

heard of him he was studying in an American seminary, fitting himself to proclaim the unsearchable riches of Christ. Mary only lived a few years after her Saviour found her, but she had started a chain of influences that may reach around the world. Have you ever tried to bring one of the unsaved to the house of God to hear the gospel of His grace? Just think for a moment. Have you?

Fort William, Ont.

Pardon Through Faith

By Rev. John H. MacVicar, D.D.

One day, towards the end of the 18th century, Dr. Samuel Johnson stood, bare-headed, in the rain, with painful contortions on his face, in the market square of Uttoxeter, endeavoring to expiate an act of filial disobedience committed fifty years earlier in his career. His intense misery might almost have been construed as an inarticulate cry for the atoning work of Christ.

"Thy Cross, not mine, O Christ,
Has borne the awful load
Of sins, that none in heaven
Or earth could bear, but God.
To whom, save Thee,
Who can alone
For sin atone,
Lord, shall I flee?"

Pardon is a fundamental need of our nature; but the consciousness of it comes, not through any disclosure found in nature, or in human nature, but through the acceptance by faith of the grace of Christ. In nature, as scientists like Huxley have contended, there is no forgiveness. In human nature, as many a novelist has represented, there is little, if any forgiveness. Even when we most sincerely claim to forgive one another, we never really forgive sin—we only dismiss resentment. To forgive sin is outside both our province and ability.

For pardon turns, not on anything natural, but on something supernatural. It turns on our attitude and relation to the divine Sin-bearer; and that attitude and relation are determined by faith, or lack of faith. "He that believeth on Him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned al-

ready, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God."

Sin, once committed, is as "real as the stones upon the street"; but pardon, once granted, is as real as the cross of Christ, whose death is sin-annulling, because, as Dr. Denney puts it, it is "a death in which the divine condemnation of sin comes upon Christ, and is exhausted there, so that there is henceforth no more condemnation for those that are in Him."

Faith makes pardon real. Martin Luther, on Pilate's Stairs, sprang to his feet when he heard the voice, "The just shall live by faith." There and then he abandoned penances far more severe than Dr. Samuel Johnson's, and, in doing so, obtained a lifelong certitude of pardon. So great was his persuasion regarding the reality of justification by faith, that when, afterwards, in haunting introspection, he saw the arch-fiend come to him with a scroll, big enough to make swaddling bands for the world, and black with the record of his sins, he calmly answered, "Are there any more?" Another dreadful scroll was produced; and still another. Finally he demanded, "Are there more?" The fiend, with a leer, replied, "Were not these enough?" "Ay", cried Luther, "that they were; but write at the bottom of the whole list, 'The blood of Jesus Christ, His Son, cleanseth us from all sin.'"

New Glasgow, N.S.

"Can't Stump Him"

There is a story told of a teacher who had such marked success with his large class of boys that he was asked to tell his secret; but he modestly declined, saying only that perhaps the boys knew it better than he did. One of them, a bright boy of sixteen, received the query, and he answered it in a breath: "Well, for one thing, he knows his Bible from one end to the other. You can't stump him on anything. Us fellows have tried it a dozen times, but we can't catch him or trip him up anywhere. Then he knows how to tell things. He's just chock full of the lesson every Sunday, and talks about it until you can just about see the people in it right before you."