

professors of holiness, had it been brought before them. The experience in question remained a puzzling one up to the time of our absolute abandonment to Divine guidance.

At that time we were holding special services at an appointment some six miles from the parsonage. Several had commenced to seek salvation, but none had as yet consciously obtained.

On the Friday forenoon, of the second week, we were at prayer for the services, in our study, when suddenly the spirit of prayer came upon us in a remarkable degree. Whilst thus engaged we were called to dinner. Now, it so happened, that a couple of our parishioners had come to visit their pastor and family, and were expecting to dine with us. Here was a question to decide. On the one hand were the claims of the protracted meeting, on the other the claims of courtesy, and the possible spiritual profit of these legitimate visitors.

We decided in behalf of the latter, intending as soon as possible to return to our prayer-closet for continued devotions. But when we essayed to take up prayer where we had broken off, we found that the spirit of prayer had left us and would not return.

At the evening service we had great power and liberty, and a number of fresh ones came out as seekers, but not one obtained conscious salvation. The next day the weather changed so decidedly as to close the meeting. It was the last service of the series. Would not the holiness editors of to-day treat this incident somewhat after the pattern of the above extract? Can anyone give an infallible rule by which one might be safely guided at such trying times? Well might Spurgeon exclaim, in view of such perplexities, "O for an oracle!"

Well, we have found just such an oracle, but we knew the Holy Spirit then only in a limited sense as guide, and yet how small that limitation was may be gathered from the fact that this was the only instance during two years of ministerial work on that field where we followed His guidance with doubtful step, still it was one, and it caused us to realize that there was some want of our being still unmet. We had not then

accepted the Holy Spirit as the one and only law of life, and so were not led into all truth on that occasion.

THE GENERAL CONFESSION.

A subscriber asks the following questions:

"How can the General Confession in the Ritual be repeated every month by any one enjoying full salvation: 'We acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness which we from time to time most grievously have committed, by thought, word, and deed, against Thy Divine Majesty, provoking most justly Thy wrath and indignation against us?'"

We remark:—

1. If the above language is to be taken literally as applying to one who is walking daily in the clear experience of perfect love, it is false.

2. The language of the Confession quoted above was written at a time when it was generally believed that the best of Christians "sinned against God in thought, word and deed every hour." A better day has dawned, and a better ritual could doubtless be prepared, if, indeed, a ritual like that used by Episcopal churches is needed.

3. We do not hesitate to join in repeating the Ritual, nor in singing, "Prone to wander," on the principle that some of the worshippers may find it expressive of their real experience; and we worship not alone for our own comfort, but as one of a great company with varied needs.

4. On general principles we are sinners, we are sinful; we have sinned, and the Confession may refer to the time when we personally needed to make such a confession.

5. The *inadvertent lapses, infirmities and mistakes* of our lives need the cleansing blood, and *confession* of our *weakness and peccability* is most appropriate. Though the language of the Confession may seem strong, yet it is *better to confess too much than too little*. We cannot be too humble when in God's presence, engaged in solemn acts of worship.—*Christian Witness.*

The italics are our own.—ED.

 The above two articles were in type for the last number, but were crowded out.

DISCRETION in speech is more than eloquence.—*Lord Bacon.*