

DE CONTENT.

How far is a lonely land... The night of the wedding... The young man who had been...

WHY PUT OUT THE LIGHT?

BY REV. J. D. SETON, D.D.

The gospel furnishes the only light shed on the country beyond the river of death. Bright and glorious are the prospects which it holds out to the soul in that land. Thousands have lived in hope, and died in triumph, under its inspiring light.

A clergyman now deceased once told the writer that he had the distinguished and eloquent John Randolph of Roanoke, say that he was in his early years inclined to infidelity.

He had, through the influence of Mr. Jefferson, and the publicity of the French Revolution, it was common for well-educated young men to waver their faith in the Bible.

We commend, then, to you, students of every class and grade, a thorough investigation of the claims of Christianity to your belief and reverence. It invites, demands, challenges your scrutiny.

A QUESTION WITH ONLY ONE ANSWER.

A young man from the Province, who was sent to Paris to finish his education, had the reputation of getting into bad company. He went so far as to wish, and finally say, there is no God; God was only a word.

You believe, they that there is a God? Confessed at such a question, the girls look at each other, the blood mounting to their cheeks.

"And you, sir, you do not believe in God?" "Once I believed it, but after living in Paris, and studying philosophy, and the theories and politics, I am convinced that both is an empty dream."

"A funny question, truly; the egg comes from the hen." "And now, sir, whence comes the hen?" "You know that as well as I do, Miss; the hen comes from the egg."

"Which of them existed first, the egg or the hen?" "I really do not know what you intend with this question and with your hen; but you that which existed first was the hen."

"There is a hen then which did not come from an egg?" "Beg your pardon, Miss, I did not take notice that the egg existed first."

"Oh, if you—beg pardon—that is—yes—see—"

"I see, sir, that you do not know whether the egg existed before the hen or the hen before the egg."

"Well, then, I say the hen." "Very well, there is then a hen which did not come from an egg. Tell me now who made this first hen, from which all other hens and eggs come."

"With your hens and your eggs, it seems to me you take me for a poultry dealer."

"By no means, sir, I only ask you to take some notice of the mother of all hens and eggs come from."

preparation of sermons, the consideration of village interests and public improvements. A pastor must be a student to keep a ready mind on his people; he must be a student of their more than they can, and lead them from an over-awing mind and an over-deepening pity.

HOW TO FISH FOR MEN.

1. Improve your time. All living souls, put out your line at once, and keep it out there continually, as you cannot tell the minute you may take a big fish.

2. Be sure and keep your float whirling lively and bright. Make the truth fresh and attractive. Turn its bright sides to men's hearts.

3. Row often over the same ground. The fish that is not quite ready this morning may be ready for you tomorrow.

4. Be patient for some disappointments. Now and then your hopes will be greatly raised to be gradually dashed.

5. Finally, be patient. This is the supreme, undeniably quality in a good fisherman. A fisherman's patience is proverbial the world over.

"NAB STIMPE UP HERE." It is related that an old Scotch elder had once a day spent as his minister at an elders' meeting.

"And I should not wonder," said he who related the incident, "if he met the minister at heaven's gate, and heard him say, 'Come along John; thee's no strick up here.'"

"Whenever your client has no defence," said an old barrister to a young lawyer, "abuse the plaintiff's attorney."

SUPPORT A CASE.

A church makes its contributions in good, designating afterwards how much shall go to general support, how much to foreign missions, etc.

Suppose another case. A merchant at the end of the year finds that his income is fifty thousand dollars. He reserves forty-five thousand to provide for his family, and gives his title, his thousand, to missions.

QUAKER ECONOMY.

A judge, on a journey, fell in company with Quaker. "Sir," said the judge, "how is it that you Quakers always have fat horses and money in your pockets?"

Q. Now I will tell thee, we drink no spirits at the tavern. How much dost thou pay for the biters?"

Q. With nine dollars we should have bought live stock, and at the expiration of five years we should have had fifteen head of cattle.

A SLIPPER PREACHER.

People are often dangerously delicate. Good men have up always the courage of a friend of mine, who was troubled with that complaint, and who was resolved and determined that, whenever he preached, he would sit himself right.

It is not magnanimity, but simplicity, to make light of God's corrections. What God is sending we should be watching. Surely our impulses will follow after us, if we will not tame them first.

"WORLDLY."

It may appear, at first thought, that the most worldly should convey much reproach, and be the very unworldly epithet even to the most worldly people. The word is terrible significant. When it is applied to man or woman, it does not merely mean that he or she desires advancement in the world; but it implies a less compliance with the world, and indicates this worst of cowardice.

THE SINGING CURE.

We can sing away our cares quiet than we can reason them away. This birds are the earliest to sing in the morning; the birds are more without care than anything else I know of.

Q. Do they answer any better than my strings?"

"Are you singing?" "Of course I am."

Q. Then thou these flowers home and give them to thy wife, and tell her what she should do with them?"

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