

on a tree which formerly produced only stunted and worthless fruit. The secret of the change is that a new graft has been introduced into the old tree and has changed its very life. The result is seen in the character of the fruit. A genuine repentance makes so complete and radical a transformation in the hearts of men that it cannot but be manifested in every action of their lives. The new life is the proof, and the only satisfactory proof, that this change has really taken place.

*Obtained help of God, v. 22.* What a simple rule for life, to go to God for help in every time of need! When he is in doubt or want or perplexity, the Christian has the secret of blessing in his hand.

*Small and great, v. 22.* The king and the beggar alike need the same gospel. Nor has God one message for the rich and another for the poor. The church has the mission of proclaiming a universal salvation; and no lines of class, color, language or race are to be drawn. The sympathy of the Christian should embrace the whole world.

*First by the resurrection of the dead should proclaim light, v. 23 (Rev. Ver.)* What a flood of light is thrown upon all the dark problems of life by the resurrection of Christ! Take

the problem of sin. Christ has by His resurrection opened up for us a way to the pardon and peace of God's accepted children. Take the problem of suffering. From the resurrection of Christ we learn that, as even the cross was for Him a stepping stone to the higher glory, so the sufferings of His followers will have their blessed fruit in a joy that shall never end. Take the problem of the future. Beside the Lord's open sepulchre we learn that the grave is, for His people, after all, only a place where they sleep for a brief night, to open their eyes on all the glories of a blessed resurrection morning.

*Most noble Festus, v. 25.* There is no higher distinction than to deserve the name gentleman, and the honor is within reach of all, for it depends not on birth or position or wealth, but on the character we possess and the spirit we manifest.

*Thou wouldst fain make me a Christian, v. 28. (Rev. Ver.)* The man brings contempt on himself who speaks contemptuously of Christ or Christianity. Such speech indicates lack of discernment and of balance. The religion that can make such as Paul is a religion with which all sensible people should reckon seriously.

#### POINTS AND PARAGRAPHS

Men of vision are not visionaries. v. 19.  
Repentance is the first step towards holiness. v. 20.

The messenger may be killed but the gospel is immortal. v. 21.

The help of God gives omnipotence. v. 22.

By His resurrection the suffering Christ became the triumphant Christ. v. 23.

The truest sanity is saintliness. v. 24.

Goodness is made winsome by courtesy. v. 25.

Fuller knowledge brings increased responsibility. v. 26.

Sneering hardens. v. 28.

The only true satisfaction is that of the Christian. v. 29.

When the first workshop was started at the capital of the late Ameer of Afghanistan, in 1886, the Ameer went to inspect the build-

ing, and said he had seen the foundation of what was to be a great event for Afghanistan. "Before these workshops can be finished," he added, "there are three things needed—God's help, my money, men's work."—Illustrative Notes.

"A man would be called an idiot if he were to choose an apple instead of a gold coin, when both were within his reach. This is the case of all wicked men, and much more. When heaven and hell, life and death are set before them they choose hell rather than heaven, death rather than life, the trifling things of earth rather than an inheritance among the saints in light."

Agrippa's reply shows the man of the world, with his ability to parry a home-thrust with a good-humored jest about Paul's "short cut to making Christians," as he put it. "A short way," quoth he, "you are