

Dr. Adam Clarke on Prayer.

Dr. Adam Clarke writing on "And He withdrew himself into the wilderness and prayed," says: "He frequently withdrew himself into the wilderness. This I believe to be the import of the original. He made it a frequent custom to withdraw from the multitude for a time to pray; teaching hereby the ministers of the gospel that they are to receive fresh supplies of light and power from God by prayer, that they may be more successful in their work. A man can give nothing unless he has first received it; and no one can be successful in the ministry who does not constantly depend upon God; for the excellency of power is all from Him. Why is there so little done? Because the preachers mix too much with the world; keep too long with the crowd, and are so seldom in private with God. Art thou a herald for the Lord of hosts? Make full proof of thy ministry! Let it never be said of thee: 'He forsook all to follow Christ and to preach the gospel, but there was little or no fruit of his labor, for he ceased to be a man of prayer, and got into the spirit of the world.'—*Sc.*

Titithing a Moral Obligation.

L. H. MCMILLAN.

On every hand in church work will be observed the lack of money quickly available for the various needs of the Church, and one of the most trying things to a faithful pastor is the raising of funds to meet the call of the work. Pastors and evangelists are but poorly paid, current expenses are hard to meet, and the missionary goes begging because of a lack of the money that we believe God intended should be used to glorify Him. Not because of a lack of the means in the hands and under the control of Christians, but because of a failure to give systematically. Festivals, lawn fetes, suppers, and various other ways are employed to raise needed funds, that altogether fail in accomplishing the advancement of the Church. While the money may be obtained in these ways the spirituality of the Church is sapped, strife and bitter feelings are begotten, and God's honor is forgotten. The Lord Himself has given us a rule by which to work. It would look unreasonable for God to give us a Church the maintenance of which required worldly means and not give us any rule to work by; so He gave us the law of the tithe, not as a ceremonial law, but as a moral obligation. The Levitical law of ceremony and sacrifice that prefigured the coming of Christ as a sacrifice for sin was annulled by the sacrifice of Christ, who, "blotting out the hand writing of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross." Not so of the moral law which still continues in effect and will continue until the end of time, and the law of the tenth to be applied to God's cause belongs to the moral law, and was recognized long before Moses' time, as we learn from Gen. 28:22; also Gen. 14:20, to which reference is made in Heb. 7:4. It is not our purpose to enter into detailed proof of the validity of the law of the tithe, but please bear this thought in mind that we are no more free to do as we please in this matter than we are to do as we please in the observance of the Sabbath. Many

Christians are at a loss to know just how much is their duty to give to the cause of God, and many who would by the system of tithing give a good deal to the cause of God do not give anything, thinking that by so doing they would deprive themselves and families of the necessities of life; but God, who so created us that we can do more and better work by resting one day in seven has also arranged things that nine-tenths of our income, after the one-tenth has been sacredly devoted to His cause, will be better for us than the whole appropriated to our own selfish interests. The experience of every one of whom I have ever heard who has, with an honest and true purpose to glorify God, sacredly devoted to him the tenth, has been as prosperous in worldly matters after beginning to tithe as before, and many date the commencement of their earthly prosperity to the time when they began to pay the Lord his tenth, and no one ever suffered spiritually by becoming too formal in the matter of following God's rule of the tithe, but on the contrary it brings us into closer touch with the loving Infinite Father, and awakens an interest in His work and puts forever at rest any uneasiness of conscience in regard to our duties along this line.—*Methodist*.

Central Ohio Conference.

Contracting Debts Without a Probability of Paying.

S. B. SHAW.

The cause of God has been greatly hindered by Christians going in debt with no reasonable probability of meeting their obligations. No man has any moral or legal right to borrow money or contract for property of any kind without some reasonable probability of being able to meet the obligation at a specified time, and yet, many Christians in straitened circumstances, hardly able to secure the necessities of life, will run in debt for many useless and unnecessary things. We have known professed Christians unable to pay their grocery bills and other obligations to spend money for extravagant living, and many times pay out much more than is necessary for clothing, simply to keep up with the fashion. If they would dress plain and practise self-denial, they could keep out of debt. It is better to practice self-denial, and sometimes even to go without the necessities of life, than to go in debt or to deprive others of their lawful rights and thus hinder our influence. Only a short time ago a friend, a professor of holiness, came to us to borrow money to buy carpets, etc., and we found by asking a few questions that this same man was already deeply in debt at the grocery and owed for house rent, and the man had been out of work for several months, and the prospect of meeting his obligations was very unfavorable. We advised them to keep out of debt and to go without carpets until they could pay their obligations.

Another brother in charge of a mission informed us that he owed over \$300.00 for back rent. We advised this brother, rather than bring reproach on the cause, to sell his household goods and everything in his possession rather than to have that debt hanging over his head. All kinds of self-denial should be practiced rather than to cripple the cause of God by not being able to pay. Better live on bread and water.

It is often presumption and not faith that brings so many Christian workers into straitened circumstances and financial embarrassment. The cause of God has often been greatly crippled by the slack and loose way so many professors of religion have in doing business. In closing we wish to mention the fanaticism and presumption that is so many times found among good people. We are well acquainted with a brother that claimed he was called of God to establish a holiness school. He got head over heels in debt. He borrowed all the money he could get from friends, ran in debt for material and for workmen until he got his buildings up, and then hired his teachers, and the whole thing was a complete failure. He had no money of his own to start with and was unable to pay for the building or his teachers, and the mortgage on the property was foreclosed and the floating debt was unprovided for and the cause of holiness was greatly hindered.

We knew another brother that claimed that he was called of God to rent a hall for mission purposes at \$100 per month, and not until after his obligations ran up to several hundred dollars did he discover his mistake and that his supposed guidance of the Spirit was not of God.

God's plan is to pay as you go, "Owe no man anything, but to love one another." If we keep our obligations with God and our fellow men, temporal prosperity will always follow. We have proven by a blessed experience that they that will honor God, God will honor. Our heart is often grieved to find so many professors of religion that are not transparently honest and conscientious in all things. Praying that this article may stir up God's people to do all things with an eye single to God, we remain, your brother in Christian love.

Healed of Long-Continued Lameness.

ORLEANS, MICH., June 2, 1901.

Dear Editor:—Will you kindly publish the enclosed article, cut from the *Belding Star*. The subject of the sketch is my brother. He was saved and healed of the Lord some weeks ago. He is well in every particular. It was truly a wonderful miracle.

There is one mistake in the clipping. He did pray for the healing of his body on the night of his conversion.

My brother was a cigar maker by trade, but after his conversion he gave up his position and has given up the trade for good. He was terribly afflicted, but the dear Lord has forgiven his sins and restored him to perfect health, for which we all praise Him.

Yours in Christ, (MRS.) MARY POSTE.

REMARKABLE CURE.

"Arthur Fitzjohn has been a familiar figure on the streets of Belding for quite a number of years past and has attracted no little attention from the fact that he has been so badly crippled that he could scarcely drag himself along by the aid of crutches or has been compelled to work his passage to and from his labor by means of a wheel chair propelled by his hand. Nine years ago, when about 31 years old, Arthur had a long illness with spinal meningitis which left him in this lamentable condition. But the illness did not entirely do away with his ambition to be self-sustaining, and he has done any kind of manual labor that came with-