

Sparks From Other Anvils.

Presbyterian Journal: Those who regard complaining as a sin are themselves the worst offenders. They complain because they are complained to. The reason is they do not wish to share in another's evil fortune. The crumb-comfort of attention they would deny the hungry.

Herald and Presbyter: The spirit which leads one to rest after weeks of worldliness is no more piety than an ordinary attack of spring fever. It is no more real Scriptural fasting than the abstinence of one who so gorges himself one day that he is distressed and without appetite the next. It makes a show of the service, which is contrary to our Savior's command.

Presbyterian Witness: There are 450,000,000 of the human race still without a sentence of the Holy Scriptures in their languages—still wandering blindly without the light of God's truth.

Christian Intelligencer: However much as Americans we may remember the traditional friendship of Russia, may admire the personal character of the Czar, and sympathize with the very proper aspiration for an open port, we cannot but wish victory may come in the present conflict to the Sunrise Kingdom, the nation of the East which has been the first to welcome the civilization of the West.

Sunday School Times: True religion can be exposed to the weather. It is not damaged by people's marrying, or going into business, or taking a vacation. And it can not only stand all kinds of exposure to the matter-of-fact world, but it is benefited by it. A sanctity that has to be coddled is not of the apostolic kind. The religion which God has sent is meant to fit into the world, which God has made. We must stand in our lot, as well as kneel in our closet.

United Presbyterian: We are told the world is growing worse. If so, there is more need of the good man. The darker the world the more need for the light. The more souls there are to save the greater will be the harvest for the gleaner. The husbandman is not discouraged because the opportunities for reaping are great. The larger the field the greater the yield. Therefore, with diligence, let the reaper do his work.

In God's School.

Sooner or later we find out that life is not a holiday, but a discipline. Earlier or later we will discover that the world is not a playground. It is quite clear that God means it for a school. The moment that we forget that, the puzzle of life begins. We try to play in school. The Master does not mind that so much for its own sake, for he likes to see his children happy; but in our playing we neglect our lessons. We do not see how much there is to learn, and we do not care. But our Master cares. He has a perfectly overpowering and inexplicable solicitude for our education; and because he loves us he comes into the school sometimes and speaks to us.

But resignation to what? Some dark fate with dumb lips and eyes that are inscrutable? No, but to a kind and gracious Father. That is the sum of all.—*Thomas Edward Brown.*

God loves you not because you are clever, not because you are good, but because he is your Father.—*Andrew Murray.*

Our Young People

April 13. Victories Through Christ.

Some Bible Hints.

It is Christ who, in His resurrection, proved to us our immortality (v. 53). Philosophy gives us only "imitations of immortality."

To the Christian, "Death is swallowed up in victory" (v. 54). The very fear of death has become part of the body of a triumphant joy.

The only way to get a victory over death is to allow Christ to have the victory over you (v. 57).

Our work here is only the beginning of an endless and glorious work with Christ as our Master. If we begin with Him here, we shall go on with Him there (v. 58).

Suggestive Thoughts.

There is no battle that Christ has not fought successfully, and so there is no battle that may not be fought successfully by those that dwell in Christ.

Every one has enemies stronger than he is; no one has enemies stronger than Christ is.

No one that fears death is quite his own; that fear has part of the mastery that belongs to Christ.

No one will get the victory over the fear of physical death till he entertains a vastly greater fear of spiritual death.

A Few Illustrations.

Christ's "Follow me" is like a general waving his sword and commanding a charge. We follow not for a stroll but for a battle.

Our faith in Christ is like the sleeping-car running from Boston to Washington, which is ferried over the dark river while the passengers are unconscious in quiet slumber.

Classic fables tell of fairy swords given to great warriors, swords which are invincible in battle. We have such a sword—the Sword of the Spirit, the Word of God.

If we are victorious in Christ, none the less, also, is Christ victorious through His obedient church—as an army is victorious in its general and a general through his army.

To Think About.

Am I satisfied with a Christian life without victories?

Am I trusting in an arm of flesh to win my victories?

Am I allowing myself to be weakened by the fear of death, or any fear?

A Cluster of Quotations.

Triumphant over evil,

Triumphant over loss,

With Thee, Redeemer of the world,

Thy saints accept the Cross.—*Sangster.*

Trust in the risen Saviour—that is the belief that saves the world.—*Robertson.*

Death to a good man is but passing through a dark entry out of one little dusky room in his Father's house into another, that is fair and large, lightsome and glorious.—*Adam Clarke.*

Union Meetings Worth Holding.

Try the plan of allowing each society in turn to get up a union meeting, planning the topics, and obtaining the speakers.

Try an experience meeting, in which every speaker (and have many of them) shall speak out of his own personal experiences of the Christian life.

Try a meeting based upon local history—the interesting events in the history of your own town or county, with the lessons to be learned from them.

Try a reform meeting with addresses by well-informed speakers on all the great reforms of the day.

Try an "up-to-date" meeting, discussing recent national and international events, with the lessons to be learned from them.

Try an evening given up to Christian Endeavor history, dividing the time among as many speakers as the society is years old, and getting each speaker to tell the most interesting things he can learn about his year.

Prayer.

We yield thee hearty thanks, O Lord our God, for thy great goodness to us. Mercifully assist us in every duty each one of us has to do, and vouchsafe to be our Companion every day, from morning to night and night to morning; that we may love thy presence and walk in it vigilantly, and, being delivered from all errors and adversities, may joyfully serve thee in all godly quietness; and grant us thy peace all the days of our life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.
—Selects d.

Daily Readings.

Mon.,	Mar. 28.—Moses taught a resurrection.	Luke 20: 34-38.
Tues.,	" 29.—Job hoped for it.	Job. 19: 25-27.
Wed.,	" 30.—David expected it.	Ps. 16: 9-11.
Thurs.,	" 31.—Daniel rejoiced in it.	Dan 12: 2, 3.
Fri.,	Apr. 1.—The Pharisees held to it.	Acts 23: 6-9.
Sat.,	Apr. 2.—Christ taught it.	John 6: 39, 40.
Sun.,	Apr. 3.— <i>Tobit—Our victories through Christ.</i>	1 Cor. 15: 50-58. (Easter Morning.)

Says the Christian Standard: To-day there are some four hundred million of people in the world who profess faith in Christ. They are divided into hundreds of differing sects, and are dispersed among all nations and tongues. Several of these older sects have been in existence from soon after the days of the apostles to the present time. It is a remarkable fact that all these churches agree in one thing, viz: they all regard Sunday as the Lord's day, in honor of the resurrection. While they differ on almost everything else, they all agree in this. A couple of small sects in recent days, so small as to be hardly noticeable, are the only exceptions to the rule. This great fact can be explained only in one way, viz: the keeping of the day must have begun with the very beginning of the church, before any divisions of the believers occurred.

We cannot expect Christ to carry our sorrows if we continue to carry them ourselves. We go to him with our trials, as he requests us to do; but how often, instead of leaving them there, we bring them away on our own shoulders, and then wonder why we find so little consolation in our religion. We are not merely to indicate to the Lord what our heart-aches are, but to "cast our burdens upon" him. We then have the promise of sustaining grace.

This idea of the divine fatherhood goes down so deep into the human heart that it becomes the source of a childlike obedience, trust, submission, patience, hope and love.—*James Freeman Clarke.*