

The Heavenly City.

To what extent must we regard the description of the heavenly city, with golden streets and foundations of jewels, which John gives in Revelation, as figurative?

To this question, appearing in a New York contemporary, Rev. Joseph Hamilton, of Mimico, Ont., a valued contributor to our columns, gives the following suitable answer:

Probably most, if not all these representations in the Apocalypse are figurative. I say so, because we are assured that there has not entered into the heart of man the things that God hath prepared for them that love him. Now, if we cannot conceive of those heavenly realities, it follows that John's description can be no more than figures or suggestions of them. Besides, the descriptions of life in the spiritual world are so different from the conditions of our life here, that we could not possibly be made to understand them until we really enter that other world. As an unborn babe could not be made to understand the conditions of the life it is soon to enter, and as a caterpillar could not possibly be made to understand the butterfly life until it becomes a butterfly, so probably just as little could we in this life be made to understand the conditions of the next life until we enter it.

At the same time, we ought not to depreciate the glorious symbolism of Revelation. Far better to keep the child like mind that accepts those representations as real facts. For they are facts in the best sense, because they are the truest suggestions we can have in this life of heaven's glorious realities. The symbolism then, may safely be taken as reality for the present, as it is the best means we have of nourishing our faith in the unseen "until the day break and the shadows flee away."

The Gospel Offer.

To be a follower of Christ is to be filled with the very joy of salvation; it is to live in the suburbs of the celestial city; it is to walk with Him at whose right hand are pleasures for evermore. He forbids no enjoyment that is pure, no laughter that comes from the clear depths of an unpolluted heart. He takes from us nothing but those misnamed joys which, giving us a moment of intoxication, eat out the heart and life of our manhood, and then punish with the using; and in exchange for these He gives us a peace that passeth knowledge and fills our life with blessedness till our cup runneth over. He not only permits us, He commands us to rejoice evermore! The Christian life is a feast: "Eat, O friends; drink, yea, drink abundantly, O beloved." To this the Spirit and the Bride invite us. Would we have that peace which the world knoweth not, the strength of everlasting arms beneath us in the time of trouble, the hope of life and immortality, a crown that fadeth not, a mansion in the Father's house? Will we have them? Not to say "yes" is to say "no." Delay is refusal.—David James Burrell, D.D.

There is but one "question of the day," and that is the gospel. It can and will correct everything needing correction.—W. E. Gads one.

The Word of God put into the language of a people means the life of God introduced into their circulation.—A. J. Gordon, D.D.

The greatest phenomenon of this century is the passion of men to save humanity, inspired by love of the Lord Jesus Christ.—S. B. Capen, L. L. D.

General Topic—Missions: Promises and Prophecies.—Ps. 2.

BY WM. A. STEWART, M. A.

In the Old Testament the New Testament lies hidden; in the New Testament the Old Testament lies open. How precious therefore is The New Testament! It is not only its own ample interpreter but it affords the key to the Old Testament. Would we know the secret of the Old Testament, in the New Testament that secret lies open. Would we know the secret of the New Testament in the New Testament itself that secret lies open; whilst in the Old Testament it may also be found, although there it lies hidden.

This absolute supremacy of the New Testament is sometimes forgotten, and not infrequently questions are discussed and subjects are viewed from an Old Testament standpoint which ought to be judged of by the clearer and more certain light of the New Testament.

Missions have suffered considerably from this cause. Such promises as those to Abraham about his descendants rivaling the stars in number or the grains of sand by the seashore, and those impassioned descriptions of the progress and ultimate triumph of the righteousness and Kingdom of God, such as Isaiah LX., have long disposed the minds of God's people to believe that the time was at hand when through the agency of its Missions Christianity would sweep over the world carrying all before it like the *hour* over the flats on the Eastern sea board of our Dominion.

But a closer and more loyal study of the New Testament should check such thoughts. Christian Missions are not going to carry all before them, either in India or in China or anywhere else. Shall they succeed better abroad than at home? The New Testament teaches that under the present dispensation at least the element of opposition shall always be present and apparently in increasing force: "In the world ye shall have tribulation." "Behold I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves." But what of that? The order is emphatic and our duty is clear: "Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature." We may not be able in all cases to secure conversions; but we can secure the interest and the attention of all to the wonderful story of God's love. And while that is possible shall we not use every effort to make the most of it? God loves the heathen even as he loves us. Christ died for them and the infinite possibilities of heaven and a glorious eternity are alike for ourselves and our dark-skinned brothers and sisters. For the love of God, for the sake of our perishing kith and kin, let us exert ourselves to the very utmost whilst opportunity affords that their immortal souls may be saved and that Christ may see of the travail of His soul and be abundantly satisfied.

Abraham's promises and Isaiah's dreams shall all receive their complete fulfilment in due time, but that time is not yet. The Kingdom will come with the coming of the King.

L'Amable.

They who tread the path of labor
Follow where my feet have trod;
They who work without complaining
Do the holy work of God.

—Henry Van Dyke, D. D.

Our Young People

Seed Thoughts and Illustrations.

Is it nothing that through the labors of the missionaries in the translation of the Bible, the German philologist in his study may have before him the vocabulary of two hundred and fifty languages?

Who created the science of anthropology? The missionaries.

Who rendered possible the deeply important science of comparative religion? The missionaries.

Who discovered the great chain of lakes in Central Africa, on which will turn its future destiny? The missionaries.

Who have been the chief explorers of Oceanica, America, and Asia? The missionaries.

Who discovered the famous Nestorian monument in Singar Fu? A missionary.

Who discovered the still more famous Moabite stone? A church missionary.

Who discovered the Hitite inscription? A Presbyterian missionary—Dean Farrar.

They tell us that in the great Mohammedan mosque of Damascus, on the lintel-beam of an ancient portal in dimmed letters of Greek, "Thy kingdom, O Christ, is the kingdom of the ages, and Thy dominion is throughout all generations." For more than a thousand years the followers false prophet have passed beneath that word, carved there when the mosque was a Christian church. The while they have dreamed of world-wide conquest. Their dream shall be forever vain. The lines of that trustful inscription shall not wholly fade until Crescent yields to Cross, and Christ is all in all!—L. T. Chamberlain, D. D.

Daily Readings.

Mon.,	May 20.—The Scripture and missions.	Isa. 9: 2-7
Tues.,	" 21.—God's assuring word.	Isa. 60: 1-11
Wed.,	" 22.—The promise of the cross.	John 19: 17-22; Matt. 27: 39-43
Thurs.,	" 23.—Its foreshadowing.	John 13: 5-15
Fri.,	" 24.—The fulfilment through us.	Mark 16: 14-20
Sat.,	" 25.—Thy kingdom coming.	Matt. 16: 27-28; Luke 17: 20-25
Sun.,	" 26.—Topic: Missions: promises and prophecies.	Psalms 2

Prayer.

Our Heavenly Father, we bless Thee for all Thy Bible of love, wide as the heavens and green as the earth in summer-time, and tender as all the songs of love. We bless thee for that inner revelation of the spirit, that sacred ministry which is beyond all words, and too holy for song. O dwell within us, abide with us, soothe us with all the comforting thoughts of Thy Word, stimulate us with all the hopefulness which thou dost bring to bear upon the lives of men who are given to Thee body, soul and spirit. Turn the discipline of Thy rod to the advantage of our souls, save us amid gathering gloom from the darkness of despair. Help us to do every work with earnestness, work in us dislike and detestation of all things evil, and grant us such answers to our prayers in the course of Thy providence as shall assure us that all things are working together for our good. And this we ask in Jesus name, Amen.—Selected.