

For Dominion Presbyterian.

A New Book.

J. L. C.

John said to Maggie one day, "I have made a discovery." "What is that?" said she. "Well, I was reading in the last book of the New Testament and I noticed that the word 'Blessed' occurs there exactly seven times. You know the number seven is a symbolic number and is found very frequently in the Bible and especially in the book of Revelations. It is the symbol of completeness, or perfection. We read in the first chapter of this symbolic book, of the Seven Spirits of God, that is, the Holy Spirit in His seven-fold perfect power. We read also of the seven churches in Asia. No doubt there were more than seven churches in Asia in the days of John through whom our exalted Redeemer sent His messages to these churches. The seven mentioned are types of the whole then in that part of the world and indeed of the whole church of Christ till the end of time. John also saw seven golden candlesticks in the midst of which Jesus walked as the great High Priest—having the seven stars in His right hand. We read farther on of seven lamps, also of a book sealed with seven seals, a Lamb with seven horns and eyes, seven angels who had seven trumpets, a great red dragon in heaven with seven heads and seven crowns, and a beast rise out of the sea with seven heads. We read besides of seven angels having the seven last plagues, of seven golden vials or bowls, of a scarlet colored beast having seven heads, of seven mountains, and of seven kings. I knew all this before but I never knew till to-day that this sweet and precious word, 'Blessed' is to be found also just seven times. I am glad to learn this for I feel a new interest in this Book now. Most Christians do not find much joy or comfort in reading the Revelation, the last book of the Bible, but I am sure if they knew about this word 'Blessed' occurring as it does throughout its pages they would find more pleasure reading it than before."

"Please read me the verses where the word occurs" said Maggie. John did so and she shared his joy and surprise. They both said almost in one breath, "This discovery makes this Revelation a new book to me." John said after a pause of several minutes, "I will tell our minister about this and perhaps he will preach on these verses. I never heard but one of these texts preached from, viz., 'Blessed are the dead that die in the Lord, etc.'"

Next morning after breakfast John went across to "The Manse" as they called the minister and gave him a pleasant surprise by announcing his discovery. The minister said frankly to John that he had not noticed the "Seven Beatitudes" of the Revelation before and more that he had not noticed anything in his books about them. He gladly acceded to John's request or suggestion to preach a series of sermons on them.

Next Sabbath he announced from the pulpit that, God willing, he would begin the series and he asked his people and especially the young people and the boys and girls, to find the verses containing word "Blessed" and to commit them to memory if possible before next Sabbath. He was pleased with the interest manifested in the faces of his people as he was

making the announcement. In going among the people next week doing his pastoral work he was more than delighted by the remarks many made about the expected treat they would get from the promised sermons. In many of the homes he found little boys and girls ready to repeat the verses and some of the old people said how much their interest in this book was increased by what to them was also a discovery. Next Sabbath the church was crowded with an interested congregation as the preacher spoke from Rev. 1: 3, "Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep the things that are written therein; for the time is at hand." A solemn stillness came over the audience as the minister spoke of the rich promise of blessing contained in this opening verse of this last book of the Bible,—a blessing both for them and for himself. He compared the beatitudes of Matthew, or the opening verses of Christ's great sermon of inauguration of His Kingdom and these beatitudes spoken from Heaven by the same great King and Priest. It was a stirring sermon and was the topic of conversation in the neighborhood during the week.

The church was so filled next Sabbath that benches had to be placed in the aisles and the preacher's text was Rev. 14: 13, "And I heard a voice from heaven saying, 'Write, Blessed are the dead that die in the Lord from henceforth; yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors, for their works follow with them.'" When the minister announced the text and read these solemn words a great quietness came over the congregation and all listened intently till the close of the sermon. Many of the best people in the church stayed in their pews longer than usual in silent prayer that day and a few of the elders met the minister as he came down from the pulpit and shaking his hand said "We are about to have a revival of religion." One said "Why, we have it now." The minister said "Let us pray for this, we need it." All agreed they would. The next Sabbath many had to be turned away as there was not room even about the door or at the open windows. The text was Rev. 16: 15, "Behold I come as a thief, Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked and they see his shame." At the close of this sermon the minister gave an invitation to any who were anxious about their salvation to meet him in the vestry and to his great joy no less than ten started to ask the way of life and peace. It was evident that a revival was in progress and that the spirit of the Lord was quickening dead sound to life.

The other four texts containing this same word, "Blessed," viz., Rev. 19: 9, Rev. 20: 6, Rev. 22: 6 and 14 were preached from in succession and so marked was the progress of the good work that nearly every person in that community was brought under the influence of religion. Christians were greatly revived and made very active in work for Christ and many careless people were brought to cry for mercy and led to the Saviour. Everybody who attended the services said the last book of the Bible was to them a New Book. May it be a New Book to you and me dear reader. Let us read it and be blessed. Amen.

Living by Giving.

There came a request to give,
Of my scanty means to the Lord;
I said, "But then I must live,
And to give I cannot afford!"

I thought then of God's great love,
How His gifts abide with me still;
His home kept for me above,
And my heart then said, "But I will,"

Oh soul, do you long to know,
Of the very best way to live
In this vale of tears below?
It is this—"We live as we give."

The Unappreciated.

They are everywhere. They are toiling in obscurity—"faithful over a few things" while doing a great work. Many of them are laying foundations of character, and in what better work can any one engage? Some are mothers, often weary and discouraged at the depravity in their children. How many provocations and hindrances! How many temptations and vexations over a teething child when her head and backache and her nerves have as many points as a chesnut burr! She works and wearies, not from "dawn to dewy eve," but from before dawn to late at night, and all from pure love!

How greatly would she be cheered if husband would speak an appreciative word!

And the teacher of our common school what a task to govern, teach, answer a thousand questions, and watch an unuly and mischievous boy! How she straightens many a snarl while hearing her class recite! Who appreciates the conscientious toilers who are "teaching the young idea how to shoot," and preparing for a noble manhood, or womanhood, our children? What vexations and annoyances she has, and yet keeps cool and calm and teaches by example as well as precept! She is doing a work for which money is no consideration, supplementing that of the parent. Does she not need appreciation?

Shall I speak of another class, who need the reward of an approving word—the preacher? When he has studied long and hard to bring forth from the treasury of God's Word truths for the comfort of saints, for "reproof and correction in righteousness," or to soothe the afflicted, or persuade the erring; when he has visited the sick, attended funerals, listened to grievances, counseled the weak, and performed multitudinous tasks, how few realize what patience and wisdom and long-suffering it costs! And yet, many blame when they should praise, and find fault when he needs and deserves favor.

"Tis not a work of small import
The pastor's care demands,
But what might fill an angel's heart—
It filled a Savior's hands."

Ah! the words of appreciation we might have given, and thereby lightened his burdens. What a stimulus to harder work and better study? Why not speak a word to this and that weary and discouraged one now rather than wait and let it be spoken at the funeral?

A little well-deserved praise is "like apples of gold in pictures of silver."—Herald and Presbyterian.