

The Provincial Wesleyan.

Published under the direction of the Wesleyan Methodist Conference of Eastern British America.

Volume XXIII.

HALIFAX, N. S., WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 9, 1871.

Number 32

DOCTRINAL SKETCHES, No. 15.

SAVING FAITH.

It is impossible that a question of more solemn import, or one more seasonably could be addressed to us, than that which was put by our Lord to the man whom He had just cured of a life-long blindness: 'Dost thou believe in the Son of God?'

'Have we a wicked world surrounding us? This is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.' Unseen forces are marshalled against us; but we are instructed to take unto us the whole armour of God, and 'above all the shield of faith' wherewith we shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

HUMILITY.

A beautiful plant in the garden of God. Modest like the violet, yet attractive and useful. Grows not in human nature's garden, but only in the shade of the Cross. It is fed by the breath of prayer, and soars on the wings of praise. Its odors delight all who come within the range of their influence.

THE DIGNITY OF THE PULPIT.

The noblest avocation pursued by man is that of administering the comforts of religion to wounded hearts, and teaching men by example and precept the way to happiness and heaven. There are many ways in which a minister can exert a wide-extended influence for good.

of God than that of an ambassador of Jesus Christ? We do not believe that there is any place more honorable than the pastorate and we have a strong conviction that it is incomparably in advance of all other positions in bringing true happiness to the soul.

The pulpit has rapidly gained in all the churches, and occupies the first rank. In its encloments it is unquestionably foremost of all church positions, whether in colleges, agencies, editorships, or even the episcopacy.

'Is this the belief which Christian parents commonly entertain on this subject? Doctrinally it is, but practically we apprehend it is not. And this practical error has been and is fraught with immense mischief to the interests of religion in the world.'

FROM THE CENTRAL ADVOCATE.

When my Father and my Mother forsake me then the Lord will take me up. 'PAINT BY MRS. FLETCHER.' One day, my father said to me, 'There is a particular promise which I require of you, that you will never, on any occasion, either now or hereafter, attempt to make your brother who you call a Christian.'

HINTS TO YOUNG CONVERTS.

- 1. Consecrate yourselves to Christ completely. Time, talents, opportunities, powers of body and mind, are all to be given to Him. 2. The grand daily question of life is 'How shall I live?'

member, too, that the life is more powerful than mere words. 'This ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.' Let the two-words and life-agree: so shall your influence be great.

It consisted of two rooms, as yet uncompleted. I had neither candle nor any conveniences. The people of the house had never seen before; only I knew them by character to be sober persons. I borrowed a table and a candlestick, and the window-seat served me as a chair.

A FEARFUL EMERGENCY.

The foundations of a gigantic mill were laid upon the banks of a rapid stream in Western New York; and the men of the little village gathered to raise the massive frame to its place. But after bent was lifted, till the last and heaviest one alone was left. At the word of command, this rose above the strong arms which held the pikes, until it reached what builders call 'the pinch in the beam' beyond which it passes with comparative ease to the vertical position, and there it stopped.

THE BLESSEDNESS OF GIVING.

It is one of the sayings of our Lord, recorded by no evangelist, but quoted by Paul in his speech at Miletus, and thus preserved and handed down to us. 'It is more blessed to give than to receive. Unquestionably the saying has its chief significance in the moral and spiritual influence of giving on the receiver. Many times it brings light into the heart.

FROM THE PITTSBURGH ADVOCATE.

Do the views ordinarily held concerning childhood conversions properly take into account the work of the Holy Spirit? Ye must be born again; is doubtless true of every human being; the natural heart must be renewed by the Spirit's influence in order to the beginning of the Christian life, whether in the child or the adult. But when may this be done? At how early a period? Is it possible during infancy, at the very dawn of the natural life?

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