

Words of the Wise.

It is a coarse and inadequate estimate of Christianity which makes it simply a sort of celestial policeman of the social organism.

BRANDER used to say to Tholuck: "Tell our friend Hodge that though we dispute with him, we belong to the same Lord, and are one at heart."

We can find no "corners" in the Sermon on the Mount, no forced levy in the Golden Rule, no "speculation" in the "Single Eye," no monopoly except that of Joseph in Egypt.

"WHEREVER you find vital piety—that is, penitence and a devotional spirit—there you find the doctrines of the fall, of depravity, of regeneration, of atonement and of the deity of Christ. I never saw or heard of a single individual exhibiting a spirit of piety who rejected any one of these doctrines."—Dr. C. Hodge.

A FEW strong instincts and a few plain rules should govern us, and among them one ought, if possible, to cherish an undying love of truth, not abstract truth, but the every-day article, which "shall make you free" of shams, worldliness and the artificial and hollow politeness which neither deceives nor improves its votaries and its victims.—Wordsworth.

No day so bright but seeds may fall,  
No day so still but winds may blow;  
No morn so calm with the parting  
Of water storm, but stars may glow,  
When evening gathers over all.

SHAKE hands with somebody as you go out of church. The more of it the better, if it is expressive of real interest and feeling. There may be a great deal of the Spirit of the Gospel put into a hearty shake of the hand. Think of St. Paul's four times repeated request—"Greet one another"—after the custom then in common use, and one which is expressive of even warmer feeling than our common one of hand-shaking. Why not give your neighbours the benefit of the warm Christian feeling that fills you to your finger tips, and receive the like from them in return? You will both be benefitted by it; and the stranger will go away feeling that the church is not, after all, so cold as he had thought it to be.

"How can he be miserable that hath Christ and all His merits made sure to ya? that hath his name written in heaven? ya, that is already in heaven? for where our desires are, there ourselves are. The heavenly-minded live not so much where they live, as where they love; that is to say, in Christ. Surely his soul must be brimful of brave thoughts that is able to refresh himself with this meditation: God is my father; Christ, the Judge, my elder Brother; the Holy Ghost my Comforter; the angels mine attendants; all the creatures mine for use; the stock of the Church's prayers mine for benefit; the world mine inn; heaven my home; God is always with me, before me; within me, over-seeing me; I talk with Him in prayer; He with me in His Word; sure if these be our accustomed thoughts, it cannot but make us happy."—Bishop Hopkins.

"Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt." Do not mistake vinegar for oil, or pepper for salt. "Seasonal with salt" is the tasteful and savoury. I read quite lately a most striking incident showing the power of "grace seasoned with salt" in speaking a timely word to one that was without. You may have heard of it. An officer in your army was led to help a lady who was an earnest worker among soldiers. One evening, after helping at a soldier's tea, he came to her, evidently much excited, and said, "I have almost made up my mind that I will never come here again." She expressed, of course, her regret, and asked what had happened. "Oh, So-and-so has been at me about coming here as I do, and being such a card-player as I am. But I can't give up my cards; that I shall never do." "Oh," said the lady, "I am sorry you have been spoken to in that way. You can't give up your cards. I should never ask you to do that. Why, it is all you have got. You must have something." Well, that was "grace seasoned with salt," for it brought him to himself. He saw that if that card-playing was taken from him he had nothing left, and he had no rest until the love of Christ had delivered him from the love of the world.—Th. Monod.

A racking cough, why endure? When there is found a perfect cure, That from weak lungs relieves the strain, And gives the sufferer ease again.

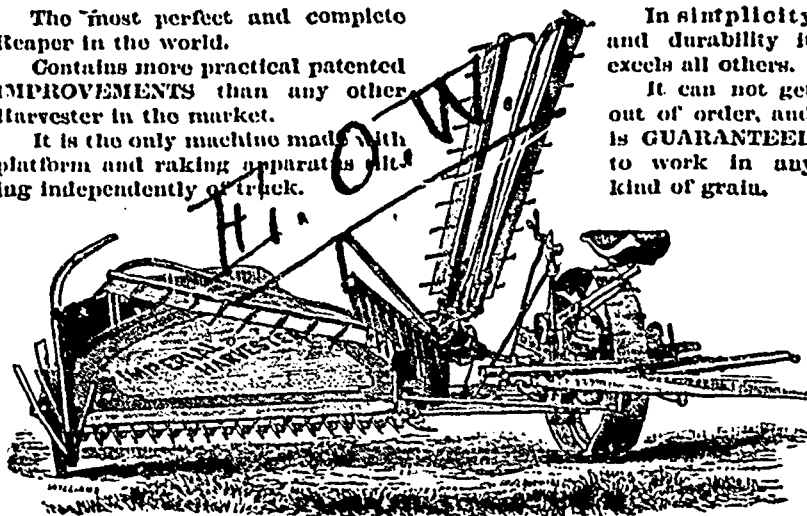
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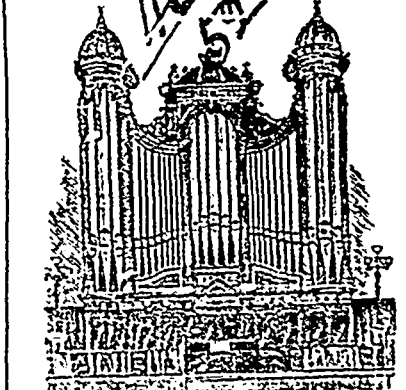
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