

THE QUIET HOUR.

"The Dove in the Heart, or the Perfect Peace of God."

(Continued from page 306.)

"A peaceful life, and this I hold to be
A life that finds its springs of peace in Thee;
Then outer cares are outer things alone,
And do not jar the quiet undertone
Of heavenly joy, that through the passing years
Sings to the soul, unheard by worldly ears.
So winter, summer, spring, and all the days
Pass in a calendar of prayer and praise—
Now loud, now soft, half whispered, it may be,
And heard, oh, Father! often but by Thee;
Till the still soul, like a calm summer's sea,
Reveals the Saviour's image perfectly.
May this sweet life be mine! Oh, Jesus, keep
My soul in peace, sure, undisturbed and deep;
Calm, tho' expectant in its hope, until
It sees Thy face, some new dawn, fair and still."

2. "The peace of God shall keep our hearts."
The unrest of the heart is found in *unsatisfied love and longing*. The soul of man is like the dove that Noah sent out from the Ark; it finds no resting-place for its foot, except in God. This world is covered with a flood of sin and sorrow; not one mountain-top rises above the deluge of waters to furnish a standing-place for the weary, longing soul; there is not even a branch of consolation to offer a resting-place. Augustine was right: "Thou, O God, hast made us for Thee, and our heart is restless till it rests in Thee." The Book of Ecclesiastes is the wail of human disappointment. Solomon sought satisfaction *outside of God*. With royal resources at command, he undertook to solve the problem whether there is "any profit under the sun;" and there was nothing under the sun that he did not try in his experiment. He tells us the result of his trial, summing it all up in one of the saddest sentences ever put on record: "Whatsoever mine eyes desired I kept not from them; I withheld not my heart from any joy. Then I looked on all the works that my hands had wrought, and on all the labor that I had labored to do; and, behold, all was vanity and vexation of spirit; and there was no profit under the sun."

"What can the man do that cometh after the King?" Here was an experiment conducted in a scientific spirit and on scientific methods. The opportunity was ample and the apparatus was complete; so was the experiment exhaustive. No man will ever be more favorably situated than he to conduct this trial, and God meant that his failure should for all time prove to man that man's life, viewed from this world only, is a failure; that any human career that leaves out God and the world to come, is not only vanity (*emptiness*), but vexation. Man is TOO BIG FOR THIS WORLD TO FILL. His heart is made to hold God, and the utmost this world can give leaves it still void. Every cup of pleasure may be drained to the dregs, and yet the thirst of man be unquenched; and, like Xerxes, weary even of self-indulgence, he will be offering a reward for the invention of some new pleasure. Man is a half-hinge, and God is the complement of his being. . . . There are growing

wings beneath the rude cocoon of the caterpillar, that are a prophecy of the butterfly. And so Solomon says:

"Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter:
Fear God and keep His commandments:
For this is the WHOLE OF MAN."

Not the whole *duty* of man, but the secret of a whole or complete manhood. Without piety, without God, you have at best but a hemisphere—not a sphere; there is a fatal lack—no symmetry, no completeness, no satisfaction. Turn from Ecclesiastes to Solomon's Song, and here you may find the love song of the believer, who, having found this world too small for his heart, now finds One who not only fills, but over-fills his lack and longing; and for the first time the heart finds what is too big to be wholly contained—an infinite joy crowding itself into a finite capacity. The Epistle to the Colossians is the Canticles of the New Testament. It bids the disappointed, discouraged heart of man set the affections on things above, and not on things on the earth, and assures all believers on Jesus:

"In Him dwell all the fullness of the Godhead,
And ye are filled full in Him."

As George Williams whispered in the Earl of Shaftesbury's ear, when the beloved Earl was dying: "COMPLETE in Him." Complete—that is, *nothing lacking*. The smallest baylet or inlet of the sea is as full at high tide as the ocean bed itself. In Christ, the life and love of God always reach and stand at flood mark; and he who is "in Christ" partakes of all the fullness of God; his life is full, his heart is overflowing. With the Psalmist, he cries:

"Whom have I in Heaven but Thee?
And on earth there is none to be desired
In comparison with Thee."

And so the peace of God keeps the heart that is satisfied in God. Worldly cares, annoyances, vexations, sorrows, cannot long intrude where God's love fills the soul. The expulsive power of this new affection drives out intruders, as Nehemiah drove the merchants and sellers of wares who broke up his Sabbath rest and peace—first outside the walls of Jerusalem, and then altogether away, even from the outside of the shut gates.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

"My presence shall go with thee, and I will give thee rest."
—Exod. xxxiii: 14.

"My presence shall go with thee." Yea, my Lord,
Faith listens till that noiseless step is heard.
As each new day breaks open, shine revealed,
O Christ, by fear's long morning mist concealed,
O let me daily know that glorious rest,
Of leaning hourly on a Saviour's breast;
Yea, but to know Thou knowest—this is best!
—C. A. For.

"The tissues of life to be, we weave with colors all our own,
And in the fields of destiny we reap as we have sown."
—J. G. Whittier.

"You cannot dream yourself into a character;
You must hammer and forge yourself one."
—Froude.

"Be a man!
Bear thine own burdens; never think to thrust thy fate
upon another."
—Robt. Browning.

UNCLE TOM'S DEPARTMENT.

Puzzles.

PRIZE PUZZLE.

1—HALF SQUARE.
My first is gained by practice,
My second is great spaces of time,
My third is to ask with earnestness,
My fourth is five times in this rhyme,
And my fifth is always in time.
THOS. W. BANKS.

2—SQUARE WORD.

1. A small piece. 2. Raw. 3. Belonging to the country.
4. To make fit. 5. Skins. W. E. GILROY.

3—DIAMOND.

1. A consonant. 2. A part of the verb to be. 3. Animated.
4. Primitive. 5. Elude. 6. Before. 7. A consonant.
W. E. GILROY.

4—ILLUSTRATED REBUS.



1—CHARADE.

Into the Two he descended,
With suicidal intent;
And these are the words he muttered,
As over the water he bent:

"What is the use of living?
For my Two ONE none doth care;
My ONE is poor, I'm never Two;
With death the Two I'll share."

"But what is the use of dying?
My TOTAL will never be heard,
The ONE is worse, the Two is deep,
And nobody's heart be stirred."

Then he plunged. And o'er his head
And about him the waters did roll;
'Twas COMPLETE to the body, but, ah me!
Would it COMPLETE with the soul!

CHARLES EDWARDS.

Answers to July 16th Puzzles.

1—News-paper. 2—Mend-i-cant. 3—A key.

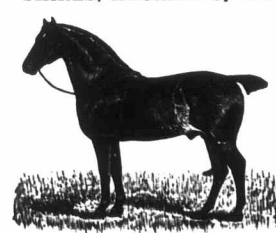
4—

TOM
TOPER
POPULAR
MELON
RAN
R

5—Penitentiary.

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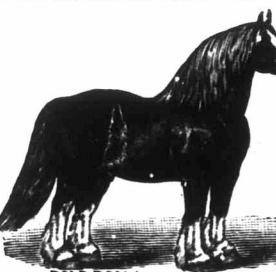


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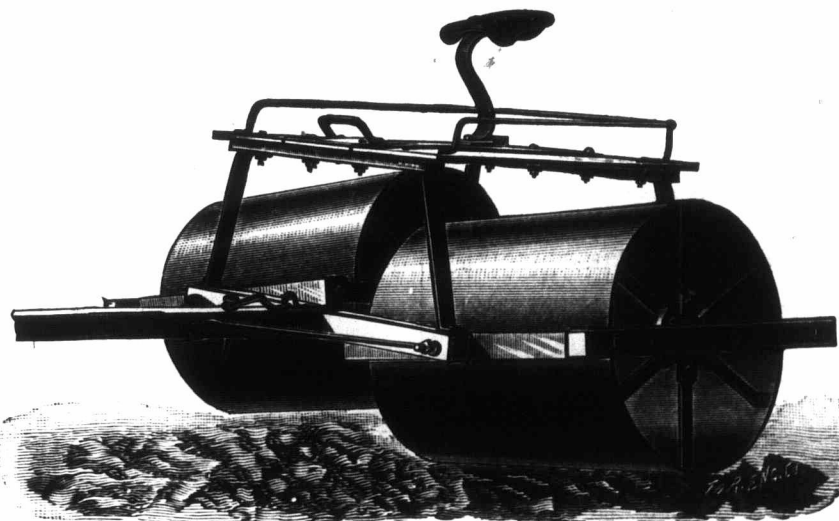
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