

of the deeper sea. The life hidden with Christ in God does not fuss or fume over trifles. It is serene in the quietness of faith. The passions are hushed to rest in the bosom of God's bottomless love—

"Deep waters noyslesse are, and this we know,
That chiding streams betray small depths below."
Halifax, N. S.

The Great Alliance

By Rev. W. H. Sedgwick, B.A.

"Before I entered upon this work", said William the Silent, the Founder of the Dutch Republic, "I made a close alliance with the King of Kings." Everything, in life, depends upon this alliance.

That was the Master's thought. "With men", He said on one occasion, "it is impossible, but not with God: for all things are possible with God." I fancy few words of Jesus are more persistently misused or more frequently misquoted. It is in reading the preposition that we go astray. We read it as though "*with*" were the equivalent of "*to*." But Jesus did not say "All things are possible *to* God"; He said "All things are possible *with* God." He is not drawing the contrast between man's impotence and God's power. He is teaching that the first, last and greatest need of life is to be brought into the great alliance. Impotent man yoked with omnipotent God becomes strong and does exploits.

The subject under discussion when Jesus spoke these words was personal salvation. The rich young ruler had made, through cowardice, the great refusal, and the Master, as His way was, sought to use the incident for redemptive ends. "Children, how hard it is to enter into the kingdom of God!" And, then, because the disciples were alarmed, He added "Hard, but not impossible: *not impossible with God*." All the resources of humanity at its best, Jesus says, are inadequate for salvation; but in the matter of salvation we are not dealing with the resources of man, but of God, and with God all that a man ought to be he can be.

Yes, and with God all that a man ought to do he can do. The kingdom demands the impossible in service as it does in character. "Give ye them to eat", we hear the Master say. "But, Master, you forget that we are in a desert place!" "On the other hand, I remember that I am Lord of the desert. They have no need to go away. I am here." Thus Christ added a new word to the soul's literature. He taught men to say, "We have neither bread nor power to get bread; but we have Thee!" He taught men to think, not of human endeavor, that cannot avail, but of divine resource, that cannot fail. He taught men to measure their tasks, not against their five poor loaves and two small fishes, but against the resources of the Infinite.

When Robert Morrison went out to China, a New York merchant, sceptical as to Morrison's power to do good, said, "So you expect that you will make an impression upon the idolatry of the great Chinese Empire!" "No, sir", was the reply, "but I expect God will." When they laughed at St. Teresa because she wanted to build a great orphanage and had but three shillings, she answered, "With three shillings Teresa can do nothing; but with God and her three shillings there is nothing Teresa cannot do." Because these had entered into the Great Alliance their intrepid souls laughed at the impossible and said, "It shall be done!"

Hamilton, Ont.

Growth in Christian Life

By Rev. D. McTavish, D.Sc.

V. GROWING BY DOING

In order to grow, life must have expression. Hence activity is absolutely essential to growth. We see this illustrated in the physical sphere. Parents are often worried and vexed by the restlessness of their children, whereas they should be thankful, since this indicates a healthy life growing by exercise. The children are finding themselves by doing things. The parent's duty is to direct this activity and not merely suppress it. This is one of the basal principles of the kindergarten system. On the other hand, an inactive child should be a cause of alarm.