

My son, despise not the chastening of the Lord ; neither be weary of his correction.—Prov. iii. 11.

Thus it is with the sinner. When he gets a full pardon of all his sins, he cares little about theatres, and dances, and songs. He has got something better; and he flings away the broom as a matter of course.

O unconverted reader! through Christ's obedience unto death, even the death of the cross, God offers to you at this moment, without money or price, the pardon of all your sins, a new heart, victory over your besetting sins, with joys and pleasures unspeakable and full of glory. You can get them as freely as that street-sweeper got his legacy. You can scarcely think so, but it is really true. "He was wounded for our transgressions; He was bruised for our iniquities," Isaiah LIII 5. "Whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely," Rev. xxii. 17. O don't refuse the precious gifts God offers you, because they are so great and so free. Don't think this too easy a way to be saved. It is easy for you, but it was not easy for Christ. He redeemed us with a great price. And now, we get pardon and salvation for *nothing*, through his precious blood.

#### NUTS FOR SKEPTICS TO CRACK.

**T**HERE are infidels who do not believe in a God who judges and punishes, and afflicts. They believe in *nature*, and in nature's laws.

But what do they gain by the change? Are not "the laws of nature" as they term them, as immutable as those inscribed on tables of stone? Do not fires burn, floods overwhelm, waters drown, earthquakes swallow up, lightnings blast, tornadoes desolate, tempests destroy, sunbeams scorch, frosts congeal, diseases waste, pains rack, sorrows pierce, and calamities afflict mankind? Are not toil, and labor, and hunger, and famine, and pestilence and all the nameless agonies of dying men in accordance with "the laws of nature?" Does not "the god of nature" do all this? Pray then, what do men gain by

throwing away their Bibles which they will not believe, when they must find the same facts and worse ones, in the Book of Nature where they can neither doubt them nor deny them? The facts will stand. Skeptics may deny man's fall, but they can not escape its consequences. They can not argue pain out of their bones, misery out of their hearts, nor death out of their families. They may deny that God has cursed the ground, but they can not rid themselves of thorns and thistles, with all their arguing and with all their unbelief. And sorrow, and guilt, and condemnation, will follow them in spite of all their doubts and skeptical objections. What then do they gain by their efforts to get rid of God?

They gain just this: they put away the chastisement of a Father, and fling themselves amid the revolving gears of an Almighty Machine that crushes them in the just, and then grinds them to powder. They have the same *facts* they had before, with no possible relief from them. They retain every trouble, and reject every consolation. They have the same realities of sin, and sorrow, and penalty; they have only blotted out mercy, made penitence vain, and forgiveness and peace impossible. They have kept the disease, and flung away the remedy.

Let then the infidel glory in the fact that he has *preserved his death warrant and burned up his pardon* that might have cancelled it; that he has kept every sorrow of earth, and rejected every joy of heaven;—but let the Christian rather rejoice that he possesses every real blessing of which the ungodly man can boast, and, added to them all, he has the presence of a Divine Father, and the sympathy of an Almighty Friend, who while he reproves in righteousness and punishes in justice, yet pardons with such infinite and compassionate love, that the heart of the penitent turns with tears to him as the only Saviour, saying, "THERE IS FORGIVENESS WITH THEE, THAT THOU MAYEST BE FEARED."

H. L. Hastings.

Hear, O my son, and receive my sayings; and the years of thy life shall be many.—Prov. iv. 10.