

"O Lord, Lay Hold on Me."

"I was laid hold of (apprehended) by Christ."—Psalm, lxxxv. 12.

"Immediately Jesus stretched forth his hand and caught (or laid hold on) him."—MATTHEW, xlv. 21.

O Lord, lay hold on me, A traveller on the way, Which slopes into eternity— Nearer each fleeting day.

Lay hold on me, O Lord, Arrest me by Thy grace, The power of Thine own living Word, The light of Thine own face.

On me, O Lord, lay hold, Make me for glory meet; In Thy fair royal robe enfold, Thy righteousness complete.

O Lord, lay hold on me, Crossing life's stormy wave, Oft striking 'mid the troubled sea— Stretch forth Thine hand and save!

Lay hold on me, O Lord, When winds and waters roar Thy timely, promised help afford, And land me on heaven's shore.

On me, O Lord, lay hold, I need Thee every hour; Thine hand is loving as of old, Nor lacks its ancient power.

—Richard Wilton.

Weights.

We are to "lay aside every weight." But what are the weights which we must lay aside? I answer: False principles, or weights. They exert a pernicious influence in the formation of character, warping and destroying it. They produce wrong feelings and lead to wrong actions. Right principles are most helpful in their influence; wrong, constantly pernicious. The former are a fountain of good, the latter of evil.

Bad habits are weights. Habit makes a practice easy and pleasant. Habit once formed is broken up with difficulty. Evil habits are constantly leading to wrongdoing and bringing upon us an evil conscience, the displeasure of our God, and the contempt of our fellow-men. He whose habits are evil is constantly carrying a very heavy weight.

Unrepented sins, are weights. They mar one's peace of conscience; they make one's service heartless; they hide our Father's countenance; they grieve the Holy Spirit; they hinder one's progress; they bring reproach on the cause of Christ. Living in unrepented sin we can make no progress. One such weight is enough to lose any one the race.

I have enumerated these classes of weights which we should lay aside. Let us look at some of them particularly.

There is laziness. The lazy man makes but little progress in holiness, and renders but little service to Christ.

There is the neglect of the means of grace. The successful Christian must walk in all the commandments and ordinances of the Lord blameless.

There is shirking. He who attempts to avoid every difficult or disagreeable duty, or neglects or refuses to perform work in the service of Christ, because he does not like it, will soon find that he is not wanted at all among the servants of Christ. Indeed the Master will have no use for him. The law of service runs thus: "If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow Me." But we shall not succeed in freeing ourselves from these weights, or in laying aside our besetting sins, excepting by coming and applying to Him who supplies the need of His people for deliverance. He saves from sin, besides Him there is no Saviour.—United Presbyterian.

Affection in Bird Life.

The fidelity and affectionate intimacy of married bird-life appears most conspicuously in pairs of the Grosbeak family and in small parrots. Here is perfect harmony of will and deed. The two sweethearts appear unwilling to leave one another's company for a moment all their life; they do everything together—singing and drinking, bathing, and dressing of feathers, sleeping and waking. Various degrees of affection and harmony are discernible on close observation. Among the small grosbeaks, pairs of which sit together, the intimate relation is never disturbed; even over the feeding cup there is no quarrelling. They stand highest in this respect among birds. Love tokens are exchanged by pressing of beaks together—a veritable kissing accompanied by loving gestures. They are also more sociable, and even at nesting time more peaceable than other birds. In the case of other grosbeaks, when the male bird sits by the female in the nest, there are various demonstrations of affection, but also slight occasional disputes, especially about feeding time. Next in order come the small parrots, which also appear almost inseparable. The male bird feeds his companion with seeds from his crop. This goes on quite regularly during the hatching, and until the young are somewhat grown. During all this time the hen bird, which broods alone, never leaves the nest but for a few minutes, and the cock shows such affectionate care that the whole day he seems to do nothing but take food and give it again. Yet even this loving union is marred from time to time, even during the hatching time, with quarrels that even come to blows. Again, the male bird of a pair of chaffinches only occasionally sits on the eggs or young, but he watches the nest very carefully, singing to his mate the while, accompanying the hen in her flight, and helps her in feeding the young.—Chambers' Journal.

The Evangelist has an interesting letter from Mrs. McFarland, of the Presbyterian Mission, Sioux, giving particulars of the donation of \$1,000 by the King for a new building for her girls' school, which gift was increased to \$2,900 by several of the noble- men.

To think of things above is the beginning of our duty. Nothing can set on the soul but by the medium of thought. If, therefore, we would work ourselves to a proper zeal for things above, it is necessary that we should allow ourselves stated seasons of thinking on them, and then the most desirable things will certainly move us in a suitable degree.—Dr. Young.

The Expense of Warfare.

According to a little tract published recently by the London Peace Society the armaments of Europe in the present year are:

Table with columns: Army, Footing, Navy, Tons. Rows: Russia (European), Germany, France, Austria, Italy, Great Britain.

It will be seen that the total strength of the regular trained soldiers of Europe amounts to nearly 6,000,000; or having regard to the fact that the whole adult population of the nations of Europe, except Great Britain, is liable to be called to take arms, the total military force may be estimated at from 8,000,000 to 10,000,000. The lesser number equals the whole of the adult and efficient population of the British islands. It has been pointed out that if only one-half of the present excessive armies of Europe were disbanded at least 8,000,000 men of from twenty to thirty-five years of age would be restored to productive labor, and \$800,000,000 of money saved from oppressive taxation. The tract before us contains a table enumerating the wars between 1858 and 1877, and the loss of life they occasioned. There were killed in battle or died of wounds and diseases, 750,000 men in the Crimean war, 45,000 in the Italian war of 1859, 8,000 in the war of Schleswig-Holstein, 800,000 in the American civil war, 45,000 in the Prussian war of 1866, 155,000 on the French side, and 60,000 on the German, in the Franco-German war of 1870-71, which with other smaller affairs, brought the total slain to 1,048,000 during twenty-five years. These wars are not less costly in money than they are in lives, as the following figures will show:

Table with columns: War Name, Amount. Rows: Crimean war, Italian war of 1859, American civil war, etc.

This calculation excludes the allied expedition against China, the Indian mutiny, and the Abyssinian and Ashantee campaigns. These items may be included in the General expenditure of Great Britain upon war debt, and warlike preparations since 1851, which amounts to the large sum of \$6,828,168,995. It is estimated that the enormous sum given in the foregoing table would, if divided, allow about \$10 for every man, woman and child on the habitable globe. It would make two railways round the world at the rate of \$250,000 a mile. It would provide a freehold farm of 100 acres in this country to each of the 50,000,000 of adult males in Europe.

Broken Promises.

Children, never break your promises! And to this end never make a promise that you are not sure you can fulfil. You may think it a trifling matter to make an appointment with a friend or agree to do a certain thing, then to fail to "come in time;" but it is assuredly not a small affair. If you get in the habit of neglecting to make good your promises, how long, do you think, will your friends and acquaintances retain confidence in you? The nearest and dearest of them will in time learn to doubt you, and will put little faith in your words.

There is a way of half-meeting one's obligation, which might be called "hending" a promise, which is also a very bad practice, and should be carefully avoided. For instance, you agree to meet a person at a certain time, but instead of being punctual you "put in appearance" several minutes, perhaps an hour after time; or you promise to do something for a friend, and only partially perform the duty. You may not have exactly broken your promise, but you have certainly bent it, which is almost, if not quite as bad. Keep your promises to the letter, be prompt and exact, and it will save you much trouble and care through life, and win for you the respect and trust of your friends.—The Methodist.

MORNING D. CONWAY the correspondent of The Cincinnati Commercial, says of the Pan-Presbyterian Council. "If it were not unfair to estimate a denomination by its picked men from all parts of the world—three hundred selected out of twenty millions—one might say that the Presbyterian ministry would rank any other. It has been a strange enjoyment to sit from day to day and from evening to evening and listen to the affluent eloquence, the ready wit, the charming anecdotes playing amid these sombre oaken wainscots. The oratory is all the finer because it is simple and comes out of the hearts of earnest men. Wherever the hypocrites are, they are not here. These men have a conception of the universe which fills me with wonder. They love a God which to the unCalvinized eye is not lovely; they adore an arbitrary will; but they feel and believe it all, and I believe their faith and learning together would move the world, were the world built their way. There are dividers opinions as to the Country which merits the palm for eloquence. It is easy to see that the popular suffrage would go in favour of America. The popular delight, the ecstasy almost, with which the American preachers are welcomed and applauded is something memorable. Whenever Dr. Stuart Robinson rises you can hear a pin fall. Then presently there is such an ebullition of applause, or such a roar of laughter, that you can hardly hear what the speaker says. . . Dr. Adams, Dr. Hall, Dr. Faxon, of New York, all have their admirers, who pronounce them the most eloquent man living. But the professors and preachers, whether American or Scotch, are rather inclined, I think, to admire the passionate eloquence of the best Continental preachers, especially the French. And of these the man who has made the finest impression is Dr. Godet, of Neuchâtel, long known for his commentaries on St. Luke and St. John. Godet has made one speech in his own language, French, which could hardly be surpassed for beauty and pathos."

Drinking Water.

The quantity of water we need in the form beverage depends greatly on the nature of the other substances we consume as food. With a dietary composed largely of succulent vegetables and fruit, a very little of any kind of beverage is required. Much, also, depends on the manner in which the food is cooked—whether in the case of animal food, the natural juices of the flesh is retained in it or not. Much, too, will depend on those atmospheric and other conditions which determine the amount of fluid lost by evaporation from the surface of the body. The sensation of thirst is the natural warning that the blood wants water. I may here remark, incidentally, that it is not a wise custom to take excessive quantities of any fluid, even simple water with our food, for by so doing we dilute too much the digestive juices, and so retard their solvent action on the solid food we have consumed. A draught of fluid, however, toward the end of digestion, is often useful in promoting the solution and absorption of the residuum of this process, or in aiding its propulsion along the digestive tube. Hence the custom of taking tea a few hours after dinner, of seltzer or soda water a little before bed time.

MONSIGNOR CAPEL, an earnest and eloquent Romish preacher of London, has been delivering a series of lectures on "Spiritual Jurisdiction." He stated his reasons for undertaking them, and in doing so said he was lecturing not only for the benefit of the "Catholic" Church in England, but also for the benefit of the High Church and Ritualistic party. After criticizing the position of this party, which he said was inconsistent, he stated that a great number held the Seven Sacraments, and thus far were correct. They were, however, without the pale of the Church, and were necessarily in an unsaved condition. He then defended and justified himself for taking an interest in the Ritualists by the illustration, that if any one saw a person taking poison he was called on, nay, bound to interfere in endeavoring to prevent what would result in the loss of life. He said he loved them because they, of all others, whatever they might think and say to the contrary, were doing the work of the Roman Catholic Church in England; and that out of every six who were brought to accept the dogmas of the Church, and unite themselves with her, five were from the Established Church of the country. Indeed, he added, how could it be otherwise, for Ritualistic teaching conducted to the very door of the Catholic Church, and when there, it was not surprising if they took the one step needed, and accepted the substance instead of the shadow, and owned allegiance to one bishop instead of a hundred, and one Pope instead of many. Monsignor Capel's plainness should certainly open the eyes of the English people to the Romanizing character of the teaching of thousands of the clergy of the National Church, and demand its disestablishment at once.

FITS! FITS! FITS! FITS! CURE OF EPILEPSY OR FALLING FITS BY HANCOCK'S EPILEPTIC PILLS. Persons suffering from this distressing malady will find Hancock's Epileptic Pills to be the only remedy ever discovered for curing it. The following certificate should be read by all the afflicted: A MOST REMARKABLE CURE. St. Louis, Mo., Dec. 1st, 1876. Sir: I received from you last September a very pale and delicate looking child, and had Epileptic Fits for about four years, and seeing your Pills advertised in the Christian Instructor, I sent you and got two boxes of them, and he has not had a fit since he commenced taking them; he has been exposed to all changes of weather in the line to school and on the farm, and he has not had a fit nor a symptom of one since he commenced taking your Pills. He learns well at school, and his mind is clear and quick. I feel that you are not sufficiently paid for the service and benefit you have been to us in restoring our child to health. I will cheerfully recommend your Pills to every one I hear of that is afflicted with an Epilepsy. Please send me some of your circulars, so that I can send them to any that hear of it that is afflicted in this way. Respectfully, etc. LEWIS THORNBURG. Sent to any part of the country by mail, free of postage, on receipt of a remittance. Price one box, \$3. Two, \$5; twelve, \$27. Address—SETH S. HANCOCK, 108 Baltimore St., Baltimore, Md. Please mention where you saw this advertisement.

Alexander & Stark STOCK BROKERS. (Members of the Toronto Stock Exchange). LOANS MADE AND EXISTING MORTGAGES PURCHASED. Orders for sale or purchase of Stocks, Shares, etc., promptly attended to. 10 KING STREET EAST, TORONTO.

GALT COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE.

Each Department in charge of an experienced Graduate. Every facility afforded to those preparing for Examinations. With a single exception no one from it has ever failed in passing his examinations successfully.

HAMILTON COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE. SPECIAL FEATURES OF THE SCHOOL ARE: (1) Large classes organized for those reading for the Universities, Professional Examinations, and for Teachers' Certificates. (2) Departments taught by University men, who are specialists in the subjects which they teach. (3) Full staff of masters; of the fourteen teachers, eight are University men. (4) Thorough equipment for carrying on the work. For record and Circular apply to GEORGE DICKSON B.A., Headmaster.

CONFEDERATION LIFE ASSOCIATION. Head Office, Toronto. PRESIDENT, HON. W. F. HOWLAND, C.B. VICE-PRESIDENTS, HON. WM. McMASTER, WM. ELLIOT, Esq. The following Statement shows the relative progress of Canadian Life Insurance Companies in their FIRST FIVE YEARS: Canada Life, etc. No. of Policies in Force, Amount in Force. Confederation Life, 2,781 4,604,089. Comparison with the business of the Canada Life at the end of its FIRST FIVE YEARS, namely from 1847 to 1856: Confederation—5 years, 2,781 4,604,089. J. K. MACDONALD, Managing Director.

Recent Publications.

LIFE OF THE REV GEORGE WHITEFIELD, by the Rev. L. Tysman, 2 vols., with portraits. HISTORY OF OBHIVITAN THEOLOGY IN THE LAST AGE, from the French of R. Reuss, volume 1, by the Rev. F. X. AMID, by Piazzi Smyth, Astronomer Royal, Scot., new edition, with plates. 5 00 LETTERS OF THOMAS BRIBBN OF LINCOLN, edited by Wm Hanna, D.D. 2 25 STUDIES ON THE NEW TESTAMENT, by F. Godet, D.D., edited by the Hon. and Rev. W. H. Litchford. 2 00 SEEKERS AFTER GOD, by the Rev. F. W. Farrar, D.D. 1 75 THE PROPHETS OF CHRISTENDOM; sketches of eminent preachers, by W. Boyd Carpenter, M.A. 1 25 RECOLLECTIONS OF THE HIGH CHURCH by H. S. Brooke, D.D. 1 35 THE BLASTIVE GRAVES OF SCOTLAND, by Rev. John H. Thomson, D.D. 1 00 PERSONAL VISITS TO THE GRAVE OF EMINENT MEN, by Rev. Jas. Bardsley, General Beckwith, His LIFE AND LABOURS AMONG THE WALDENSES OF PIEDMONT, by J. P. McKim. 1 00 DISCOURSES BY THE LATE REV. JOHN SMART, D.D. OF LEITH, with memoir by the Rev. James Harper, D.D. 1 75 GLIMPSES OF THE INNER LIFE OF OUR WALKER IN CANADA, by John Ashworth. 1 00 VERITY AND VALUE OF THE MIRACLES OF CHRIST, by Thomas Cooper. 75 Mailed post free on receipt of price. JOHN YOUNG, Upper Canada Tract Society, 102 Yonge Street.

Dresden Hall.

CLEVERDON AND MARTIN. IMPORTERS. 12 and 14 King Street, West, Toronto. We are now showing at low prices, our large and varied stock of CHINA, GLASS AND EARTHENWARE. In all qualities, at our extensive and elegant show. Parties furnishing will do well to call and examine our stock. We offer to the Trade 150 crates White Granite ware at close prices for cash or short credit. \$86 a week in your own town. Terms and \$5 out at free. H. HALLETT & CO., Portland Maine.

GUELPH Sewing Machine Co.

THE OSBORN SEWING MACHINES having been awarded MEDALS, DIPLOMAS & CERTIFICATES from the Judges At the Centennial at Philadelphia, may be taken as confirmatory of the judgment of the highest Canadian Exhibition, where the Osborn has long been awarded First Position. We sell it a trial. Every Machine warranted fit for the best or heaviest goods. Agents wanted where none have been appointed. WILKIE & OSBORN, Manufacturers, Guelph, Canada.

MADAME FOY'S CORSET SKIRT SUPPORTER

And for HEALTHY COMFORT & STYLE, it is acknowledged the BEST ARTICLE of the kind ever made. For sale by all leading jobbers and retailers. Beware of imitations and infringements. MADE AND SOLD SOLELY BY FOY & HANCOCK, New Haven, Conn.

NERVOUSNESS.

Dr. Caulier's Specific, or French Remedy, for Nervous Debility, etc., Attended with any of the following symptoms:—Disturbed Digestion; Loss of Appetite; Lass of Flesh; Faint, Nervous, or Heavy Sleep; Inflammation or Weakness of the Kidneys; Troubled Breathing; Failure of Voice; Irregular Action of the Heart; Eruptions on the Face and Neck; Headache; Affections of the Eyes; Loss of Memory; Sudden Flushings of Heat and Blushings; General Weakness and Indolence; Aversion to Society; Melancholy, etc. Clergymen, Physicians, Lawyers, Students, and persons whose pursuits involve great MENTAL ACTIVITY, will find this preparation most valuable. Price \$1; Six Packets for \$5. Address JOS. DAVIDS & CO., Chemists, Toronto, (Sole Agents for the above preparation.)

Chapel Anthems

By Dr. J. B. HENBERT, assisted by the best writers of the day. Anthems for Choirs, Conventions, Singing Classes, &c. As a copy is mailed on receipt of retail price, \$1.25. Liberal discount on quantities.

SONGS OF P. P. BLISS.

A collection of about forty of the best and most popular Songs, Duets, Quartets, &c. secular and sacred, by the late P. P. Bliss. Contains also a fine portrait of P. P. Bliss and sketch of his life. Edited by Wm. G. Murray. Price, words and music, 50 cts.; in cloth, \$1.00. 25 cts. in 100 boards, 55 cts. or \$3.00 Words only, 6 cts. per hundred. Sold by most book and music dealers, or mailed on receipt of price. See Catalogues of sheet Music and Music Books sent free. S. Brainard's Sons, Pub'rs, Cleveland, O.

D. S. KEITH & CO.

PLUMBERS, GAS & STEAM FITTERS & FOUNDERS AND FINISHERS. Manufacturers of PETROLEUM GAS WORKS. Engineers and Plumbers' Brass Work, &c., Conservatory and Green House Heating. Importers and Wholesale Dealers in Iron and Lead Pipes and Plumbers' Materials. 100 KING STREET WEST, TORONTO.

CANADA STAINED GLASS WORKS

ESTABLISHED 1856. Ecclesiastical and Domestic Stained Glass Windows executed in the best style. BANNERS AND FLAGS PAINTED TO ORDER. JOSEPH McCAUSLAND PROPRIETOR. 8 King Street West, Toronto.

British American Presbyterian FOR 1877.

TERMS—\$2.00 per annum in advance. Postage prepaid by Publisher. Efforts will be made during the coming year to make the PRESBYTERIAN increasingly attractive and useful to the large constituency it aims to represent. To this end the Editorial staff will be strengthened; a larger variety of Missionary Intelligence will be furnished by Dr. Fraser, Formosa; Rev. J. Fraser Campbell, and Rev. James Douglas, India; and special papers are expected from the following gentlemen:— Rev. Dr. Waters, St. John, N.B. Rev. Prof. Bryce, M.A., Winnipeg, Ma. Rev. Principal McVicar, L.L.D., Montreal. Rev. John Cook, D.D., Quebec. Rev. Prof. Gregg, M.A., Toronto. Rev. John Laing, M.A., Dundas. Rev. Prof. McKerr, M.A., Kingston. Rev. W. D. Ballantyne, B.A., Pembroke. Rev. G. M. Grant, M.A., Halifax, N.S. Rev. W. Houston, M.A., Bathurst, N.B. Rev. Geo. Bruce, M.A., St. Catharines. Rev. John Galloway, Pittsburg, O.; etc., etc. Rev. Alexander McKay, D.D.

The Sabbath School Lessons will be continued; and increased attention will be paid to the question of Prohibition now happily growing on the public mind. All matters affecting the interests of our Church shall have prompt and careful attention; and the legislation likely to come before next General Assembly will be fairly discussed, and the bearing on the future of Presbyterianism in the Dominion duly examined. We invite the cordial co-operation of ministers, elders, and people generally to aid in extending the circulation of the PRESBYTERIAN. Much has been done in this way already; but much still remains undone. Our circulation is now 6,000; there is no good reason why it should not be 16,000. If each of our present subscribers will only send us ANOTHER NAME we shall at once reach 12,000; and then to get the remainder will be a comparatively easy matter. Friends, help us in this particular. Remittances and Correspondence should be addressed to C. BLACKETT ROBINSON, Publisher and Proprietor. P. O. Drawer 2484, Toronto, Ont.

\$12 a day at home. Agents wanted. Outfit and terms free. TRUE & CO., Augusta, Maine.

Sabbath School Presbyterian FOR 1877.

Notwithstanding the almost insurmountable difficulties in the way of getting our Sabbath Schools to even introduce the S. S. PRESBYTERIAN, we have resolved to continue the publication for another year, believing that superintendents and teachers will ere long see the justice and propriety of making room among the numerous papers usually ordered—for a few copies of a monthly got up especially for our own schools. It is true that we have not by any means reached our ideal of what such a paper should be; but marked improvements will be made in the next volume. In order to insure an interesting quantity of reading matter the paper will be placed in charge of a gentleman in every way competent to conduct such a publication; the illustrations will be more numerous; and the issues of the periodical earlier and more regular than in the past. Last year we promised letters from the Rev. J. Fraser Campbell; but he only left a couple of months ago, so that it was impossible to redress this promise. Now, Mr. Campbell and Mr. Douglas will (D.V.) write during the coming year, and Dr. Fraser, who is already so well and favourably known to our young readers, will continue his valuable contributions. Ministers and superintendents are earnestly invited to forward their orders without delay, so that we may know in good time the number to be printed for January.

TERMS. Single Copies, 25 cents per Vol. Twenty Copies and under, \$5. In Parcels over Twenty, \$5. Postage prepaid. Subscribers must be paid invariably in advance. Specimen copies to any address on application. THE paper is good, and both printing and illustrations are well executed.—London Advertiser.—"Very much needed by the Presbyterian Societies of our country."—J. E. Hunt, North Zealand.—"It should certainly meet with a wide circulation."—Rev. Wm. Brewster.—"The children of the Church should have a Sabbath School paper of their own."—N. and F. Record. Address, C. BLACKETT ROBINSON, Publisher and Proprietor, Drawer 2484, Toronto, Ont.