

The Critic's Corner.

Arrangements have been made for the under- signed to occupy a small space in each issue of the CANADIAN EVANGELIST. In criticisms upon important and difficult passages of the Word of God, and he will be pleased to receive any suggestions or queries in regard to such from any of its readers; with the understanding, how- ever, that only such questions as relate to what is practical and useful will receive attention, and that subjects of mere speculation or idle curiosity will be discarded. E. SUFFERN, Walkerton P. O., Bruce Co.

"By His Own Glory and Virtue."—N.V. (2nd Peter i. 3.)

This rendering of the passage we have introduced for exposition seems to be fully justified by the best Greek texts. Tischendorf gives the authority of the three most authentic manuscripts for it, the variation from the Common Version being mainly owing to the grammatical differences in the original.

We have carefully noticed this because of the great difference it makes in the meaning of the passage.

It is through the knowledge of Him that has called us by His own glory and virtue that there have been "granted unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness—the precious and exceeding great promises—that through these we might become partakers of the divine nature."

At present, however, we only wish to direct attention to the mode of "calling," not to the glorious results of that calling.

The word calling we understand to be used here in the sense of invitation (not of appellation) as used in Matt. xxii. 3, 4, 8, 9, and various other places. It is the call of the gospel in which are set forth the glory and the virtue of God to induce us to accept of the rich and eternal blessings He extends to us; especially as His glory and virtue are manifested in the Person of Christ: "For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ." It is the "glory of His grace" wherein He makes us accepted in the beloved.

It is the call which bids every one to come who is burdened with sin, for it is the glory of God to forgive iniquity, transgression and sin, that He may be sought unto through Christ whose blood cleanses from all sin; and it was thus that the Christians addressed by Peter in his first Epistle were induced to return to Him who sought them, "Who His own self bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we being dead to sins should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed. For ye were as sheep going astray, but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls." In the Cross of Christ is signally displayed the glory of forgiving love—the "virtue,"—(areta) or crowning act, of supernal grace and mercy, worthy of His Divine Name: "Unto them who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God," or as Christ Himself declares: "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me."

The reader will notice through this version of 2nd Peter i. 3, that not only is the sinner induced to come in answer to the call which invites him to all the felicitous blessings to be found in Christ, but that he also is constrained by the manifestation of the glory and virtue of Him that calls to respond joyously to the gracious invitation. E. S.

God never sends his people to work, but He accompanies them.

There are two freedoms: the false, where a man is free to do what he likes; the true, where a man is free to do what he ought.—Kingsley.

Woman's Work.

Conducted by Mrs. M. Brown and Miss Jessie B. Agnew. Everything intended for this column should be sent to Mrs. M. Brown, Ridgeway Ont.

Ontario Christian Woman's Board of Missions.

The following sums have been received since the Annual Meeting:—

Table with 2 columns: Location and Amount. Includes Auxiliary at Erin Village (\$9 65), Wainfleet (5 00), Warton (9 00), West Lorne (7 50), Erin Centre (17 00), Everton (13 00), Walkerton (5 00), Collingwood (7 50), St. Thomas (7 50), Blenheim (10 00), Toronto (Denison Ave.) (7 00), Rodney (3 00), Guelph (7 00), Lobo (8 00), Sisters of Vaughan Church (4 00).

JENNIE FLEMING, Treasurer. Kilsyth, Nov. 18, 1890.

Women's Work.

Let us not be weary in well doing, for in due season we shall reap if we faint not. "As we have opportunity let us do good unto all."

Shall we sit down and rest for a moment, from our busy household cares, while we consider that last injunction. It doesn't seem to ask so very much of us, only to work as

we have opportunity. Perhaps many of us feel that we have no opportunity to do what we might call special or direct work for the Master. We may feel that our time and our hands are filled to crowding with our daily work. So that we scarcely have time to attend the meetings on the Lord's day, and certainly no time to attend any meetings during the week. And so, when the day and hour comes round for the monthly missionary meeting of the sisters, we cannot think of going, there is so much to be done. And the few who come together look anxiously into each other's faces, and ask: "What can we do to make our meetings more interesting," and induce the sisters to come. Those who failed to attend the meeting have lost an opportunity of helping their fellow-workers by the inspiration of their presence, and perhaps some already half-discouraged one resolves that she will not come again, as there are so few who seem interested. Is it not written somewhere, "I know thy works that thou art neither cold nor hot; I would thou wert cold or not?" We may safely infer that the lukewarm, half-hearted worker in the Master's vineyard will not be on the alert for opportunities to do good to all. The exhortation is to "be wise, buying up the opportunity." "Those who seek, shall find," may truly be

said in regard to opportunities for doing good:—

Hast Thou, my Master, sought for me to do To honour Thee to day? Hast thou a word of love to some poor soul That I may save? For see, this world that Thou hast made so fair Within its heart is sad. Thousands are lonely, thousands sigh and weep. But few are glad To which of them shall I stretch forth my hand With sympathetic grasp? Whose fainting form for Thy dear sake Fondly enwrap?

"Inasmuch as ye did it unto one of these my brethren, even the least, ye did it unto me." It is better—oh, so much better—to watch for, and use faithfully the opportunities He gives us—even the least—than to look backward at the close of the day—of the year—of life—with burdened hearts, and vain regrets.

"My lilies need to be watered." The Heavenly Master said, "Wherein shall I draw it for them, And raise each drooping head?"

Close to His feet on the pathway Empty, and frail, and small, An earthen vessel was lying, Which seemed of no use at all.

But the Master saw, and raised it From the dust in which it lay, And smiled as He gently whispered "This shall do my work to day,"

"It is but an earthen vessel But it lay so close to me; It is small, but it is empty And that is all it needs to be,"

So to the fountain He took it And filled it to the brim

How glad was the earthen vessel To be of some use to Him

He poured forth the living water Over His lilies fair Until the vessel was empty And again He filled it there

He watered the drooping lilies Until they revived again And the Master saw with pleasure His labor had not been in vain.

"Close would I keep to the Master Empty would I remain And perhaps some day He may use me To water His flowers again."

Are we waiting at the Master's feet with this prayer in our hearts:—

"Any thing for Jesus, Only let me do."

Dear sisters of the Auxiliaries, as a special and personal favour, I request the secretary of each mission band—or some other sister—to send me a short report by the close of this year, in time if possible for the issue of January 1 of THE CANADIAN EVANGELIST. Just tell your experience, whether your monthly meetings are decreasing or growing in interest, whether they are well, or poorly attended, and what you deem to be the cause.

Surely this is not too much to ask. I am very anxious to know the present state of our Auxiliaries, and would like, if it were practicable, to visit them all, and see how they do. But as I cannot do that, I earnestly hope they will see fit to comply with my request.

S. M. BROWN.

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