

A Problem to be Solved.

A YOUNG man, who had graduated at one of the first colleges in America, and was celebrated for his literary attainments, particularly his knowledge of mathematics, settled in a village where a faithful minister of the Gospel was stationed. It was not long before the clergyman met with him in one of his evening walks, and after some conversation, as they were about to part, addressed him as follows:—"I have heard that you are celebrated for your mathematical skill; I have a problem which I wish you to solve." "What is it?" eagerly inquired the young man. The clergyman answered, with a solemn tone of voice, "What shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?" The youth returned home, and endeavoured to shake off the impression fastened on him by the problem proposed to him, but in vain. In the giddy round of pleasure, in his business, and in his studies, the question still forcibly returned to him, "What shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?" It finally resulted in his conversion, and he became an able advocate and preacher of that Gospel which he once rejected.

Our Everlasting Lover.

GOD loves man and desires man's love. God has from eternity loved us. In ages past He made advances to man, and He has never ceased to make advances to us. "He first loved us."

God wants to be *very near*, wants us to enjoy intimacy with Him. He desires fellowship with us. In the garden of Eden He walked in the

cool of the day, seeking the company of Adam.

The Lord God was intimate with the patriarchs, and on various occasions appeared personally to them. He walked amongst them and held converse with them. He ate the cake that Sarah made, and the kid that Abraham prepared, and communed with him as a friend.

To Moses He appeared in the burning bush; to the Israelites in the Shekinah, or glory in the cloud; to Joshua, by Jericho, as an armed man, the Captain or Prince of the host of Jehovah: all showing His desire to draw near, as indeed He expressly stated, "I will set My tabernacle among you, and I will walk among you, and Mine eyes and My heart shall be there perpetually."

Witness the tabernacle at rest in the centre of the encampment surrounded by the hosts of Israel, with God in their midst.

Surely this determination to dwell with man, to have man near to Himself, is unmistakably shown by the coming of Jesus as the God-Man—God manifest in the flesh. Jesus came amongst us as one of us.

Yes, He desired to have us in fellowship with Himself. He determined, no matter what it should cost, to purchase us. He shed His BLOOD for us. He loved the Church, and gave

Himself for it. And having so bought us, He rose a real man. He prayed the Father that we should be *with Him* where He is. He ate and drank with His "brethren."

Yes, He ascended to heaven as a man, and there He is now, our High Priest, touched with the feeling of our infirmities, our Forerunner, ever making intercession for us, and preparing a place for us, that His great love may be satisfied by having His own with Himself for ever and ever.

—*Cheyne Brady.*

THE GOSPEL ALPHABET. No. 5.

Enter ye in at the strait gate.—Matt. vii. 13.
By Me if any man Enter in, he shall be saved.—Jn. x. 9.
Strive to Enter in at the strait gate.—Matt. xiii. 24.



The door of mercy is open still,
And Jesus cries—"Whosoever will,
By Me may Enter in:
I am the door, and I have died,
Salvation's door to open wide,
For sinners dead in sin."
Then, if the door is opened wide,
And none were ever yet denied,
Who sought to Enter in,
How can the very weakest say,
"I'm trying hard to find the way,
But cannot get within?"

There shall in no wise Enter . . . that defleth.—Rev. xxi. 27.
They could not Enter in because of unbelief.—Heb. iii. 19.
Many will seek to Enter, . . . shall not be able.—Lk. xiii. 24.