough yet." This is the will-o'-the-wisp which is leading multitudes on farther and deeper into the morass of impenitence. Not only in this world will there be chances for repentance and securing heaven, but even beyond the grave God's mercy will give them another opportunity. This delusion is in the air to a degree never known before.

The mighty bell which God rings over our heads sounds out only the single note "Now," is the day of salvation; but against God's imperative "Now" thousands close their ears and allow the devil to whisper into them his delusive "tomorrow."

Another delusion is, "I am trying to do the best I can;" and these very words come from those who refuse to do any thing for Christ, or let Him do anything for them. Still another pretext is, "I do not feel," and how can I be saved without feeling?" If by the word "feel" he means *thinking*, he is right, for thought is right, thought is indispensable. But if he means acute distress, he is denying Christ point-black, for the Saviour never said that feeling is the essential thing. To accept and obey Christ is vital; but these are acts of the conscience, and the will, and not matters of emotion. My page is exhausted, but I have not begun to exhaust Satan's delusions. We who preach and teach God's glorious gospel must constantly unmask them.—T. L. Cuyler. D. D.

They that would not eat the forbidden fruit must not come near the forbidden tree.

## SICK-BED RELIGION.

Said a friend to the celebrated Dr. Samuel Johnson: "One should think that sickness and the views of death would make men more religious."

"Sir," replied Johnson, "They do not know how to go about it. A man who has never had religion before, no more grows religious when he is sick than a man who has never learned figures can count when he has need of calculation."

There is a good deal of truth in this remark. A sick man who has an account of ten dollars to settle with his neighbor, will say: "Please call again; I am unwell to-day and cannot attend to it."

No sensible man will trust his judgment to do business when he is sick if he can possibly avoid it. But the great concerns of eternity, the interests of the soul, the settlement of its accounts with God, and the decisions which involve its eternal destiny, men habitually and deliberately put off, to be attended to when racked with fever and tossed with pain upon a dying bed.

God calls men to serve Him, and to serve Him to-day. "Now is the accepted time." To-day is the day of salvation." To-day, if ye will hear His voice, harden not your hearts." Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth."

## NO GROG-SHOPS IN HEAVEN.

The Rev. Wm. Ross says! "A Sabbath-school teacher, anxious to make her children think of the goodness of God, asked them, 'Will you kindly bring me written on a slip of paper what you think you have most reason to be thankful for?' Next Sabbath, as the lady went over the replies one by one, she came upon a remarkable one. It was, 'I am thankful that there are no grog-shops in heaven.' This told of the little one's hope of heaven, and the certainty which she felt heaven would be free from the greatest evil which affected her on earth. This child had experienced the bitter evils which arise from the use of intoxicating drink; the darkness of the foul demon's presence had fallen upon her home; she had seen others debased and embruted by it, and she therefore thanked God for the absence from heaven of whatsoever worketh abominations." "Those holy gates forever bar pollution, sin, and shame."