

Friend and Brother not only tells me how, but shows me how. He learned obedience, and his Father's love was lavished upon him because he did just what he tells me to do. "If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love, even as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love." The obedience he asks is not merely of outward deeds. It is the inward consecration of the heart to his will because he is loved. This issues in outward conformity to his commandments and reaps a richer outpouring of divine love. The love is increasingly realized as obedience leads to a sweeter intimacy.

From this abiding in love springs all our joy. Those who love righteousness are anointed with the oil of gladness. Warm sunshine floods the soul of the obedient. Secret springs of joy are made known in life's desert. Our joy is like his. He calls it "my joy." And this, his joy, "remains." All else is fleeting. All other pleasures pass away. This joy abides and is the fruit of abiding in his abiding love by the obedience learned through suffering.—Episcopal Recorder.

### Suffering as a Reward.

BY REV. G. H. C. MACGREGOR.

Suffering is utterly misunderstood if it is only viewed as chastisement. I believe that often, instead of being the punishment of disobedience, it is the reward of obedience. Because we have been faithful in a few things, our God wills to set us over many things; and to fit us for the higher work to which He calls us. He passes us through the furnace of trial.

Suffering, it should be remembered, has a three-fold power.

It has an arresting and awakening power. This is the power it exerts when sent as chastisement. "Whom the Lord loveth He chasteneth." The stroke arrests us in the way of backsliding, awakens us to the danger of our position, and brings us back to God.

Then, suffering has a revealing power. We make discoveries about ourselves in the hour of pain and sorrow which are impossible at other times. And, what is infinitely more precious, we make discoveries of the grace and tenderness of our God unattainable otherwise. The lessons God teaches His children in the school of suffering are of such value, that they more than repay the pain when it comes to learn them. "Our light affliction, which is but for a moment, works for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory" (2 Cor. 4:17).

And suffering has a transforming power. This it has in virtue of its revealing power. Nothing changes the soul like the vision of God. The peaceable fruit of patience, meekness, unselfishness, which comes of sanctified sorrow, is the result of beholding the glory of the Lord, from whose face suffering has withdrawn the veil.

### Prayer.

Oh my Father, the day before me seems a pathway of difficulties. I do not complain that it is so. I would learn to find my joy in pleasing Thee; and if hardship is best for me, I would not be found sighing for ease. But I only ask that every step of the way Thou wilt go with me. Then shall the most jagged rocks be carpeted as if with softest velvet. Lions shall be only conies, and terrible giants nought but pygmies, if in my work, my business, my public life, I feel the touch of Thy hand. This grant for Jesus' sake. Amen.

## Our Young People

### "Our Own for Christ"—Topic for March 23.

A Meeting in the Interest of Home Missions. Ps. 85:1-13

#### Our Leader Speaks.

"Make yourself at home" is a common phrase. I think that it has in it the secret of interest in home missions.

For what happens when one really makes himself at home anywhere? He takes an interest in that place. Before he made himself at home, he was a stranger. Now he is an intimate friend. Before, he took no special care for the household. Now he has become a member of it, he will spend something for it, and he will cheerfully work for it.

The reason why so few, comparatively, take an interest in home missions is because so few, comparatively, have made themselves at home in their own country.

They do not know its beauty of natural scenery. They do not comprehend its material resources. They have not studied its history. They do not know its people. They have no idea of its perils.

How should they, who are virtually strangers in their own land, take an interest in it and spend money for it?

But to one who has a homeland, how vital are home missions! Our country's honor has become our own. We tremble for her danger as we would tremble when assailed ourselves. Our prayers for it are no more perfunctory, but they are fertilized with tears.

Why, a man who loved his home would take a pride in "fixing it up." He would be glad to spend money for a new rocking-chair, a new grape trellis, fresh gravel on the front walk. And a man who is really at home in his country will take equal pleasure in his gifts to home missions, that go toward enriching the rooms and beautifying the grounds of the dear homeland.

#### Daily Readings.

Mon., Mar. 17.—The promise. John 12:27-36  
Tues., Mar. 18.—The calling. 1 Cor. 12:26-31  
Wed., Mar. 19.—The separation. 2 Tim. 4:1-4  
Thurs., Mar. 20.—The power. Jer. 1:11-19  
Fri., Mar. 21.—Shameful silence. 2 Kings 7:3-9  
Sat., Mar. 22.—Glorious speech. Isa. 50:4-10  
Sun., Mar. 23.—Topic. "Our own for Christ." Ps. 85:1-13. A meeting in the interest of Home Missions.

#### Prayer and Powder.

BY REV. JOSEPH PARKER, D. D.

Do I give myself into God's hands, or do I give myself partly into the hands of God? Do I say, "I want to be pious, and I also want to be sagacious?" Do we give way to the infamous profanity which is often quoted as the sum total of wisdom, "Pray and trut to God, but keep your powder dry?" That is a bitter and impious falsehood in the soul of it. In so far as it is really wise it is a consequence, and not a merely selfish precaution. The keeping the powder dry is not Never so divide the acts as to imagine that they are unrelated, or that they stand to one another in a merely mechanical sequence. The one belongs to the other; the one, if we begin at the right point, is the other in all its holiest meaning.

#### Our Members Testify.

Christ bade His church begin their missionary work at Jerusalem. He bids us do the same thing—begin just where we are. It is not likely that the distant lands will accept the gospel from us if we are not able to persuade those who are nearest to us to accept it.

A home missionary was preaching to a crowd of miners. One of them said to him: "Don't apologize for the truth, pardner; give it to us straight." That is the kind of preaching that is needed on home-mission fields, and that is the kind that will win souls everywhere.

"Truth shall spring out of the earth," says the Psalm we study to-night. We are proud of our immense grain crops, our abounding orchards, our rich mines; but all these that we get out of the earth will do the nation no good without a crop of truth coming up out of the earth. That is what will enrich us, and make it possible for all these other crops to enrich us.

Those that are converted by home-mission work often blossom out into a beautiful Christian life. What could be more noble as an expression of Christian faith than this prayer of "Yellow Earrings," one of Sitting Bull's warriors who fought against Custer? It was offered in a missionary meeting in Dakota: "Saviour, be kind to me and bear with me. I am an old, ignorant man. I grew up without the Bible and knew nothing of Thee in my youth. Though I try now to follow Thee, I often lose the way, not because I do not want to go in the right road, but because I do not see clearly. Bless my people and be merciful to us. When we sin, wipe out the sin, because we love Thee and Thou didst die for us."

#### God's Will the Brightest Thing in Our Lives.

God's will is not so much a thing to which we must submit as a thing in which we should glory. It is not a rod beneath which we must bow, but a flag which we may follow. It is the one hopeful, glad, and glorious thing in this world. We are too apt to think of the petition, "Thy will be done," as one only to be placed on tombstones and mingled with sob, when it is rather our battle-cry of freedom, our cheer for hope and progress. There is no glad, good thing in all the world, in any day of any single life, but that is the will of God being done. The triumphs, the successes, the hopes, the joys,—these are the will of God. There is, indeed, a sense in which these are far more the will of God than the burdens, the tears, the failures, in which are mingled much of the fruit of the feeble, frail, and faulty will of man. Let this prayer, then, ring in our anthems; let us shout it in our praises, let us cherish it in our hearts as our exceeding confidence and our great joy: "Thy will, O God, be done."—S. S. Times.

Heaven consists in nothing else than walking, abiding, resting in the divine Presence. There are souls who enter into this heaven before leaving the body. If thou believest that thy God, found, felt, rested in, is heaven, why not, under the gracious help which he vouchsafes to thee in his Son, begin at once to discipline and qualify thy soul for this heaven?—John Pulsford.