

**An Inquirer's Difficulty.**



FEW days ago in an inquiry meeting, I met with a remarkably intelligent and well-educated man in the prime of life, who seemed to be in great anguish and sorrow of heart. He was praying earnestly, and this was the burden of his prayer—"O Lord, give me true repentance, give me

the right kind of faith, give me to feel that Thou hast pardoned me."

On rising from our knees I asked him if he thought that God had answered his prayer. He said with a look of great pain in his face, "No, not yet, but I have been told that if I continue praying, and using the means, God will, in his own time, adopt me into his family."

I asked him what he expected God would do for him more than he had already done. With an expression of much surprise at the question he answered, "O, I expect that He will, in answer to my prayers, give me power to believe, and also an inward feeling that I have passed from death unto life."

This is just a modern application of the old story of Naaman the Syrian. "I thought," said he, "he will surely come out to me and stand, and call on the name of the Lord his God, and strike his hand over the place and recover the leper." And so this mighty man, who was perfectly ready to load the prophet with princely gifts, as some equivalent for his cure, turned away disappointed when the simple message was given him "to go, and wash in the river Jordan and he should be clean." And now, there is great disinclination on the part of spiritual lepers to believe that the healing power *has been* given, that all

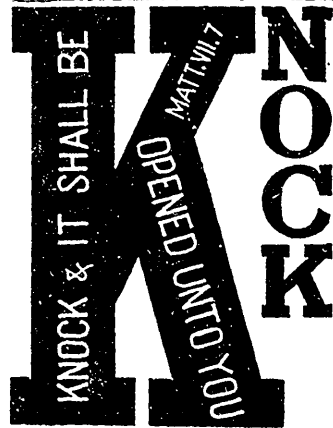
things are ready, that the "gift," not the offer, "of God is eternal life, and this life is in His Son."

This poor burdened soul kept reiterating from time to time the delusive and unscriptural prayer, "Lord, send down from heaven the power to save me," or "Lord give me faith to believe." And now let me tell you how he came into light. After looking in vain for a long time into his own feelings for any warrant to believe he was accepted, I noticed him attending with deepening interest to the setting forth of the plain message of mercy, and while showing him that the good news, or gospel about Christ, is really God's "power unto

salvation to every one that believeth," he seemed to get hold of the idea that the self-same *power* he had been blindly praying for had been all along available for his deliverance.

When I tried to show him that repentance was not mere sorrow, but a change of mind, a "thinking again and thinking the truth," that the simple belief of the true things concerning Christ, would give him a well-grounded peace, because of the certainty that his sins were all answered for, and he himself ransomed by the sacrifice on the cross, he exclaimed with a bright smile, "I see it, I see it; let us kneel down

**THE GOSPEL ALPHABET. No. 11.**



**K**nock and it shall be opened unto you.—Mat. vii. 7.  
**T**o him that **K**nocketh it shall be opened.—1 Luke xi 1.  
**Y**e begin to **K**nock, saying, open to us.—1 Luke xiii. 25.

Knocking! knocking! who is there?  
 Waiting, waiting, oh, how fair!  
 'Tis a Pilgrim, strange and kingly;  
 Never such was seen before;  
 Ah, my soul, for such a wonder  
 Wilt thou not undo the door?

Knocking! knocking!—what, still there?  
 Waiting, waiting, grand and fair!  
 Yes, the pierced hand still knocketh,  
 And beneath the crownèd hair  
 Beam the patient eyes, so tender,  
 Of my Saviour waiting there.

**B**ehold, I stand at the door, and **K**nock.—Rev. iii 20.  
**I**t is . . . my beloved that **K**nocketh.—Cant. v. 2.  
**W**hen he **K**nocketh, they may open unto him.—1 Luke xii 36.

and thank God for such a Saviour."

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"**L**ET me carry you, Tommy," said a father to his little boy, as they came to a rough and difficult part of the road. "Oh, no," said Tommy, "I can manage very well by myself." But by and by he stumbled and fell, "Let me carry you now, Tommy," said his father, as he lifted him. "Oh, yes, father, please." Why will the children of God try to walk in their own strength till they bruise themselves on the rocks of sin, and fall into the mire of iniquity instead of letting the blessed Master carry them in His arms?"