

Christian Holiness.

REV. WALTER BARRS, MESSINGVILLE, N. Y.

"If it were written, Be ye holy; for I am holy."

Here is a command spoken by Jehovah three times from out the glory cloud of the ancient Tabernacle; a command re-affirmed by the Son of God on the mount of beatitudes when he said: "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father who is in Heaven is perfect."

"Be ye holy; for I am holy." So comprehensive, indeed, that it includes and swallows up every other duty; so wide in its scope that it is binding upon every creature of the human family; and, like all divine laws, it is so much a part of God himself that it has never been revoked and certainly never shall be, but to all eternity the truth stands fast: "Without holiness no man shall see the Lord."

"Who can keep this command?" I will affirm, negatively, that no man in this life can be absolutely holy. By this I mean, holy in his own individual person. There is just one exception—the God-man. He was absolutely holy in his own person, as he was the world to convict Him of sin. He declared: "The Prince of this world cometh and hath nothing in Me." Pilate said to Him: "I find no fault in the Man," and Peter says: "He did no sin, neither was guile found in His mouth."

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to the quick. Being enfolded at noon, while reading a tract, to arraign myself more closely at the bar of conscience, I pleaded guilty, fell at the feet of Sovereign mercy, and God was abundantly gracious to a rebellious child. He restored my soul. He delivered me out of all my distresses. These extracts show how this holy and blessed man, who had been baptized again and again in the Holy Ghost, and was conscious of an unusual and exalted degree of spiritual attainments, was accustomed to deal with himself. He was so near the glorious light, that every stain seemed black and terrible.

In like manner all our own self-conceit and proud thoughts are set down like the grime before the eye, and we see the unalterable demands: "Be ye holy; for I am holy," which means, be like God. And almost staggering under the thought we exclaim: "Who can keep this command?" The answer to this question will form the second main division of this subject.

1. Who can keep this command? I will affirm, negatively, that no man in this life can be absolutely holy. By this I mean, holy in his own individual person. There is just one exception—the God-man. He was absolutely holy in his own person, as he was the world to convict Him of sin. He declared: "The Prince of this world cometh and hath nothing in Me." Pilate said to Him: "I find no fault in the Man," and Peter says: "He did no sin, neither was guile found in His mouth."

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of the new year with a song. Between you and the trouble at the works, I feel as if my reason was going."

"Why do you waste your time, and my money, Robert? You are doing no good in your studies."

"Father," said Rob, boldly, "I'll tell you the truth. I hate books; I shall never be a scholar. Let me go to work. Put me in the factory to learn the business. This is what I have wanted to do all my life. I don't care how hard the work is."

"Mr. Ayre's countenance changed as if a cloud had vanished, and the whole of his face fairly glowed with excitement. He shut the door."

"Mr. Ayre was called half a dozen times, in vain, to breakfast. He came at last with Robert. The two men had bright, pleased faces."

"Well, mother," cried Mr. Ayre, "Rob and I have a grand scheme. He is to be my right-hand man in the works. Confidential clerk until he learns the business, and then junior partner. What do you say to that? I declare, I feel as if a mountain had been lifted from my back!"

Rob was standing behind his mother. He pulled back his head and sneezed. She said nothing, but the happy tears rained down her cheeks.

"I'm going to begin all over again," he whispered.

"Thank God! I knew it would all come right."

"Breakfast, breakfast!" cried Mr. Ayre, setting to work vigorously, while the children drummed on their platters; but Rob stood by his mother, gently stroking her hand.

"Dear old mammy!" he said; "that was a good song of yours this morning!"

"Yes, Henry," said his mother; "your voice is as sweet as ever. But your heart seemed to be singing to-day, and to good purpose.—Congregationalist."

A Pastor's View.

Rev. Daniel March of Woburn, Mass., having recently completed a tour of the world in which he visited many missionary stations, epitomizes his impressions in the following words:—

I came home with the full assurance that the American churches may rely upon the utmost confidence upon the character, the ability, and the final success of their representatives in the mission fields of the East. They are careful and considerate in their plans, ready and versatile in adaptation, earnest and spiritual in teaching, and they keep the one grand aim of their sacred commission ever in view. Their intelligence, their personal deportment, their private homes, and their manner of living are constantly showing the heathen, better than words can tell them, what Christianity can do for the uncultured millions of the East, who are living and dying in ignorance and poverty and superstition. The American missionaries are not afraid to have it said that in their schools and medical practice, in their incidental lectures, and in all their intercourse with the people, that they are intent upon the conversion of souls. They do not hesitate to say and to show that the Bible purpose for which they are in the East is to make disciples of Jesus. They are trusted and honored all the more by the heathen for the frankness and fearlessness with which they avow the object of their coming.

Facing the New Year.

Mrs. Ayre woke on New Year's day with a groan. It was a dark, drizzling morning. She had a neuralgia in her face. Her husband, who was sitting up, said: "Why do you groan, my dear? Don't give me up. Have a little faith in me. With God's help I'll start ahead. Don't give me up."

Mr. Ayre looked sharply into the boy's face. It was honest; it bore the mark of no bad passion. Perhaps he had not understood Rob—perhaps he had made some mistake in managing him.

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