

### THE POWER OF CHRIST.

Could not Christ have saved Lazarus from dying? Could not Christ save you or me from perplexity, or from temptation, or from doubt? Surely, those are questions which have their lower and their higher answers. He could, because the power of life and death was in him. But the power to use the power depended on other things. It depended on the necessity which lay back of all things in Jesus to do the absolutely best thing—not the second best thing, but the absolutely best of all.

If it were best for Lazarus to die, then Christ could not have caused that he should not have died. This is a sublime incapacity; to stand with the gift of life in the all powerful hands, to see the cry for life in the eager eyes, to hear it in the dumb appeal of the terrified lips, and yet to say, "No, not life, but death is best," and so be unable to give life—that is a sublime, a divine incapacity! Could not Christ have answered your prayer? No, he could not; not because the thing you asked for was not in his treasury, but because behind the question of his giving or refusing it, there lay the fundamental necessity of his nature and his love, that he should do for you only the absolutely best. The thing you asked for was not absolutely best, therefore he could not give it. Back of how many unanswered prayers lies that divine impossibility!—*Phillips Brooks.*

### A MOTHER'S RESOLUTIONS.

A loving and pious mother framed for herself the following, which may serve as a hint to other mothers:

"That the first duty of the day performed by me shall be prayer to God, especially for strength and wisdom to properly instruct, guide and govern my child.

"That I will never permit my child to wilfully disobey me, or to treat me with disrespect.

"That I will earnestly strive never to act from an impulse of passion or resentment, but will endeavor to preserve my judgment cool and my feelings calm, that I may clearly see and truly perform my duty to my child.

"That I will devote a certain portion of my time each day to self-instruction, in order to be able to properly instruct my child.

"That I will watch over my temper at all times, cultivate a habit of cheerfulness, and interest myself in the little matters of my child, that I may thereby gain his love.

"That I will devote my time especially to those pursuits which will increase the comfort and happiness of my home and forward the best interests of my child.

"That I will study the health of my child, reading on the subject; and asking the advice of those who are more experienced than myself.

"That I will not yield to discouragements from failure, but will persevere, putting faith in the promise of God to all those who earnestly and faithfully strive to do their duty."—*Christian Herald.*

### INSIDIOUS TEMPTATIONS.

One family in five, upon an average, gives a son to swell the army of drunkards whose presence is a reproach to our civilization. And yet, how unwilling are parents to believe that their boys are in danger! Of the willingness with which the tempter makes his approach to the sons of respectable households, Joseph H. James, Secretary of the Connecticut Temperance Union, says in the *Sunday School Times*:

The principal of a school in a western city noticed, as he approached a group of his pupils, that they concealed something which they had been examining. He insisted on seeing the secreted articles, and found them to be cards arranged to record by means of punching out figures, the number of drinks bought at a certain saloon, so that its proprietor could decide to which of these boy patrons belonged the premiums offered to the buyers of the drinks. The prize for the largest number was a pistol. The second prize, the "Life" of the notorious villain, "Jesse James."

With access to schools and to groups of boys, either directly or through decoys, these men constantly seek to get hold of those who will be future patrons. The higher the social position of the youth, the greater the effort to lure him into the path of the destroyer.

A class of tempters less likely to be suspected than either of these are recognized leaders in social life, and even in church life, who are yet willing to lend themselves to this ruinous work.

The principal of a school in New England, noticed something strange in the conduct of boys whom he had regarded as among his best pupils, found that they were slightly intoxicated. Upon careful investigation, it appeared that the training of these boys and others for a public exhibition, had been committed to a prominent man, supposed to be in every way qualified, but who, after they had rehearsed, had taken them to his store, and supplied them with wine. Pleased with its taste and effects, they had obtained more, and were fast forming the drink habit. To their parents, among the best citizens in the place, the teacher's report was the first intimation that these boys were not all that could be desired.

### THE SIN OF FRETTING.

There is one sin, which it seems to me, is everywhere, and by everybody, under estimated, and quite too much overlooked in valuation of character. It is the sin of fretting. It is as common as air, as speech; so common that, unless it raises above its usual monotone, we do not even observe it. Watch any ordinary coming together of people and see how many minutes it will be before some body frets; that is makes more or less complaining statement of something or other, which most probably everyone in the room, or in the car, or the street corner, it may be knew before, and which probably nobody can help. Why say anything about it? It is cold, it is hot, it is wet, it is dry; somebody has broken an appointment, ill-cooked a meal; stupidity or bad faith somewhere has resulted in discomfort. There are plenty of things to fret about. It is simply astonishing how much annoyance may be found in the course of every day's living, even at the simplest, if one only keeps a sharp eye out on that side of things. Even holy Writ says we are prone to trouble as sparks to fly upward, in the blackest of smoke, there is a blue sky above; and the less time they waste on the road the sooner they will reach it. Fretting is all time wasted on the road.—*Helen Hunt.*

### SEEKING A BETTER EARTH.

Do not be afraid of missing heaven in seeking a better earth. The distinction between secular and sacred is a confusion and not a contrast; and it is only because the secular is so intensely sacred that so many eyes are blind before it. The really secular thing in life is the spirit which despises under that name what is but part of the everywhere-present work and will of God. Be sure that, down to the last and pettiest detail, all that concerns a better world is the direct concern of Christ.

Where are you to begin? Begin where you are. Make that one corner, room, house, office, as like heaven as you can. Begin! Begin with the paper on the walls, make that beautiful; with the air, keep it fresh; with the drains, make them sweet; with the furniture, see that it is honest. Abolish whatsoever worketh abomination—in food, in drink, in luxury, in books, in art; whatsoever maketh a lie—in conversation, in social intercourse, in correspondence, in domestic life. This done, you have arranged for a heaven, but you have not got it. Heaven lies within, in kindness, in humbleness, in unselfishness, in faith, in love, in service. To get these in, get Christ in. Teach all in the house about Christ—what He did and what He said, and how He lived and how He died, and how He dwells in them, and how He makes all one. Teach it not as a doctrine, but as a discovery, as your own discovery. Live your own discovery. Then pass out into the city. Do all to it that you have done at your home. Beautify it, ventilate it, drain it. Let nothing enter it that can defile the streets, the stage, the newspaper offices, the book-

sellers' counters; nothing that maketh a lie in its warehouses, its manufactures, its shops, its art galleries, its advertisements. Educate it, amuse it, church it. Christianize capital, dignify labor. Join councils and committees. Provide for the poor, the sick, and the widow. So will you serve the city.—*Prof Drummond.*

### ARE YOU DRIFTING?

Some years ago there was a vessel coming down the Niagara River which, when a few miles above the falls, took fire. It was soon found there could be no particle of hope for saving her, so the crew and passengers were taken ashore in boats, and the vessel abandoned to her fate. It was night, and the scene is said to have been grand beyond description. The banks were lined with people who waited in breathless suspense for the inevitable moment as she swept towards the awful verge. At length, with a frightful plunge and hissing sound, amid flashing fire and gloaming spray, she made the bound and disappeared in that awful flood.

How sad it is, but it is none the less true, that there are hundreds of our young men in our cities and villages just as hopelessly on fire with evil habit; and through the dark night of temptation they are floating down with the current toward a more awful plunge. But surely this is not a manly course.

There can be no glory in mere drifting—going with the current. Floating is essential weakness. A cork can do that. God against the current is strength. Surely no manly young man needs ever to be convinced that moral weakness is a disgrace, and moral strength is pride and glory. And let it not be forgotten that vacillation in regard to beginning the Christian service is as unworthy, if not more so, than any other. If you have not done so, my brother, you owe it to your manhood to begin a decided Christian life. You know it. Your reason, your heart, your conscience, all tell you so. You not only owe it to him—but you owe it to your own self to take this step, if you have not, and to do so at once.—*The Young Christian.*

### News of the Churches.

#### ST. JOHN, N. B.

Bro. Stewart returned on the 7th. He was absent five Lord's days, four of which he preached on Prince Edward Island and the fifth in Halifax, where he attended and was one of the speakers at the convention of the Young People's Society of Christian Endeavor of the Maritime Provinces. The Halifax papers said it was an eloquent address. Bro. Northcutt also delivered a good address. The brethren in Halifax say these addresses will do the church much good.

This month has been given up to our meeting, led by Bro. H. A. Northcutt, and a better leader we have never had.

From the first sermon until the present the audiences have been larger than we hoped for. On Sunday evening, the 20th, we had the largest number ever in the house—every nook and corner, and out on the stairway, was filled, besides many went away for want of room. On Monday, the 21st, in spite of one of the worst storms of wind and rain, about fifty were present. The same night at one of the largest churches only three were present.

At the present writing seventeen have confessed Christ as follows. one on the 16th, three on the 17th, five on the 18th, one on the 19th, three on the 22nd, and four on the 23rd. We are hopeful that more will take their stand with us.

Many of the leading members of other churches, including several preachers, have been in attendance; what they have heard will remove a great deal of prejudice from their minds in regard to what we teach and believe, and, we trust, will help them to a better understanding of what the Bible reveals. I know Bro. Northcutt will forgive me or tolling this, but the fact ought to be known, he