

"An Orb of Light."

One of our exchanges, says the Lutheran Observer, calls attention to a remarkable testimony to the work of Christianity, given in the Jewish Encyclopedia. This encyclopedia is edited by the most able scholars of the Jewish Church, and is looked upon as representing the very best thought of the Jewish people. The most conservative as well as the more liberal elements are represented, and that such a testimony as this is possible, is of itself a notable thing. The extract is from an article on "Christianity in Its Relation to Judaism." It is written by a Jew and reads as follows:

"Christianity, following the matchless ideal of its Christ, redeemed the despised and outcast, and ennobled suffering. It checked infanticide and founded asylums for the young; it removed the curse of slavery by making the humblest bondsman proud of being a child of God; it fought against the cruelties of the arena; it invited the home with purity, and proclaimed the value of each human soul as a treasure in the eyes of God; and it so leavened the great masses of the empire as to render the Cross of Christ the sign of victory for its legions in place of the Roman eagle. The 'Gilean' entered the world as a conqueror. The Church became the educator of the pagan nations; and one race after another was brought under her tutelage. The La in races were followed by the Celt, the Teuton and the Slav. The same burning enthusiasm which sent forth the first apostle also set the missionaries aglow, and brought all Europe and Africa, and finally the American Continent, under the sway of the omnipotent Church. Christianity is not an end, but the means to an end; namely, the establishment of the brotherhood of man and the Fatherhood of God. Here Christianity presents itself as an orb of light."

Sparks From Other Anvils.

Lutheran Observer: The work of foreign missions, therefore, stands for a duty which no Church can decline without suffering the inevitable penalty of futility. To refuse co-operation in the evangelization of this world means self-impoverishment. It is one of the pre-eminent instances in which withholding tends to poverty.

Religious Intelligencer: It is too true that only a small proportion of church members deny themselves anything for the sake of Christ and His kingdom. It all who bear His name really give themselves to Him in self-denying service, what a power the Church of Christ would have.

S. S. Times: A pleasant smile will bring gladness to a burdened heart. A kindly word may bring to life the good that lies dormant in an erring one. A sympathetic handshake may be the magnetic touch that brings a soul to Christ. Does your daily life leave a loving impress upon your fellow-man?

United Presbyterian: If Christ carries the key to our hearts and can enter when he will, why does he stand at the door and knock? Because he has made man a free moral agent and he will not enter without his consent nor save him against his will.

Morning Star: There ought to be much more time given to prayer, to private prayer. How many of you give God half an hour a day, alone with him in prayer? Without much prayer there cannot be anything more than a superficial, a seeming, a fictitious growth.

Our Young People

Mar. 13 Destructive Appetites.

Some Bible Hints.

God's hand is writing every man's destiny (v. 5), but He is writing at the man's dictation.

The carnal man belongs to a kingdom that is humbled (v. 26); the spiritual man belongs to the endless Kingdom of Heaven.

God's balances weigh men daily (v. 27). Those that go up in the balances go down, into ruin and death.

If a man will not use the talent he has—or intellect, health, or spiritual power, it is taken from him, and those that will use their talents pass ahead of him (v. 28).

Suggestive Thoughts.

A good appetite will speedily make a man, but an evil appetite will as speedily unmake him.

Strong drink will drive any man from a greater kingdom than Belshazzar's—the kingdom of purity and peace.

How God is longing to write with the finger of the voter above every saloon door, "Mene, mene, Tekel, Upharsin!"

When a man becomes a drunkard, he steps down from the throne of his life, and all the devils take turns in filling it.

A Few Illustrations.

A man is a general, and his appetites are his army; but if the army is not under control, it slays the general.

An appetite is an edged tool, allowed to be sharp, but firmly held.

God gave us appetites as He gave us ropes—to draw loads with, not to hang ourselves.

One of the most powerful explosives can be made from sugar; so the worst appetites are perversions of the best.

To Think About.

Am I "keeping the body under"? Am I using the best appetites to drive out the evil ones?

What am I doing to promote the temperance reform?

A Cluster of Quotations.

A drunken man is like a drowned man, a fool, and a madman.—Shakespeare

Shall I, to please another wine-sprung mind, Lose all mine own?—George Herbert.

Ah! See where the wild blazing grog-shop appears

As the red waves of wretchedness swell; How it burns on the edge of tempestuous years, The horrible lighthouse of hell!

—McDonald Clark.

Govern well thy appetite, lest Sin Surprise thee, and her black attendant, Death.

—Milton.

The Society's Guide.

He should be the pastor. The Christian Endeavor society affords the best means of getting in touch with the young people of the church, and setting them to work. If, before the birth of the Christian Endeavor Society, the average pastor had been able to bring together weekly half as many young people to a special meeting as now come together of their own accord, he would have been glad indeed.

Here are some of the ways in which the pastor may work with his society:

By presence at the meetings of the executive committee, and often at those of other committees.

By occupying five minutes at the close of each Endeavor meeting, with a closing word on the topic.

By the formation in the society of a pastor's aid committee.

By hearty participation in the socials.

By commendation of good testimonies in the prayer meeting.

By giving the Endeavorers something to do in the church prayer meetings, and in the other work of the church.

Companionship.

This tenderest power of companionship is of singular force and bestows especial blessing in hours of grief and misfortune. Half the world bemoans its incapacity to assuage grief or soothe the sharpness of bereavement. There is a dominant and irrepresible, though unknown, note of self which thwarts the affectionate desire of the heart seeking to come near the sufferer. In its hour of trial a man's spirit can only be comforted by those with whom he can find "satisfying companionship" in silent nearness. The beautiful perfection of such love, or friendship, or devotion has to be built up in the relinquishment of controversy and a readiness to comprehend fully what it cannot share.

Daily Readings.

Mon.,	Mar. 7.—	Esau's appetite.	Gen. 25 : 29-34
Tues.,	" 8.—	Ben-hadad's appetite.	1 Kings 20 : 12-20
Wed.,	" 9.—	Israel's appetites.	Ex. 16 : 2-5
Thurs.,	" 10.—	Leanness of soul.	Ps. 106 : 13-15
Fri.,	" 11.—	The drunken servant.	Matt. 24 : 48-51
Sat.,	" 12.—	Deforming appetites.	Rom. 1 : 18-25
Sun.,	" 13.—	Topic. Appetites that unmake men.	Dan. 5 : 1-5, 25-28.

Beauty is to be acquired, but it cannot be won by earth's cosmetics. True beauty can come to one on earth only by reflection from heaven's glory. He who would be beautiful must be made so by the transfiguring light of his soul's saintliness. Christ in one gives Christlikeness to the one who represents Christ. This is the way to grow beautiful.—S. S. Times.

Guard within yourself that treasure, kindness. Know how to give without hesitation, how to lose without regret, how to acquire without meanness. Know how to replace in your heart, by the happiness of those you love, the happiness that may be wanting in yourself.—F. W. Faber.

There was no pomp, no oratory, no processions, no triumphal arches when the Great Conqueror came to his kingdom. But heaven sent a star for men who were wise and a song for men who were faithful—and all this while the great world was asleep.

It is not, "How much have you done?" but "In what spirit have you acted?" Not, "How long?" but "How well?" Let us only be genuine, honest, true, in everything, however small, and we have in that the sign and pledge of an entire consecration of heart and life to God.—James Freeman Clarke.

No man or woman of the humblest sort can really be strong, gentle, pure and good without the world being the better for it, without somebody being helped and comforted by the very existence of that goodness.—Phillips Brooks.