

thing as believing God's offer of Christ, and taking Him at His word? Yes, whispered God's Spirit. He knelt down at the bed-side; thanked God for His Son; committed himself to the Lord Jesus; and resolved, if God spared him, that he would believe himself to be a Christian, and look to Jesus to enable him to act like one. Ever since, he has considered that night to be the night of his conversion.

And why, my reader, should not this day be the day of your conversion? Why should you not believe the record which God has given of His Son, and cast yourself as a helpless child into the arms of Christ? Then would there be joy in the presence of the angels of God over you; and if this day was remarkable for nothing else, it would be the most remarkable day in all your history—the day when you were born again God grant that it may be so.—*Monthly Messenger*.

NOT READY TO DIE.—The following is no fabrication of an irreverent secular journal, but from the orthodox *Memphis Presbyterian*:—"Travelling in his buggy alone, not long ago, in going to one of his appointments, one of our good brethren in the Presbytery of Memphis overtook a 'footpad' with his carpet bag in his hand. The roads were muddy, and he was just at the time about entering a miry bottom. With the politeness for which he is noted, he asked the pedestrian—an entire stranger—if he would not take a seat in his buggy until, at least, they had crossed the mud and the mire. The invitation was accepted, and the conversation for a time was free and easy, about things ordinary and general. Presently, however, the good brother, with a view to make the conversation profitable, asked the stranger *if he was ready to die*. Not knowing the character of the person who had invited him to a seat with him, and misapprehending his meaning and suspecting foul play, he waited not to reply, but sprang from the buggy immediately, and ran for life through slush and water. The clerical brother, wishing to assure the stranger that he meant no harm, called to him at the top of his voice, to stop! But this only hastened

his speed, and, like a scared hare, he ran until beyond hearing and sight. In his hasty flight he left his carpet sack, which our brother now has in his possession, being the richer for his faithfulness by the addition of a coarse shirt, a pair of threadbare trousers, and a little 'backer.'"

MINISTERS' SALARIES in New Hampshire as a general thing are not very large. Old Dr. A., of Hillsborough County, prior to the war only received \$300, on which he had to support his family and keep a horse. The war increased the cost of living so much that his parishioners had a sudden fit of liberality, and voted to increase his salary to \$400, of which he was informed by old Deacon C., one evening, who was amazed because Dr. A., did not seem overjoyed. Next Sunday, after his sermon, the old Doctor laid aside his glasses and surveyed the congregation with tears in his eyes. He thanked them in touching language for their great generosity, etc., but said he had slept on it, and had thought of it night and day, and had come finally to the conclusion to decline it, for three reasons: *First*, he was not worthy of any more salary; *Second*, they could not afford to pay any more; but *Third*, and *mainly*, it was as much as he could possibly do to collect \$300, and if he had to collect \$100 more, it would be too hard work, and more than he could possibly do and preach.

IT IS SAID IN SCRIPTURE that "they should be holy who bear the vessels of the Lord;" and it is generally believed that the position of a minister is one eminently favourable to personal holiness. But experience shows that such position brings with it great spiritual dangers. Familiarity with sacred things is sure to produce a feeling of indifference, unless counteracted by earnest prayer and secret communion with God. There is nothing more searing to the conscience than an unholy handling of the truth; the use of it for one's own selfish or ambitious ends. If it does not work to cleanse and hallow him who teaches it, it will defile and harden. That position of isolation and elevation in which a minister is placed, is, also,