

And Charlottetown! What shall I say that will convince you that every effort put forth in Charlottetown will bring forth an hundred fold? The field is ripe for harvest. Our meeting was productive of a large good. The future is bright; but the success of our cause in this city will involve a great sacrifice on the part of both pastor and people. A building for worship must go up immediately. We must get out of the Kindergarten Hall. Many things are working against us. When the community sees the new church spire going up, and realizes that a good man has settled in their midst as pastor, a new hope and interest and confidence will result. Bro. Stevenson, of Montague, has accepted a unanimous call of the church and will probably be there by the first of August. They are not able to pay a preacher in full, and the board will no doubt help them with one hundred and fifty annually.

I held a meeting of eight nights at our little church at Southport, Lot 48. Bro. A. N. Simpson, pastor. As a visible result the church was helped and seven were baptized. The work on the Island is a difficult one; conditions make it so. I begin a meeting at Montague on the 21st, and speak several times at our Association at Summerside, the second Lord's day in July. This is God's work. We must do our duty and God gives the increase. May he make us worthy of a greater increase.

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Charlottetown, P. E. I.

Original Contributions.

EXTRACT FROM SERMON ON THE TRANSFIGURATION.

W. ALEX. M'CAFFREY.

Not only was the Messianic majesty exhibited before the wondering gaze of the bewildered disciples; not only did the Almighty Jehovah acknowledge before them the eternal Sonship and divine authority of Christ; not only did the voice out of the cloud define the relationship of God to Christ and Christ to man; but what is of far greater moment, it fixed the relationship between man and Christ. "Hear ye him."

Whom shall we hear in matters pertaining to the interests of the soul? This has been the inquiry of men in all ages. Some say, "Listen to reason; follow the edicts of his tribunal and you shall be justified." Some say, "Let conscience be your guide; what she warns against, shun; what she dictates, obey, and you shall never go amiss." Others again would have us follow our desires and press on to gratify them, immaterial of their moral quality, and in spite of the welfare of our fellow men. Men have heard and obeyed, are hearing and obeying them all.

See great Reason, his feet fixed upon the earth, his head far reaching to the zenith, his arms embracing the universe! Hear his mighty voice reverberating from atom to atom, from planet to planet, from star to

star. Hear him, giant of majesty, with pride revealing the secrets of time—how orbs began and roll their even course; from whence came man, how he stays and what he ought; to what end both the universe and man are tending. Great Reason says, "Hear me." He finds a God, but that God cannot speak to him. He can convict the world of sin, or explain it away, but he cannot produce a Saviour. No system of morals or religion outside of Christianity can ring out from its time-worn belfreys, shaking the world and waking the slumbering soul to the day-spring from on high, by the glad sound, "Behold, I bring you glad tidings of great joy; for there is born to you this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord."

No scheme of human invention can show up a man's heart in its condition of alienation from God, make him sensible of his utter unworthiness, and send him upon his knees pleading for the salvation of his soul, with the assurance that God will hear him, that God will love and have mercy upon him, that God will forgive his sins and save him. The human mind, though untold ages should store within it their learning, could never devise the plan of redemption, never conceive of the crucified Christ to expiate the guilt of sin, never realize the Holy Spirit abroad in the world and by the Word of Truth working regeneration in the hearts of men.

Systems of morals and religion invented by men are not adequate for the needs of the soul. They may be able to change the mind, but cannot change the heart. They may bring about an intellectual regeneration, but they cannot renew the spiritual nature. They may condemn the soul, but cannot save it. The unction from on high is lacking. "I will put my Spirit within you" is the promise upon the fulfilment of which depends new life. We must be created anew, born again, by the Word of Truth. "Sanctify them through thy truth; thy word is truth." Jesus Christ must take up his abode in the heart and soul. "Apart from me ye can do nothing." It is by the instrumentality of the Word of God that the soul lying in sin is converted; by the consequent gift of the Holy Ghost that the work of grace is carried on to completion. "For there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time." "Hear ye him."

There is no doubt but that, in the vast chorus of alluring voices speaking to the mind and soul in our age, it is most difficult to detect uncertain sounds; most difficult to hear the soft, sweet voice of the meek and lowly Nazarene amid the victorious shouts of philosophy and science. (The wisdom of the world, how sublime! Reason, how strong, how majestic! What height, what depths, what length, what breadth, can mystery seek to rear her labyrinth, that reason is not there to dispute her right! Earth, indeed, is the theatre of heaven, upon whose stage a

great burlesque is being played, with philosophers and dogmatic theologians as star comedians. I fancy I see wise old Job looking down from the windows of heaven upon its amusing scenes, and, with a broad smile, making his witty comment: "No doubt ye are the people, and wisdom will die with you.") Every new voice—spiritualism, so-called Christian science—which the power of darkness sends forth to make more charming the eloquence of sin and deception, mingling its persuasions with the clear notes of the never-tiring tongues of the syrens of the soul, deafen the moral nature to the admonitions of the guardian angel within, make the heart irresponsive to the knocking messenger of Christ from without and keep the soul in a state of spiritual death or indifference, passive to its immortal interests, heedless to the voice of Christ crying, "Take up thy cross and follow me; for I am the Way, the Truth and the Life," and listless to the voice speaking out of the cloud, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear ye him."

After so many centuries of vain and fruitless speculation concerning the great mysteries of existence, it seems that men should at least come to the conclusion that certain problems are wholly beyond the solving powers of the human faculties. But such is not the case. The more puzzling the question, the more thought and investigation is given to it. The very inquiries which have perplexed the minds of men as far back as we can trace, are the very inquiries which perplex the human mind to-day. Whence originated the world? Whence came man? Whence came evil? Is there a God? Is the soul immortal? These questions defy the wisdom of man. They belong to the unsearchable things of God. Human nature cannot produce a creature able to answer them conclusively. Every argument waged on one side, plausible though they may be, you will find offset by just as strong and plausible arguments on the other. O, that men would close their ears to the voice of mystery calling them into the chaotic unknown to infect them with the wasting plagues of metaphysics, scepticism and infidelity, and spread the leprosy of "isms" and "ists," dimming the eye of faith and making darker the glass through which we already see darkly. Would that men were willing to calmly resign themselves to the simple truths divinely stamped upon their natures; that they would cease asking why, when universal conscience dictates, that they would cease questioning or worrying to prove what human nature universally attests as fact, and what the human understanding, by the ordinary means of knowing, accepts as true; then the working of miracles would not be thought a thing incredible; then would well authenticated testimony remain intact, and men could hear the voice of God speaking out of the cloud, to give us peace of mind, joy of heart, hope of soul, and the solution to the mysteries of life: "This is