

Pastor and People.

WORTH WHILE.

It is easy enough to be pleasant
When life flows along like a song,
But the man worth while is the one who will smile
When everything goes dead wrong;
For the test of the heart is trouble,
And it always comes with the years,
And the smile that is worth the praises of earth
Is the smile that shines through the tears.

It is easy enough to be prudent
When nothing tempts you to stray;
When without or within no voice of sin
Is luring your soul away.
But it is only a negative virtue
Until it is tried by fire,
And the life that is worth the honor of earth
Is the one that resists desire.

By the cynic, the sad, the fallen,
Who had no strength for the strife
The world's highway is cumbered to-day,
They make up the item of life.
But the virtue that conquers passion,
And the sorrow that hides in a smile,
It is these that are worth the homage of earth
For we find them but once in a while.
—Ella Wheeler Wilcox.

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FREE WILL.

BY J. B. FERGUSON.

God has not given free will to man, the sceptic
cries.

Does not the Potter with his clay do as he will?
Says not St. Paul in Scripture so? Then free
will dies.

Speaks he not then of vessels for destruction
made,

Also of vessels he has prepared for mercy?
Drag out to light these facts, remove them from
the shade,

But not before that time will you my mind
convince.

Who art thou, foolish one? God sits thy Judge
in heaven;

Wilt thou say unto Him, why didst Thou make
me thus?

Free will belongs to man, to him (was truly given,
God gave him thus, that it to Him he might
return.

Therefore, free will he has as long as it he keeps,
But when he says "Thy will, not mine, be done,
O Lord,"

He then returns that gift, he then the promise
reaps,
And he a chosen vessel is, unto his God.

Toronto, Ont.

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THE JEW AN IMPORTANT FACTOR IN THE WORLD'S EVANGELIZATION.

BY HANNAH I. GRAHAM.

Probably no nation under heaven will play such an important part in the world's evangelization as the much despised and persecuted Jewish people. Their past history is unique. Their future destiny glorious. Through all ages they have remained one of the most indisputable evidences of Christianity that the world has ever known.

The following are some of the qualifications that they possess for taking a foremost place in the great missionary movement that "shall cover the earth as the waters do the channel of the great deep."

1st. Their knowledge of the one true God as He is revealed in the Scriptures of the Old Testament. When the veil shall be taken from their hearts, their thorough acquaintance with the types and shadows of the old ritual will enable them to understand more clearly than many Gentiles how faithfully the Old dispensation is mirrored in the New. In the Lamb of Calvary they will behold "the fountain that is opened to the house of David and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem for sin and for uncleanness."

2nd. Their dispersion among the nations. There is no country in the world that cannot number a Jew among its inhabitants. Having physical constitutions acclimatized to all countries they can live in the ice-bound regions of the North or Torrid Zones of the South, penetrating, in many cases, where the foot of a white man has never trod. In this way they are conversant with the language, manners and customs of every people. They possess in this respect an immense advantage over Europeans who find the difficulties

arising from inhospitable climes and barbarous dialects well nigh insurmountable. Send the Gospel to convert the Jew and you will have a band of well equipped missionaries already on the field.

3rd. The great wealth that they have amassed. As a nation they have been characterized by insatiable avarice. The iniquity of their covetousness has been a by-word, as was predicted, for many generations. In this way they have accumulated such untold riches that in a great measure they regulate the money markets of the world. What heaps upon heaps will be laid on God's altar when the hearts over which mammon has so long held sway, will be made willing to recognize in "the Holy One of Israel" their rightful King.

4th. Their severe discipline. Those who are destined to carry on an important or difficult work are generally subjected to long, hard and careful training. Four hundred years of Egyptian bondage were requisite to prepare the Israelites for the promised land. It was the oppression of their task-masters that caused their cry to come up unto God, and he heard their groaning and remembered His covenant with Abraham, with Isaac and Jacob. Truly they are the people that "have seen affliction by the rod of his wrath." The record of their sufferings is unparalleled. From age to age they have been baptized in torrents of their own blood. "Serving their enemies as prophecy foretold, in hunger and thirst and in nakedness, and in want of all things." Exiled from the land of their inheritance. "The holy and beautiful house where their fathers worshipped burnt with fire." Mount Zion, formerly the joy and praise of the whole earth, a wilderness and Jerusalem a desolation, hated and persecuted on every hand, these "Tribes of the wandering foot and weary breast" have found no resting place in the broad universe. Surely "the precious sons of Zion, comparable to fine gold," have been refined in the furnace of affliction, "that they may be found unto praise and honor at the appearing of Jesus Christ." Their severe discipline will assuredly yield the peaceable fruits of righteousness, for we are told that they shall be known as the holy people, the righteous nation that the Lord hath blessed. A dry pit and a dark prison were the steps upon which Joseph ascended to the Imperial favor. So in the period of judicial darkness, which has for generations hidden them, as a nation, from the Divine presence, God is silently preparing a great people for the reception and transmission of His glorious light.

5th. Their distinct preservation. There is much emphasis laid now-a-days upon the strength of unity, but what organization has maintained a separate existence such as theirs for thousands of years? What society can find among its members such a glorious company of prophets, apostles and martyrs? The whole race for four thousand years has been one great miracle of divine interposition and wonderful preservation. The fiery trials through which they have passed would long ago have extirpated any other race, but they are still preserved in their entirety, because "He that scattereth Israel will gather him and keep him." For forty centuries they have fought shoulder to shoulder to preserve their national and religious identity. What a courageous, loyal army they would be if brought under the banner of King Jesus.

6th. Their testimony. If in the past they have been a perpetual astonishment to all people, with what interest will they be regarded when the glory of the Lord shall rise upon them. "When all the rich comfort of the gospel is at length poured into the very bosom of the once blinded, prejudiced and perverse Jews, what a humble, contrite, zealous, loving, holy nation will they be? What a testimony and pattern will they be to all nations of God's goodness. If the conversion of one Jew like Paul was this what in the conversion of the Jewish nation will millions of such patterns be?" When

the Lord shall arise in His glory and build up Zion, the greatful song of His ransomed people will be, "Oh, praise the Lord all ye nations; praise Him all ye people. His merciful kindness is great toward us, for He hath forgiven the iniquity of His people. He hath covered all their sin." No other nation can recount such a story of God's marvellous dealing and tender care, and none have had such visible tokens of the Divine presence. In the day of their deliverance Zion's children shall proclaim from shore to shore the triumph of Jehovah's grace, in Israel's redemption, on timbrels of thanksgiving and rejoicing.

7th. Because they are the children of the covenant. All God's people are dear alike to Him, yet the seed of Abraham is in a peculiar sense His chosen people, His kindred according to the flesh. They were taken from among the nations to bear his name. To them were committed the oracles of God. The founders of Christ's Church on earth were sons of Abraham. It is with them that God has promised to bring in the fullness of the Gentile nations. The day of their dispersion has been long and dark but the light of even-tide that shall shine upon the outcasts of Israel and the dispersed of Judah in the day that they are re-united will be glorious. "For the Lord thy God will turn thy captivity and will have compassion on thee and will return to gather thee from all the nations whither the Lord thy God hath scattered thee. If any of thine be driven out into the utmost parts of heaven from thence will the Lord thy God gather thee and from thence will He fetch thee, and the Lord thy God will bring thee into the land which thy fathers possessed and thou shalt possess it; and He will do the good and multiply thee above thy fathers." God's everlasting covenant with faithful Abraham still shines in the book of his remembrance. "I will make of thee a great nation and I will bless thee and make thy name great and in thee shall all the families of the earth be blessed." In the day that they are brought into the bond of the covenant the Gentiles shall see their righteousness and all kings their glory. God says: "This people have I formed for Myself and they shall shew forth My praise." If through their rejection such great blessings have come to the world "What will the receiving of them be, but life from the dead."

The Jewish people are fast approaching a great national crisis. The extremest date fixed by their Rabbi's for the advent of the Messiah is long past. Their ancient faith has proved inadequate to meet the needs of the human soul. The deep-rooted prejudices of eighteen centuries are gradually wearing away. Many of them are comparing the New Testament with the Old to discover whether the predictions concerning the Jew's Messiah are fulfilled in the lowly Nazarene, whom Christians regard as the Lord's anointed. Christians on the other hand are carefully perusing the Old Testament to learn more of the mind or Christ revealed in the prophecies concerning His ancient people. Thus a bond of sympathy is being established between the old, historical church, that still in darkness and sorrow sings the song Moses; and those who through faith behold the glories of the Lamb. Modern civilization is making rapid strides in the land of Palestine which so long lay desolate. The hearts of thousands of Jews are turning with expectancy and ardent longing to the country of their forefathers, the exodus in recent years being so remarkable as to cause comment. Many Christians think that there is little to encourage in the Jewish field, but De le Roy, formerly a Jewish missionary, now pastor at Eberfelde, recently calculated from official statements that more than 100,000 Jews and Jewesses have been baptized during the last seventy-five years and that these proselytes and descendants if taken together would number some 250,000 a greater proportion than have been gathered from among the heathen in the same period. A leading feature in Jewish missions is the world-wide dissemination of the Bible in the Hebrew tongue "It works silently and without

offence; it penetrates where the missionary can find no access; it is concealed in the bosom and read in the closet; and he who has the fears and scruples of Nicodemus may enjoy his privileges and converse in secret with Him of whom Moses in the law and prophets did write." Some of the greatest theologians and most profound thinkers that have adorned the Christian religion have been garnered from the white harvest fields of the Jewish Church. If we are characterized by the spirit that was in Christ Jesus we will not, as the late Dr. Schwartz said, take all the sweet promises of God to ourselves and leave all the curses to the poor Jews; but instead we will give them a foremost place in our sympathy, prayers and liberality. "Ye that make mention of the Lord (or are the Lord's remembrancers) keep not silence and give Him no rest, till He establish and till He make Jerusalem a praise in the earth." Notwithstanding their present rejection they are "still beloved for the father's sake," and a large remnant according to the election of grace are being added to the Christian Church. God's promise of blessing to those who bless them is still faithful and true. Would the world's evangelization not be sooner consummated if the Christian Church pursued its missionary operations more in the line of God's plan—"to the Jews first." If "there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth" what emotions will fill the loving heart of Jesus, when His beloved country men, over whom he wept and for whom he died, are brought with singing unto the heavenly Mount Zion to shine, a royal diadem in the hand of the Prince of the house of David.

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VIRTUE MERGING INTO VICE.

BY REV. JOSEPH HAMILTON.

Every virtue has its corresponding vice. And virtue merges into vice often by insensible degrees. There is certainly a boundary line between right and wrong, a line which is plain to God's sight, but not always to ours. We glide from the realm of right into the realm of wrong often before we are aware. We pass the boundary line as we pass the equator, without seeing it. Dr. Cooke, of Belfast, said that a *hard* honest man is likely to be a *hardly* honest man. Very true, indeed.

"If self the wavering balance holds,
'Tis rarely right adjusted."

So our weak human nature is liable to turn every virtue into the vice most closely allied to it. Thus, Martha's over-carefulness was nothing more than industry pushed too far. In the same way, a young man who has the virtue of frugality may develop into a miser by and by, and not know it. On the other hand, a liberal man may insensibly become extravagant. Self-respect is a noble thing, but if not arrested at the proper point, it may easily glide into vanity. So charity degenerates into looseness, and orthodoxy too easily passes into bigotry. Our fallen human nature is so liable to extremes that if we get hold even of a good thing we are in danger of so accentuating it that it becomes an evil. It requires keen spiritual sight to notice the dividing line between the right and the wrong. It is like sailing on the Niagara River above the Falls. There is a part of the river where the smallest boat may sail in safety. But there is somewhere a dividing line between safety and danger, and we need to beware lest we cross that line without seeing it. It is a strange commentary on our weak human nature that we have to be on the watch lest our very goodness take us in a snare.

Toronto.

Dr. Kerr: When punishment in a school is frequent, it is not that the children are naughty, but that the teacher is injudicious; he is the best disciplinarian who punishes least.