

low to emphasize the grand old doctrines of our faith which our fathers so loved, as to seal them with their blood,—the absolute separation of church and state, liberty of conscience, the sovereign authority of the Word of God, in all matters of faith and practice, a regenerated church membership, believers' baptism, the headship of Christ in the church. If indeed we are stewards of the truth, then we are called upon to propagate the truth and not as the unfaithful man to whom the one talent was committed, to wrap the great doctrine of our spiritual life in the knapskin of our indolent enjoyment and bury them under the soil of our sloth. Is there any relation between the spiritual death that to an unfortunate degree prevails among us and a hesitating fidelity in dealing with the truth? It is only as we honor our Master by unqualified devotion to Him and His Word, that He can bestow upon us his choicest blessings.

In whatever way we view the Christian's mission the all-pervading importance and the sublimity of truth come ever before us. Do we think of the work of seed sowing to which we are set? The seed is the Word of God. Its value will consist in its purity. Some time ago a complaint was made in the British House of Commons, that a great deal of worthless clover seed was being sold from which not more than one grain in a hundred sprang up. The poor seed was prepared by a process called "doctoring" and so closely resembled the pure article that more than ordinary scrutiny was required to detect the fraud. Preaching that does not set forth the doctrine of eternal life in their native purity and simplicity is worthless. It may resemble the truth, but it has no virtue. Only the pure word—the seed of the kingdom—gives rise to the peaceable fruits of righteousness.

Do we think of Christianity as the great life-lifting institution? Then the Christian stands before us commissioned to bring the life-saving Gospel into touch with human hearts. Though our words should meet the utmost popular favor, nothing will save the world but the truth as it is in Jesus. Our Saviour is the Word made flesh. He is the truth. Man needs uplifted before him the crucified and risen Lord. A celebrated English surgeon was once asked by the leading practitioner of Paris, how many times he had performed a certain difficult feat of surgery. He replied that he had conducted the operation thirteen times. "I," said the Frenchman "have done him one hundred and sixty times." In answer to further enquiry the Englishman said that he had saved life eleven times out of the thirteen. When asked how many lives he had saved out of the one hundred and sixty, the French surgeon could only say, "ah, Monsieur, I lose dem all, but the operation was very brilliant." It is not brilliancy we seek; our one aim should be the elevation of the race through the use of the divine means committed to us. Fidelity to the means alone can bring the highest results. Whenever the messenger is faithful to the message, lives are saved though the operation may not attract the applause of the multitude.

Do we think of the life of the servant of God as a warfare? As we fight the good fight of faith we are to take in our hand, the "Sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God."

Do we think of the pilgrimage of the child of God? Then consider the magnificent scenery that enchants us on the way from earth to heaven, in the panorama presented by truth to our view.—The mountains of the foreknowledge of God with their foundations established forever in the eternal throne, and their peaks rising in splendor sublime into the firmament of the glory of God, far beyond the penetration of the unaided human intellect; the great sea of providence; the giant boulders of divine promise; the inviting fields of revelation; and in the midst the river that makes glad the city of God; while every fresh experience adds new delight to the sublimity of the view.

The noblest treasure heaven could commit to stewards of earth, is truth. It is the most sublime instrument that man can wield. The life can be noble only as truth is firmly held yet generously offered to the world.

While thus you hold the truth,
Yet seek to make it known;
When true to God as stewards,
You make His life your own.

Faithful stewardship brings the truest joys. Due recognition of the claims of God in all our relationship and service lead to the truest life. Only such life can have the purest joys. The consciousness of service done for God and thus for humanity brings with it a pleasure free from any tinge of regret, and attended and followed by a holy fragrance. To lift a fellow mortal nearer to the eternal and all-gracious Father through the employment of the means he has lent us gives to the heart a heavenly peace and satisfaction. How happy the thought that we are used by our loving Lord to further the great end for which the Son of God became incarnate! To employ for personal advantage what has been entrusted to us simply as stewards, may bring a temporary exaltation of spirits; but to give ourselves and the equipment that surrounds us to God in loving devotion to Him and His cause, to be ready for service or sacrifice, ensures the unalloyed satisfaction which is akin to the experience of the Saviour "who for the joy that was set before him, endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of throne of God!"

Stewardship involves weighty responsibilities. "Ye are not your own, for ye are bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's." A man may do what he will with his own, but not so with that which is another's. We have nothing that we have not received. Whatever has been committed to us we are under obligation to use to the best advantage. We are not simply to preach the gospel, but we are to preach it as earnestly, as truly, as widely as possible. We are not simply to live for Christ, but we are to live as lovingly, as devotedly, as intensely as we may. We are not simply to give for the advancement of the kingdom of God, we are to give cheerfully, prayerfully, liberally. In everything as stewards, we are to seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness. "Moreover it is required in stewards that a man be found faithful." We are not commanded to be successful as this world counts success, but we are enjoined to be faithful in using every power and opportunity to the extent of our fullest capability for the glory of our

Master. "Be thou faithful unto death and I will give thee a crown of life." Time, talents, money, opportunity,—all these are elements of our stewardship. The Christian is under the obligation imposed by love to him, who gave his holy life for us, to constantly endeavor to employ time, ability, influence, worldly effects and every opportunity to serve our Lord that may present itself, for the upbuilding of our Redeemer's kingdom. "Lost, a gold watch. Finder will please return to owner." That is a mere trifle when compared with the precious moments lost and the opportunities invaluable which we have allowed to slip away. The watch may be recovered; the moments wasted, that opportunity unimproved or misimproved, never. In the words of the great poet:

"So take and use thy work;
Amend what flaws may lurk,
What strain of the stuff, what warpings past the aim!
My times be in thy hand!
Perfect the cup as planned!
Let age approve of youth and death complete the same!"

Stewardship brings with it great and lasting rewards. To one of these—the joy of stewardship—reference has already been made. But the truest, sweetest, purest rewards are yet to be bestowed; "Things which eye saw not, and ear heard not, which entered not into the heart of man, whatsoever things God prepared for them that love him." Any service done to another for Christ's sake is as though it had been rendered to our Lord himself. Even giving a cup of cold water to a disciple in the name of a disciple shall not fail of reward. Inasmuch as ye did it unto one of these, my brethren, even these least, ye did it unto me." True and earnest service for Christ ensures that development of character which is of itself the crown of life; but when before the assembled hosts of the ages, our blessed King shall say to us, "Well done, good and faithful servant, enter thou into the joys of thy Lord," our cup of reward will overflow and it will seem that all we ever did or suffered for our Master is infinitely small in comparison with the crown of eternal glory which his own loving hands shall place upon our brow.

"The best is yet to be,
The last of life for which the first was made;
Our times are in his hand
Who saith, 'A whole I planned,
Youth shows but half; trusted God; see all; nor be afraid!'"

What a wonderful thing it is that we should be entrusted with heavenly treasures! How great is the need that we should be much with our Lord in meditation and prayer, that from his overflowing heart may come to us, inspiration, and courage and direction and grace for the happy fulfillment of our stewardship. In the words that Tennyson put into the mouth of his knightly Arthur:

"More things are wrought by prayer
Than this world dreams of. Wherefore let thy voice
Rise like a fountain for me night and day
For what are men better than sheep or goats
That nourish a blind life within the brain,
If, knowing God, they lift not hands of prayer
Both for themselves and those who call them friend?
For so the whole round earth is every way
Bound by gold chains about the feet of God."

Thus are we bound to him whose we are and whom as steward we serve. And now as steward of this opportunity I desire to lift high to fallen man, Jesus Christ, the only Saviour from sin. The truest, highest life is found only in him. His service is full of blessing. Without him man is neither safe or blessed. His gracious offers to humanity are equalled only by the marvellous results that ever attend his advent into the life. O that men would yield themselves to the loving sway of Jesus Christ.

"Come to the Saviour, make no delay,
Here in our midst he's standing to-day.
Hear now his accents tenderly say,
"Do not delay but come!"

Brethren and Sisters of the Eastern N. S. Baptist Association: Fifty years of associated service lie behind us, the record of which is unalterable. Before us open untold possibilities of nobler efforts to uplift the world for Jesus' sake. In view of the manifold grace of God which has been granted us, in view of the needs of men at our very doors and the piteous wail of the millions, yet in heathen darkness and misery, shall we not to-day as one, pray that anew the Lord may "consecrate us now to his service," that henceforth in his strength, of his manifold grace we may be good stewards. Amen.

Report of Committee on Resolutions

ADOPTED BY THE MARITIME BAPTIST CONVENTION.

Resolved, That the resolution presented by Bro. C. E. Knapp [referring to a refund of succession duties] be referred to the Board of Governors, who have the matter of his resolution already well under consideration, requesting them to continue their action in connection with the other Boards interested.

2. Resolved, That the resolution presented by Rev. J. B. Morgan [having reference to alleged infringement of the school law in the interests of Roman Catholics] be referred to a committee to report to this Convention next year. The committee to consist of Revs. Dr. Steele, J. B. Morgan, S. McC. Black, W. E. McIntyre and J. H. Saunders.

3. Resolved, That we record with pleasure the organization at Winnipeg in July last of the National Baptist Convention, and that we commend the work of this body to the favorable consideration of our people.

4. Resolved, That we place on record our high appreciation of the conduct by Dr. Black of the MESSENGER AND VISITOR, and that we further urge our people liberally to support our denominational paper.

5. Resolved, That we give our hearty endorsement to our educational institutions as fitted in every way to supply the needs of our growing constituency.

6. Resolved, That in the opinion of this Convention the claims of our Telugu field are sufficient to absorb all our energies and means in the direction of Foreign Missions; and we strenuously deprecate the responding to appeals that come to us from alien sources.

7. Resolved, That we commend to the prayerful attention of the Lord's stewards the efforts now being made to raise a Twentieth Century Fund for Home and Foreign Missions.

8. Resolved, That we ask our pastors and churches to give special study, from the point of view of history and the Scriptures to the state of Evangelical religion in the closing year of the century, and to place the results of their study before the public through the press and from the pulpit, with a view to deepening the spiritual life of our people and increasing their devotion to Christ.

9. Resolved that we express our gratitude to the Baptist churches and the other kind friends of Halifax and Dartmouth, who have so courteously entertained us. To the trustees of the North Baptist church for the use of their church building for the use of the Convention. To the choir for the music furnished. To the president, the secretary and his assistants for the services rendered by them. To the preacher of Convention sermon, Rev. S. H. Cornwall, with the request that he will furnish a copy of the sermon to the MESSENGER AND VISITOR for publication. To the press for their efforts to place the proceedings of the Convention fairly before the public.

10. Resolved that we acknowledge the courtesy of the Steamboat and Railway companies in granting reduced fares.

Report on Temperance.

ADOPTED BY THE MARITIME BAPTIST CONVENTION.

If any apology is needed for introducing the subject of temperance into the deliberations of this body, it is furnished by the fact that intoxicating liquor is one of the most powerful foes of the churches. The fathers realized the strength of this enemy, and at much sacrifice, began a warfare against him. It is ours to continue the fight, or prove recreant to a sacred duty.

Your committee is glad to report its conviction that the temperance sentiment among us is comparatively healthy, and that total abstinence is the rule among Baptist churches. But although the evil of intemperance does not directly affect our membership to any great extent, it nevertheless exists as a standing menace to the welfare of the churches, tempting weak members, opposing the influence of the Holy Spirit, blighting life and hope, and sowing a harvest of pain and shame of which the churches are constantly reaping a share.

TEMPERANCE EDUCATION.

The attention of the Convention is called to the importance of temperance education. The injurious effects of alcoholic liquors are taught in our public schools. This is good as far as it goes; but unless it is supplemented by wholesome instruction in the home, the Sunday School, and the pulpit, its practical results will not be great. The temperance societies, which formerly did such noble service in this respect, have, to some extent, degenerated, and it seems indispensable that our members should either determine to work through these organizations as in the past, or to use the church more generally for the dissemination of temperance principles. Your committee endeavored to accomplish something in this way during the year. The churches were urgently invited to observe Temperance Sunday, and there is reason to believe that the response was more or less general. Overtures were also made to the MESSENGER AND VISITOR for a column to be devoted to temperance, the matter to be furnished by the committee. The editor expressed his willingness to publish suitable literature, but, owing to the absence of any plan of supplying the material, nothing of any account was done. It is hoped that an advance step in this direction may be made next year.

And your committee are of opinion that the time has arrived when we as a Christian denomination should urge upon Christian temperance voters the duty of taking a more active part in the initial proceedings in the nomination of candidates in either political party and in demanding that they be not only total abstainers, but men pledged to forward by their vote and influence, if elected, prohibitory legislation, and we record our emphatic protest against any share in a revenue obtained by the manufacture, importation, or traffic in intoxicating liquors.

TEMPERANCE LEGISLATION.

The palpable inadequacy of our temperance laws must be apparent to all who have had to do with their enforcement. The Dominion Parliament has had the subject of improved legislation before it in one form or another for a number of years without making satisfactory advancement towards prohibition of the traffic. In 1898 at the instance of parliament a plebiscite was taken throughout Canada for the expressed purpose of ascertaining whether public opinion was or was not in favor of prohibition. The vote was taken in September of that year, and the result was that a considerable majority of the entire electorate casting their votes on that occasion were in favor of prohibition. Such being the case it followed logically upon general principles that the government should have at once initiated the legislation necessary to carry out the will of the people thus constitutionally expressed, but they declined to take that course, the result being that the clear demand of a majority of those who voted was not complied with; but on the contrary the wish of all those interested in the liquor traffic prevailed.

A FORWARD MOVEMENT.

It is a time of forward movements. Our educational and missionary institutions are endeavoring to forge ahead. There is need of a temperance forward movement. How to instruct our youth in the baneful effects of alcoholic liquor and to pledge them against its use; how to multiply and make effective the means of moral suasion in the communities where we live, so as to have sobriety for Christ's and our brother's sake; how to use our influence so that what is best for the country, and not what is best for party, shall be the prevailing sentiment; how to get the rank and file of our membership to be consistent at the polls; how to dissolve the unholy alliances with the enemy, which now weaken our cause; and how to combine with other Christian citizens in redeeming our country from the curse of intemperance—these and other related questions await an answer. We plead for them the serious consideration, the believing prayer, and the earnest effort of all whom we represent.

In behalf of the Committee
F. H. BRALS.