

Selections.

MOODY ON FAITH.

This is an awful dry thought, he said, I imagine someone has already thought. Many people get bewildered when you talk to them about faith; but there is no use getting bewildered. Never mind if the subject be a little dry. A lawyer comes to you and tells you that there is something in a certain will bequeathed to you. The document may be dry, but you don't mind that; it is the legacy you are after; and so in regard to faith. All the promises in the Bible depend upon that. There are three steps in faith—knowledge, assent and consent. If I wanted to go to Europe I might know that there is a line of steamers that will take me to Liverpool or London, but that does not take me there. I may give my assent, I may be willing to go; but that does not take me there. I must give my consent. So I may believe that Jesus Christ can save me; but that does not save me. I may believe that He will save me; but that does not save me. I must give my consent. I must lay hold of Jesus Christ. I must take Him at His word.

Mr. Spurgeon says he does not want anyone to tell him how honey tastes; he knows how it tastes. So Jesus says: "He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself; he that believeth not, God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record God gave of His Son. And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life." Creeds are all right, but they don't save us. Many Christians are looking to a dead creed and a dead Christ, not a living Christ. I know men who complain that they have not faith enough. Well you can have some without having all that you would like. I may not have the whole Atlantic Ocean, but if I have a tumbler of water I have water, haven't I? So I may have faith, even if not in so great an abundance as I wish. A woman was introduced to Dr. Bonar, as a woman of great faith. She replied, "I am not a woman of great faith, but a woman of little faith with a great God!" That is the right kind of faith; faith in a great God. What the eyes are to the body, faith is to the soul. Give up trying to make faith. Faith is not feeling. I was praying a long time for faith, and expected something wonderful to happen; but I read one day that "Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God!" It came to me like a flash out of heaven. And I looked round and found that there were many men about me who were closing up their Bibles and praying for faith. That is a

false idea of faith. The more I know of God the more I trust Him. The men and women who are faithful in their study of the Bible are those who have great faith.—*N. Y. Independent.*

AMUSEMENT.

The mission of amusement utterly fails to effect the desired end among the unsaved; but it works havoc among the young converts. Were it a success, it would be none the less wrong. Success belongs to God; faithfulness to His instructions to me. But it is not. Test it even by this and it is a contemptible failure. Let that be the method which is answered by fire, and the verdict will be "The preaching of the Word, that is the power."

Let us see the converts who have been first won by amusement. Let the harlot and the drunkard, to whom a dramatic entertainment has been God's first link in the chain of their conversion, stand forth. Let the careless and the scoffers who have ceased to thank God that the church has relaxed her spirit of separation and met them half-way in their worldiness, speak and testify. Let the husbands, wives and children, who rejoice in a new holy home through "Sunday Evening Lectures on social questions," tell out their joy. Let the weary, heavy-laden souls who have found peace through a concert, no longer keep silent. Let the men and women who have found Christ through the reversal of apostolic methods declare the same, and show the greatness of Paul's blunder when he said, "I determined not to know anything among you save Jesus Christ, and Him crucified." Their is neither voice nor any to answer. The failure is on a par with the folly, and as huge as the sin. Out of thousands with whom I have personally conversed, the mission of amusement has claimed no convert.

Now let the appeal be made to those who, repudiating every other method, have staked everything on the Book and the Holy Ghost. Let them be challenged to produce results. Their is no need. Blazing sacrifices on every hand attest the answer by fire. Ten thousand times ten thousand voices are ready to declare that the plain preaching of the word was, first and last, the cause of their salvation.

But how about the other side of this matter—what are the baneful effects? Are they also nil? I will here solemnly as before the Lord, give my personal testimony. Though I have never seen a sinner saved, I have seen any number of backsliders manufactured by this departure. Over and over again, young Christians, and sometimes Christians who are not young, have come to me in tears, and asked what they were to do, as they had lost all their peace, falling into evil.