

Again, there are some who have been aroused from their slumber who are sleeping again. The light has been extinguished and the cloud has returned with redoubled darkness enveloping an immortal being in a more fearful state of stupor. We have seen that the condition of sleeping souls is awfully alarming, and if they slumber on their case will grow worse. The disease of the soul is insidious, unlike the sleep of the body from which the man rises refreshed for the toils of the day. The sleep of the soul takes deeper and more powerful hold of its victim, and renders him weaker the longer its possession. It is now high time to awake out of sleep, therefore the language of Paul; Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give you light. Let the objector who complains that he has no power to change his own heart make the effort to obey the command of God. The man with the withered hand had no strength in it to stretch it forth and yet he made no objection to obeying the Saviour's command, he made the effort and succeeded. So let all yield to the commands of God. Accept of the invitations of Christ, and live according to His word; and the promise shall be ours of entering in through the gates to that city of God.

W. R. McEwen.

Milton.

THE LESSON OF NOAH.

KEEPING FAITH UNDER TRYING CIRCUMSTANCES.

BY THE REV. S. O. LEONARD.

Noah had never seen a flood of waters which covered the earth, and probably had never heard of one. The science of his time had not found in the crust of the globe the records with which we are familiar, His faith transmuted into a certainty a marvel of the future, on the strength of the naked word of God. He was surrounded by an intense alienation from God. The social life of his time was a reproach to humanity. The wickedness of man was so great on the earth—every imagination of the thoughts of his heart being only evil continually—that it repented the Lord that he had made man. "The earth was corrupt and filled with violence; all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth."

Noah must have encountered a great many unbelieving people after it had become common talk that he was building a structure of unheard-of dimensions and partitionment. Curiosity was probably not very different then from what it is now. His work as it slowly progressed must have been looked over by a great many curious eyes. We can readily imagine some passer-by, or self-poised interviewer stopping before the huge unfinished structure, not content to go on without some conversation over it.

"What are you building, may I ask?"

"Certainly, an ark."

"What is it for?"

"There is a flood of water coming upon the earth."

"How much of a flood?"

"The dry land is to be covered with water deeper than the mountains are high."

"Did you ever hear of such a flood?"

"No."

"Have you asked any of the old men whether they ever heard of such a flood? There is your grandfather Mothusehah; he must be eight hundred and fifty by this time, and he was two hundred and forty when Adam died, so that he could have talked over events of the early times with Adam himself; have you asked him whether he ever heard Adam speak of anything of the kind?"

"Yes, I have talked with him about it; he never saw such a flood and never heard of one."

"What makes you think that such a flood is coming?"

"God has said so."
(With a smile on his countenance) "How much will that immense boat cost you?"

"I don't know; a great deal."

"How much time do you expect to give to it?"

"Whatever proves to be necessary."

"Why are you building it so enormously large?"

"To hold the animals which I am to save."

"How do you expect to catch them and get them in?"

"They are to come to me, two and two of every kind."

"Well, you hav'n't asked my advice, but if I were in your place I should wait until I had seen some signs of such a flood before I should spend time and money as you are spending it. You never can use that immense box for anything. If your family starve you can't sell it. Nobody would buy it for a house or a barn. And you ought to remember that you will not always be as young as you are now. You cannot expect to live more than four or five hundred years longer, and you will need something for yourself by-and-by; after a couple of centuries you will not be able to work as you can now."

The scoffer passes along, and the faithful and obedient servant of the Lord works on as energetically as ever. "According to all that God commanded so did he."

Noah's faith was resolutely firm. Resting on the word of God it was not vanquished by discouragement. It did not lose heart because all things continued as they were from the foundation of the world. The dark background against which he stood did not impart its hue to him. His faith set God's word against an unbelieving world.

Faith has its heroes. They are not few in number. The names of many of the heroes and heroines of faith have been lost as centuries have come and gone. But among those which the world will never let die, is the name of him who "built an ark to the saving of his house, through which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith."

WHAT I HAVE SEEN.

THE WRITER'S EXPERIENCE DURING FIVE MONTHS SPENT VISITING THE CHURCHES.

Churches with a good eldership and an approved pastor, in peace and great prosperity.

Churches able and willing to support a good preacher, languishing because they cannot get one to suit them.

Small churches in towns, made of noble and faithful believers, greatly needing and desiring the labors of an evangelist, for at least a year, but unable to support one. Brethren help them promptly.

Churches that are able and not willing to support a pastor, dying out for want of food and discipline.

Churches that are disgraced and crippled by unworthy and inefficient elders, who, while they denounce the tyranny of pastors, are themselves tyrants.

Neighborhoods whom the cause of Christ has been injured by a selfish, indiscrete and pragmatismal evangelist.

A large congregation with wealthy members living in beautiful houses, elegantly furnished, meeting in a chapel inferior to their own back kitchens.

Brethren (?) who have been laying up treasures for themselves till they have duplicated their ten thousand dollars many times over, not giving ten dollars a year for the cause that cost the Saviour His life, who are evidently fairly on the way to the place occupied by the other rich, selfish man referred to in Luke xvi. 23.

Brethren who have been overtaken by a fault have repented and are now living a good, consistent Christian life.

Brethren (?) who are habitually overtaking a fault and going down to ruin.

An evangelist going forth to preach among the churches on his own responsibility, who has found a few noble exceptions to the rule that without an engagement he might labor at considerable pecuniary loss.—E. S., in Ontario Evangelist.

Marriages.

FOWLER-DEVOR.—At the residence of the bride's father, 175 King street (east), by the Rev. James Crisp, Mr. T. Fenwick Fowler, of Upham, to Miss Mary DeVoe, third daughter of Mr. Charles DeVoe.

MATHEWS-MATHEWS.—At LeToto, December 25, 1886, by A. W. Rideout, Addasar Mathews to Emma Jane Mathews, both of LeToto, N. B.

MATHEWS-CHAMBERS.—At LeToto, February 5th, 1887, by A. W. Rideout, Hugh Mathews to Martha Chambers, both of LeToto, N. B.

Died.

WAGONER.—At her residence, Riverdale, Digby Co., on the 8th instant, of heart disease, Mrs. Wagoner, widow of the late John E. Wagoner, in the seventy-fifth year of her age. Truly a mother in Israel has passed away to the "Better Land." She has gone to be with Christ which is far better. Over thirty years ago when Bro. D. Crawford first visited this place she was among the first to confess her Saviour, and from that time till her death she was always found in her place among the people of God. Her home was the home of the preacher and all who were in need found a welcome. She was full of good works. May the bereaved ones find the comfort which the Gospel provides for such, and may we all get ready for our change.

J. A. GATES.

CALLBECK.—On the 17th of January, Brother William Callbeck, of Tryon, P. E. I., received a telegram from Windsor, N. S., calling him to witness the last hours of his eldest son, Charles Spurgeon Callbeck. Bro. Callbeck had much difficulty in making his way through blocked roads to the railway station at that stormy season; but he succeeded, crossed in the "Northern Light," and reached Windsor two days before the death of his son. His disease was pneumonia, resulting from a cold. He was an industrious and well-doing young man, who had recently returned with his wife and one child from Illinois, and were spending the winter with her parents in Windsor, intending to come to P. E. Island in the spring, but he was thus suddenly called away by death. We pray that our kind heavenly Father may comfort and care for the bereaved friends in time of trouble.

D. C.

MORTON.—Bro. Morton has been taken from us for a little while. He was one of the oldest inhabitants of Milton, being in his eighty-second year at his death. It is very sad to have a father taken from a devoted family, yet to have him spared to them so long without any severe sickness during his long life, and no conscious suffering in his last hours, is a blessing well worthy the heart's best gratitude. Bro. Morton was a member of the Church of Christ, and in his younger days was an active member, filling the office of a deacon. He was a student of the Bible as his Bible plainly shows by the many marks on nearly every page. He was constant in his family worship. The morning of his last Lord's day on earth was spent in prayer, and nearly his last words were in thus talking to his Heavenly Father in commending himself and his family to God's divine mercy. He leaves a large family of children and grandchildren to whom he was fondly attached and of whom he could be justly proud. Sister Morton bears her sad loss with a Christian resignation to Him who doeth all things well. May the blessed consolation of the gospel mitigate the sorrow of her declining years, and may the surviving family fully realize, from this repeated lesson of life, that death does not end all, that there is a life that outlasts this fleeting breath, and the possibility of obtaining this life of joy and peace is within the reach of all. What a blessed hope!—that the families on earth who are in the family of God, although divided by the stream of death, will again be united never to be troubled by sorrow or severed by death.

H. MURRAY.