

soul to Christ be an everlasting union, the farthest possible remove from the caprices and criminally reserved rights of free love, coquetting with Christ to-day and the world to-morrow. Ye who fully purpose an eternal wedlock with Christ for better or for worse, approach the glorious Bridegroom in the utmost confidence that He will array you in a robe of clean linen, and present you unto Himself as his faultless bride, with exceeding joy,—joy in his own bosom, joy thrilling your spirit, and gladdening all the angels who witness the nuptials.—*Advocate of Holiness.*

A FREE SALVATION.



HAT encouragement there is to come for pardon to a throne of grace! Whatever thy state may be, thou need'st not hold off. Though thy sins be as scarlet, if thou come to Christ, they shall be made "white as wool." The greatest of sinners are invited. Can any sin be so great as to overtop the value of Christ's blood? Oh! there is not so much vileness and wretchedness in the sinful heart of man, as there is grace and goodness and virtue in Christ. There is no disease so bad that He cannot cure. Let me be as bad as I can be, there is no reason out of the Word of God why I should not come to Christ for salvation. He puts none back. His proclamation is—"Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money, come ye, buy wine and milk, without money and without price." "Whosoever will, let him come." What wouldst thou have more? The invitation cannot be plainer. If then thou art not saved, it is plain thou hast no wish for salvation; for if thou hast a will, thou hast a warrant.

Say not, "I would come, if I had so much humiliation and so much faith," for that were to make a bargain with Christ. If God were to say, "You must love Me, and I will pardon you," that were an exchange, not a free gift. Away with such a thought! Whosoever will, let him come. Christ keeps open house. Whosoever comes to Him, He will not shut out. If thou hast a heart to come to Him, He has a willing heart to receive thee. As it was with the prodigal son, his father does not wait till he comes to him, but he runs to meet him. So God is swift to have mercy upon us, though we come slowly on towards Him. However great the bulk and burden of thy sins, thou need'st not be discouraged. All ye that are heavy-laden, and feel the burden of sins, are invited by Christ. Let not Satan then, cheat you out of the comfort of this word. If Christ would make thy sins as the latch to open the door, and let Himself in, take care that thou dost not make them a bolt to shut Him out. Let thy wound be ever so great, thou hast a warrant to come to be cured. When blind Bartimeus heard the word, "Lo! Jesus calleth thee," he flung aside his garments, and came to Him. So let nothing keep thee back. Haste then to this city of refuge, and thou shalt be safe.

But God doth not only give thee leave to come; He commands thee to come. "And this is the commandment, that we should believe on the name of His Son Jesus Christ." If a man should say, "May I love my neighbour? would you not think him a fool? He is commanded to do so. So if a soul say to me, 'May I trust in Jesus?' I reply, Thou art commanded to do so. The same commandment that bids thee love thy brother