

SOME EXTRACTS FROM S. P. GARDNER'S SERMONS.

Whatever is to be known of God is to be known in and through the soul, and obedience to His will therein made known is the only avenue that will lead to the Kingdom of Heaven.

Heaven is a condition of the soul, not merely a location to which we pass when the curtain of this life is drawn aside. It is a condition that is to be witnessed in our own hearts. When all our actions are brought down under the direction of the Divine will there is heaven—a heaven that can be witnessed by us all, for this law is manifest to every individual according to his state and condition.

Jesus forbade war, but how is the state of Christendom to-day. As the result of being founded on historical systems is it not going hand in hand with the spirit of the world? Do we not witness our fellow man slain on the field of battle all sanctioned by the authority of Christian nations? Is this a religion of love? Love is the true and native element of living man, and the soul that dwells in God must dwell in love.

How often do we hear it said, and say it ourselves: "O, if I knew the will of God concerning me how gladly would I run to perform it." To find this we need not inquire of men or books, however good. But turn within our own hearts, we will there find the will of God. It is a great mistake to ignore our own wills, thinking thereby to please God. Our will is one of the Almighty's greatest gifts to us. It is the organ that executes purpose in conjunction with the will of our Heavenly Father. It is the executive power in man. It is only second in all the blessings given to man next to reason itself. It is within the realm of reason that the light of the Divine Father shines and meets and quickens the understanding. When the understanding is thus enlightened it is the province of the will to join in and work

out our salvation. God will not work it out for us. He will do His part. He will furnish the power, light, wisdom, but we must put our hand to the work also.

I am aware of other minds here waiting to be unburdened. I felt anxious not to trespass upon their time. But I also felt that woe is me if I do not speak to this people, and I have declared as far as I understood the truth, as far as I knew it by experience. I want you to think for yourselves, to go to the Divine Counsellor deep in your own heart. If you may not bear testimony openly of the things you have experienced—inviting men to the firm foundation on which you stand safe in the beating storms of life—you can by the example of a pure life call and beck to your fellow-men. And there will be a crown for every cross you take up, and where there is no cross there will be no crown. And we need not be looking afar off for the crown till we have passed out of this life. We need not wait for it till the great day of judgment comes, and look for some angel form that serves in a place called heaven to raise it to our brows. No; at each step as we take up the cross the crown will follow, and that crown is the peace of the soul. And now, as my occasion with this people closes, perhaps forever, I bid you an affectionate farewell with a love that extends to all, not only to the saint, but to the sinner as well; it matters not whether you belong to the Society of Friends or not. It is no partial love. And this, I feel, is the nature of the Father's love.

May the youth, O Friends, early in life, before habits of wrong have been formed, be taught and instructed in divine truth. Give them as much as possible the results of your ripper experience, and induce them into the habit of meditating on things divine, that they may attend to the tender admonitions and grow in the knowledge of our Heavenly Father.

Our God is a God of mercy, a God