

should proclaim upon the house-tops and in the chief places of concourse, which we should proclaim to the very ends of the earth is that "This man receiveth sinners."

"Sin is any want of conformity unto, or transgression of the law of God;" and a sinner is one whose life does not in all things perfectly conform to the law of God, or who in any way, whether in work, word, or thought, transgresses the law. As in many things we all offend this epithet, *sinner*, applies to every child of the human family. Though all descended from the same ancestral pair, the different tribes of the human race differ from each other in many respects. The Esquimaux of Labrador and Greenland however they may suffer from destitution, never borrow or steal from each other. They never quarrel, nor fight, nor go to war among themselves; while in civilized countries people beg, borrow, steal, engage in quarrels, go to law among themselves, and by such refined modes of slaughter as the sword, the rifle, and the cannon, dispatch men by thousands into eternity. In the wilds of Africa, and in some of the islands of the Pacific Ocean there are tribes of men and women who go all their life-time as destitute of clothing as they were at the moment of their entrance into this world. In other countries there are many who go to such extremes in matters of dress as to set such conventional ideas as modesty and shame at defiance. In colour, speech, domestic habits and forms of government, the different nations and tribes of mankind, diverge very widely from each other. But from the lowest type of the Heathen, to the most cultivated and refined of the race of men, we all agree in this, that all have sinned and come short of the glory of God. We all need a Saviour to save us from our sins. In this there is no difference between the savage and the saint. If we are

Christians, we may, whenever we meet an unconverted man, proclaim in his hearing, as the most appropriate and blessed message we can bring him, this good news which has dispelled our own moral darkness and brought gladness to our hearts: *Jesus receiveth sinners!*

He receiveth sinners of all ages. He receiveth youthful sinners. When on earth he took little children into his arms and blessed them. When His stern disciples drove away the mothers who brought their children to Him, He rebuked the disciples, and said, "Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of God." Far be it from us to beat off or discourage aged sinners from coming to Christ. But we cannot help thinking that the Saviour is especially pleased with those who in the morning of their life give their hearts to Him. The fragrance of youthful piety must be a sweet odor to Him. And yet, I fear many Christian people look upon the conversion of children as a thing hardly to be rationally hoped for, and, consequently, do not labour and pray for their conversion as faithfully and fervently as they ought. But we would impress upon the heart of every young person—upon the heart of every boy and girl—that they need not wait until they come to man's or woman's state before becoming Christians. To every one of you, Christ says: "Give me thine heart." And by giving your heart to Him now, while you are young, you will be saved from a thousand temptations and snares.

But He receives aged sinners too. To the thief on the cross, who said, "Lord remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom," He said, "Verily, I say unto thee, to-day shalt thou be with me in Paradise." In this gracious reception of the repentant malefactor, our Lord has shown us that no sinner who seeks Him sincerely need