

SPIRITUAL COURAGE.

Christian valour and spiritual courage is a needful grace. David had in him this holy valor and courage when he went against Goliath, and Paul when he was going to Jerusalem. But most valorous and strong did Christ our Captain show himself when he was going up to Jerusalem to suffer. The Evangelist saith, He steadfastly set his face, He settled Himself fully to go; though it were to drink a most bitter cup. He would not be drawn from it, and because Peter labored to dissuade Him he sharply rebuked him, and called him Satan. WILLIAM GOUGE.

TOO MANY POINTS.

The making of too many points in teaching a lesson is often equivalent to making no points at all. In regard to this, the Baptist Teacher says:

The thoughtful, studious teacher will often find himself embarrassed by the great variety and richness of truth contained in the lesson. To attempt to develop it all within the limits usually allotted to it, would only result in a failure to develop anything at all.

Pursuing the exhaustive method, just as the teacher begins to warm up in his work, and the subject to open up to his view, the tap of the superintendent's bell smites on his ear and heart, and there he is obliged to leave the lesson lying all in heaps, with nothing brought to perfection. Don't say everything that can be said. Don't undertake to teach everything that can be learned from the lesson. Select your starting-point, your line of march, your goal; and, with your eye steadily fixed on it, press to it.

LARGE BEQUESTS.

Sir David Baxter, who died towards the close of last year, amongst his other large bequests left the magnificent sum of £55,000 to the Free Church of Scotland. The money has now all been paid over to the different committees, the sums when appointed being as follows: Sustentation Fund, £26,995 18s. 4d.; Foreign Missions, £6,750; Colonial Missions, £6,750; Home Missions, £4,500; and Benevolent Schemes, within the limits of the Church, £4,500—making a total of £49,495 18s. 4d., and the whole of which is to be invested as capital, only the yearly interest being allowed in each case. The sum paid to the Crown in the shape of legacy duty was £5,504 1s. 11d., and hence the decrease in the total sum received by the Church.

ASTROLOGY IN PERSIA.

The Rev. B. Labaree, missionary of the Presbyterian Board in Persia, gives some interesting fact in the Record in regard to the influence of astrology in Persia. Though the poorer classes in Persia cannot afford to consult astrologers frequently, the wealthy classes, up to the Shah, abide by their decisions. The astrologer fixes the propitious hour for beginning a journey, for celebrating a marriage, or for putting on a robe of honor in public. And if the day fixed for journeying is too early for the convenience of the traveller, he leaves his house, and goes to his next-door neighbors, or to some retreat outside the city, where he can continue his preparations; but on no account must he revisit his own house, as he is supposed to be on a journey. The time of returning to the city is also fixed by the science of astrology. Two or three years since the whole city of Tabriz was thrown into consternation because of a predicted earthquake,—the Crown Prince, the Court, and thousands of the inhabitants left the city; but greatly to the indignation of these dupes of the astrologer, the promised convulsion did not take place. The astrologer narrowly escaped torture, in consequence of his false prediction.

TREATMENT OF OLD HORSES.

Perhaps the most inhuman treatment that an old animal receives falls to the lot of the horse. It has to travel on the road with the young and vigorous, draw one-half of the plough in the field all day beside the more than equal mate, and is allowed the same time to eat and rest. If there is a defective collar or bad-fitting harness, it belongs to "Old Dick"; and when by overtask he is reduced to almost worthlessness, he is sold, perhaps, into the hands of some barbarian, because he is almost worthless, and after dragging around a short time, dies, an "old scrub" at the age of twelve years. A horse should not be old until he is twenty; and we have known many very vigorous several years in advance of that; and the secret of their longevity was not in the peculiar vitality of the horse, but a genuine humanity in the owner.

It does not injure a horse to labor, any more than it does a man; and it is only by over-exertion, exposure and ill-treatment, that it is jaded at the time when it should be in its prime. When men learn to exercise humanity toward animals for the right of it, which should be a sufficient incentive, they will find a second compensation in the way of absolute money profit.—Exchange.

There would not be half the difficulty in doing right, but for the frequent occurrence of cases where the lesser virtues are on the side of wrong.—J. C. Hare.

There is a man that says, "I guard myself against stings." Bless his dear soul! he never had a feeling of stinging in all his life. His trouble has always been looseness. He never could keep anything.—Becher.

While obedience is the law of the kingdom, it is of considerable importance that which is obeyed should be in very truth the will of God. It is one thing, and a good thing, to do for God's sake that which is not his will; it is another thing, and altogether a better thing,—how much better no words can toll—to do for God's sake that which is his will.—George MacDonald.

Miscellaneous

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TO IMMIGRANTS.

The attention of parties intending to settle in Manitoba is hereby called to the circumstance that at a recent meeting of Knox Church Congregation, Winnipeg, the following gentlemen were appointed to act as an Immigration Committee, for the purpose of affording information and advice to such immigrants as might be desirous of settling in that Province, and other matters affecting the welfare of new settlers; namely:

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