

so terrific was his aspect that Christian debated in himself whether he would not retreat; but he remembered that while he had complete armor on in front he had none on his back and concluded that it was safest to go forward and resist the Devil. Here Dr. Cuyler averred his belief in a personal Devil as clearly set forth in scripture and proved by experience. The Devil was not present everywhere, like the Almighty, but he had legions of evil spirits at his command, and through them were ever ready to avail of any opening to the human heart. Those who sought him found him readily, and he often took by surprise those who sought him not. Our temptations are of three kinds: Those which spring up within, those which were persecuted without, and those which came from the direct suggestions of the Evil One in some mysterious manner to our minds. Appollyon did not beg to launch his fiery darts at once at Christian. The Devil never does that. It was only in the third state of the conflict that he belches forth smoke and flame and uses his weapons. He began with Christian to persuade him to go back to the City of Destruction by promises of pleasure and good wages; but Christian said he could not live on them, for the wages of sin is death. Then Appollyon tried to frighten him, telling him that he had committed so many sins that he could never be received into the Celestial City, and therefore might as well go back from his painful pilgrimage. He then recapitulated a catalogue of Chris-

tian's sins. "I know them all, and more," replied the Pilgrim, meekly, "and my Lord knows them all and has forgiven them; therefore I will persevere." Then Appollyon threw his sharpest dart at him, but Christian warded it off with the shield of faith. This was followed by a shower of fiery darts thick as hail which did him little damage on account of his armor. Then Satan had recourse to his heaviest weapons, and Christian had to use the Sword of the Spirit in his defence, which he did most manfully. The fiend however, got him down and was fetching a terrible blow to make an end of him, when Christian bethought himself of the weapon of "All-prayer;" a weapon which lays hold on Omnipotence; and with that he pierced Appollyon, who spread his wings and flew away, so that the Pilgrim saw him no more. This was a picture of Bunyan's own spiritual conflicts in the earlier part of his Christian career, and he adds it was the most dreadful battle he ever saw in his life. Then Christian went forward again, having realized the promise: Resist the Devil and he will flee from you.

COMING TO CHRIST.

BY THE REV. C. H. SPURGEON.

There are instances on record in biographies—there are many known to us, and perhaps our own cases are among them—in which coming to Christ was a matter of struggle, of effort, of disappointment, of long waiting, and at last of a kind of desperation by which we were forced to come. You must have read Mr. John Bunyan's description of