

The blood of Jesus Christ . . . cleanseth us from all sin.—1 John i. 7.

observed here that the man who would cheer others with the promises, must himself be ready to act upon them. Paul not only cheered others, but he was cheerful himself (v. 35)] Resting upon the promises, there follows peace of mind and assurance (v. 36). They are now stronger, for they have "eaten enough" (v. 38) and are satisfied; and in that new-found cheer and strength "they lighten the ship, and cast out the wheat." The works are in the right place now, and what they cast out is proof that they believe God can give them more than this world's goods can supply. But still more, "they cut the anchors," "loose rudder bands," "hoist fore sail," and "make for the shore." There is a full and unreserved committal to God. It is quite true that trials assail them (v. 41), and there is a power at work desiring to secure their death (v. 42), but there is a Friend who stands by and protects (v. 43), and the conclusion is, that notwithstanding storm and enemies, and the breaking up of the vessel, there is perfect safety; and when they gather on the shore, not one of that company is found missing. Praise God for a full and complete salvation.

Friend, where are you as regards this voyage of life? If you are just entering upon it, we beseech you take warning. If you are in the storm, we pray you to make no mistake as to the way of safety. Remember it was not the "helps," or "straking sail," or "casting out tackling," or "lightening the ship," that saved that crew. God was the Saviour, and faith in the Word of God secured it for them,—so your works will not save. Jesus alone can save. Trust Him. Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved—fully saved—eternally saved.

[SELECTED.]

Warranted to Remove all Stains.

WHEN I opened my door one morning, I found on the steps, a handbill advertising a wondrous preparation for the removal of all stains in cloth; sure to do it; never had been known to fail. I read it, and thought of other stains more foul, that many would be glad to wash out and wipe away—stains that had struck into the textures of life and left a sorry mark upon character—guilty stains. Who is without some of these unseemly and uncomfortable marks?

What effort is made to keep them out of sight—cover them up—washing "with nitre and much soap"! But the spots stick; they will not rub out. Much management may keep them out of other's sight, so that the garment of life is made to look tolerably respectable, but alas! they glare upon our own vision, and bring discomfort and

terror. One's very effort to conceal them often makes them the more prominent—directs attention to them.

Now what a sale might be made of some mixture that would clean off and out the stains of sin. What a market it would find!

Is there anything that will do it? Yes, a fountain; and "sinners plunged beneath that flood, lose all their guilty stains." Near? Yes close at hand; always accessible, ever available; it never dries away. Costly? "without money without price." None so poor but may wash therein and be clean. Where is it? What is it? Here and this: "The blood of Jesus Christ cleanseth from all sin." Soul-stained, sin-defiled, will you try it? When may I secure it? Now! for this is the day of Salvation. If you try it, you will find to your joyful satisfaction, that it will just meet your need—the very thing you want.

—*Labor of Love.*

GEMS RE-SET.

ONE reason for the inefficiency of many professing Christians is, that they are not men of rest, but are tossed about by doubts and fears. Hence the first duty is to come to Christ and rest.

TAKE away a toy from a child, and give him another, and he is satisfied. But if he be hungry, no toy will do. "As new-born babes," true believers "desire the sincere milk of the Word."—*John Newton.*

THE Christ who prayed on earth teaches us to pray, and the Christ who intercedes in Heaven helps us to pray, and presents our poor cries, acceptable through His sacrifice, and fragrant from His own golden censer.

ON the seal of the Baptist Missionary Union is the figure of an ox standing patiently, with a plough on one side and an altar on the other, and the inscription beneath, "Ready for either!" No fitter illustration could be given for fervent, humble zeal. May it be exemplified and exhibited by us all.

BELIEVERS greatly need to be recalled from Martha-like bustling about, to the Mary-portion of submission and rest. These two sisters stand in the record of the Gospels as illustrations of contrasted phases of character and motive. It needs them both to make a complete experience, and to qualify for extended usefulness.