

nature. Her eyes always seem to be down at the partly-raised lid of a box, squinting in. Next to prying into a box and finding something, she likes to open a box and let something out. Say what is your mind, and with what a complacent joy her eyes will shine! She has something in her mail-bag, and it will be faithfully delivered! Most unfaithful post in the world! Nobody need rob her. She will stand and give from the mail-bag all day. As she is not in the Church, and a part of her diet consists of the faults of professors, she will share her mouldy crust of gossip with every fault-finding sinner especially. And though you don't appreciate it, there is a tip of flame to your tongue. You are about to speak with warmth. The story will keep warm, hot, burning. You are giving a torch

to your Brother B. and Mrs. C. The two will hand it to a dozen others, and the dozen to another dozen, and so on, the fire increasing till the poor parson may be burnt out of town. Hold in that tongue! You restrain it. You drop your head. You think. Can sweetness and bitterness come from one fountain, and that fountain be your heart? Did you as a friend find out from the pastor if the story were true? Your hands are in your lap, folding into one another, praying for guidance, asking that the wisdom pure and peaceable may be yours. You have gained a victory. You have won a blessing. The peace you have maintained among others comes into your own heart like the beautiful calm of a sunset river. It glows in your very face.

A.D. 50.]

LESSON IV.—LIVING AS IN GOD'S SIGHT.

[Jan. 27.]

James 4. 7-17.



7 Submit yourselves therefore to God. *a* Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.

a Eph. 4. 27; 1 Peter 5. 9.

8 Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you. Cleanse your hands, ye sinners; and purify your hearts, ye double-

minded.

b 2 Chron. 15. 2.

9 Be afflicted, and mourn, and weep: let your laughter be turned to mourning, and your joy to heaviness

10 Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up.

11 Speak not evil one of another, brethren. He that speaketh evil of his brother, and judgeth his brother, speaketh evil of the law, and judgeth the law; but if thou judge the law, thou art not a doer of the law, but a judge.

12 There is one lawgiver, *c* who is able to save and to destroy: who art thou that judgest another?

c Matt. 10. 28.

13 Go to now, ye that say, To-day or to-morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain:

14 Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? *a* It is even a vapor, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.

a Or, For it is.

15 For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that.

16 But now ye rejoice in your boastings: all such rejoicing is evil.

17 Therefore, *d* to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.

d Luke 12, 47; John 9. 41; 15. 22; Rom. 1. 20; 2. 17.

GENERAL STATEMENT.

The Apostle James in his epistle addressed men as he saw them, and rebuked the evils which he found in the Jewish synagogue and

the Christian Church. With fearless tone he warned the worshippers in the assembly, when he saw that their lives were not in accord with their professions. In these verses he rebukes various errors which were infecting the Church. He saw worldliness creeping in, and turning the heart from God, and he declared that the disciple must submit wholly to God, and have no fellowship with temptation, if he would have communion with God (ver. 7, 8). He bade the proud sons and daughters of Zion humble themselves, repent of their sins, and receive the uplifting hand of the Lord (v. 8-10). He reproved the censorious spirit, which sat on the judgment-seat with regard to others, yet forgot that itself must meet the judgment of the Almighty (ver. 11, 12). He bore unflinching testimony against the worldly spirit which lived for self, and laid its plans as though there were no God, and declared that those who forgot God's providence were guilty of a sin toward God (ver. 13-17).

EXPLANATORY AND PRACTICAL NOTES.

Verse 7. Submit yourselves. The preceding verse shows the connection to be: "because God gives grace to the humble, and resists the proud, therefore seek entire submission to his will." 1. Only those who humble their own wills at the throne of God can be exalted. **Resist the devil.** While we yield fully to God, we are as resolutely to oppose Satan; for only in absolute resistance is safety. 2. There is an evil spirit, and we must be on our guard against his wiles. **He will flee.** For Satan has no power, not the slightest, over the heart which repels his advances.

8. Draw nigh to God. This we can do, by a life according to his will, by worship with his people, by communion with him in prayer, by meditation upon his word. **He will draw**