

THE UTILITY OF WEEDS.

[FROM ILLUSTRATED CHRISTIAN WEEKLY.]

The following questions have frequently been asked with no little solicitude, "What is a weed? What are weeds made for? Where is the line of demarcation between noxious weeds and useful plants?"

Weeds are highly valuable. They constitute an important source of utility to the soil. They are nature's own renovators of badly manured and impoverished land.

Weeds are a monitor to the tiller of the soil to pulverize thoroughly, and to keep the surface around growing plants quite free from every vegetable intruder.

In the animal kingdom we cannot fail to see how admirably adapted all the arrangements of the Creator are to the wants, comforts, necessities and luxuries of the higher order of intelligences.

THE THREE CROSSES.

Around the three crosses stood a great crowd of people, small and great, common folk and rulers, priests and scribes and Pharisees.

Before everything we perceive the majesty and the kingly sovereignty of Jesus Christ. He hangs truly there on the cross, in the utmost shame and scorn, mocked and reviled.

These two thieves are the representatives of the whole human race. They were both great sinners, as we are all great sinners. The blood of the atonement for both flowed upon the earth and cried for mercy for both.

TEA AND COFFEE.

Both tea and coffee have properties which are universally recognized as valuable. Without being nutritive, they sustain nutrition by limiting the body's waste.

There is nothing simpler than to make good tea or coffee, but nine persons out of ten are unable to do it. Neither should under any circumstances be boiled.

What a painful thing it would be to see a man live all his life a pauper, and to find out just after he was buried that he was heir to an immense estate.

THE GRUMBLER.

Oh, who can describe him? There is no language which can do justice to him—no supernatural foresight which can predict where his next thrust will fall.

THE POWER OF THE HOLY GHOST

To the honor of God alone, I will tell a little of my own experience in the matter. I was powerfully converted on morning of the 10th October.

QUEEN VICTORIA'S HABITS.

When free from the cares of State, nothing can be simpler than the daily routine of His Majesty's life.

SAP IN THE HEART.

I once visited an agricultural museum. In it were stored all kinds of the most approved implements used by the farmer.

Among other curious things I was particularly struck with a section of a palm tree, and which was twined part of a willow tree.

On this specimen was found written the following description:—

"The seed of the fig-tree is said to be sown by the birds in the clefts of other trees, and the root is never seen to proceed from the ground, but from the middle of the tree it grows upon, which it clasps closer and closer, until it kills every one excepting the palm-tree, which alone can withstand it, on account of the sap flowing up in the heart of the stem, instead of the outside, as in other trees."

This account brought the words of the Psalmist to my mind:—

"The righteous shall flourish like the palm-tree: . . . they shall bring forth fruit in old age." The righteous man is one, who, trusting in Jesus, the righteous One, is accounted righteous by God in him, and who, receiving the Holy Spirit, becomes in a measure like him.

"The righteous is more excellent than his neighbor."

Many trees which are neighbors to the palm, are killed by the clinging fig-tree, because they have not the sap in the middle of the stem; so those who are only neighbors to the righteous will be killed by the clinging world, which like a serpent coils round and round them, till they die in its embrace.

Have you sap in the heart? Is the life of God in your soul? With those questions before you, take your Bibles and read, 1 John, v. 10—12; John iii. 14—17; John v. 24; and you will learn what sap is, and how you may get it.—Rev. John Cox.

SCOLDING.

Scolding is mostly a habit. There is not much meaning to it. It is often the result of nervousness, and an irritable condition of both mind and body.

Scolding is a habit very easily formed. It is astonishing how soon one who indulges in it at all, becomes addicted to it and confirmed in it.

It is an unreasoning and unreasonable habit. Persons who once get in the way of scolding, always find something to scold about. If there were nothing else, they would fall a scolding at the mere absence of anything to scold at.

It is an extremely disagreeable habit. The constant rumbling of distant thunder, enterwaulings, or a hand-organ under one's window, would be less unpleasant.

The habit is contagious. Once introduced into a family, it is pretty certain in a short time to affect all the members. If one of them begins finding fault about something or nothing, the others are apt very soon to take it up, and a very unnecessary bedlam is created.

Women contract the habit more by frequent use than men. This may be because they live more in the house, in a confined and heated atmosphere, very trying to the nervous system and the health in general.

The approaches of sin are like the conduct of Jael. It brings butter in a lordly dish. It bids high for the soul. But, when it has fascinated and lulled the victim, the nail and the hammer are behind.

German newspapers state that the dictionary of the German language in course of compilation by the Brothers Grimm will contain more words than any other publication on record. It has already reached the number of about 160,000, and by the time it is complete it will comprise at least 500,000.

Prayer, and the Word, and godly conversation, should be in the foremost place. Far too often there is so much coldness, and restraint, and reserve, and backwardness, that a man might fancy we were ashamed of Christ, and that we thought it proper to hold our tongues and not make mention of the name of the Lord.

Christ must have honesty or nothing—but if you mean that he will have no service at all when the earth draweth back in any measure, I would not that were true, for my part of heaven, and all that I am worth in the world.

Sin, pursued to its tendencies, would pull God from his throne. Though I have a deep conviction of its exceeding sinfulness, I live not a week without seeing some exhibition of its malignity which draws from me "Well! who could have imagined this!"

"They that are strong ought to bear the infirmities of those that are weak, and not to please themselves." There is a text which says "show"; it shines by its own light. It's plain enough you get into the wrong road 'till this life if you run after this and that, only for the sake of making things easy and pleasant to yourself.

DEAD CHURCH MEMBERS.

We have a devoted band of teachers in the school, the most of them doing all that reasonably can be expected of them, some of them much more. Their work could be greatly lightened by the dead members, if they could only be brought to life, and induced by any means to do one-half as much as some of our teachers do.

The Methodists have already five congregations, ten Sunday-schools, and one weekday school in Mexico.

A handsome memorial window has been put into the Parish church of Crathie by direction of the Queen, in honor of the late Dr. Norman Macleod. The window is opposite the royal pew.

There are 400,000 converts in Hindoostan ministered to by native preachers; and also 500,000 in Madagascar supplied in the same way; while the South Sea Islands are sending native missionaries to the cannibals of New Guinea.

The Shah of Persia, before leaving London, gave eight thousand dollars worth of presents to the servants of Buckingham Palace, and twelve to the policeman on duty there. They are possibly the only people who are sorry to see him leave.

Mr. Beecher replies to the charges against his orthodoxy. "In my lecture-room talks and my personal preaching I have presented the divinity of Christ, the atonement of Christ, Christ as a present Saviour, the manifestation of God, a very God—as far as God can be confuted in form."

George Smith, the Daily Telegraph correspondent in Assyria, has found the king's library at Nineveh, and discovered numerous valuable fragments, particularly the missing portions of the broken tablets containing the history of the deluge recently deciphered in the British Museum.

The towers of the Cathedral of Colongo have reached the height of 230 feet. The construction of the spires, which are to bring the total height to 600 feet, will be commenced. Six years more are required for terminating the work.

The Hudson Bay Co's annual report shows a net profit for the year of £100,000 against £85,000 last year; and a dividend of £1 per share has been declared against 17s. last year. 19 lots, each of 120 feet by 576 feet, have been sold at Fort Garry for \$76,400, payable in five years.

The New Mandarin Version of the New Testament, which will be used by all the missionaries of Northern China, is completed. The Archimandrite of the Russian Church, for many years a resident of Peking and an excellent Chinese scholar, has expressed a high opinion of the work.

The increase of church-members in Madagascar in 1871 was 17,981, making an aggregate of 88,932; while the adherents to Christianity amount to 315,281. Two thousand native evangelists are busy in telling the story of the cross. The number of children in schools is 80,000.

City churches are running more and more to quartette singing, and that of the most costly sort. More money we are told by the Evening Post, is probably spent on this luxury in New-York than in any other city in the world. There are a dozen New York organists whose salaries range from \$2,500 to \$3,000, and a soprano of eminence will decline a \$5,000 "call" without wincing. That is what you might emphatically call a rising scale in music.

Dr. Miles, of the London Missionary Society, a man who has devoted much time for many years to the work of obtaining, by personal observations and reliable data, information on this subject, now states that since this century began more than 300 islands of Eastern and Southern Polynesia alone have been led, by the Gospel as taken to them by the missionaries, to renounce their heathenism, and are now under the influence and sway of Christianity. Thus more than 400,000 persons have been brought under the Gospel, some 250,000 of whom are still living, and over 50,000 of whom are communicants in the Evangelical Christian Churches.

A terrible illustration of the Eastern methods of warfare has just been furnished by a despatch from Shanghai, giving particulars of the capture of the Imperial Chinese forces of the city of Talofoa, capital nest of the Mohammedan state in the Province of Yunnan, Southwestern China, and stating that the most frightful scenes were witnessed in the conquered city upon the entry of the Emperor's army. The victorious forces fell upon their captives and massacred 30,000 of them. The sultan poisoned himself, preferring death by his own hands to falling into the power of his enemies.