

GOOD RESOLUTIONS.

With what sublime independence time disregards our artificial dates. The sun shines on without noticing our clocks and calendars. The earth declines to heed our tears at the closing of an old year, and our smiles at the opening of a new one. We may not close the books of one year, look them away in the closet and begin life anew so as to escape the past. Life is one unbroken current, flowing ever to its ocean destiny. Yet this marking of the passage of the years is not wholly in vain. It is a period for profitable reflection, and not a time for idle tears and vain regrets. An honest review of the days that are past may be full of profit. There have been experience of blessing, of struggle, of denial that have left their deposits on the soul to enrich its future harvest. It is the highest wisdom to review the past in such a way as to make it a valuable asset for the future. It is a good time for resolutions. Let the cynic mock and say that half of the new purposes will be broken before a month elapses. Perhaps so. It will be better to break nine and keep one than not to resolve at all. All of us hope and live for better things. If the past year has been good, the next may be better, and we ought to be better as knowledge increases, experience widens and grace multiplies.—Central Baptist.

MADE BY MISTAKES.

Mistakes made in the honest effort to do something worth doing need give us no concern. We may be sure that God allowed them, and is ready to take his share of responsibility for them. A small boy was helping his father make a path. A wheelbarrow loaded with dirt stood on the hillside above them. It was just balanced as it stood. Whoever lifted the handles would need to look carefully or it would topple over. The little boy, desiring to help, undertook to lift it. The father saw it all but said nothing. The little fellow lifted the handles and over went the whole load. As he saw what he had done he burst into tears. Then a sense of honorable innocence came over him. He had done his best. He did not know what was going to happen. His father knew and though a word would have stopped it had said nothing. "Father," cried the little fellow, "that was your fault too. You knew what was going to happen and you let me do it." The father felt at once the justice of the boy's view and he spoke to the boy in loving recognition of the fact. We may be sure that God is educating us in the same way and that He doesn't mind the mistakes. Doubtless He rather likes them, as this father was rather pleased with the upset load, because by them He is training us. We make mistakes. God lets us. That is the way He makes us.—S. S. Times.

There is no more uncomfortable person to live with than the one who, while abstaining from the wine-cup and all other forms of gross excess, is yet intemperate in his life. The unbridled tongue, the spirit of jealousy and pride that have full sway, the anger that is never controlled, the appetite for pleasure that is given first place in the life—these are common forms of intemperance that dwarf lives into meanness and unloveliness. And it is against these kinds of intemperance that Christians must exercise all their powers of will and grace.—William T. Ellis in Philadelphia Presbyterian.

A jelly-fish has its place in the universe as well as an angel; but God never intended that they should change places. An heir of heaven will look after the kingdom of heaven, but invertebrata will remain in the sea.

OTHERS BENEFITTED.

By C. H. Wetherbe.

The man whom God enriches with His merciful bounties thereby becomes a benefit to those around him who are not Christians. In many instances recorded in the Bible it is stated that certain ones were blessed for the sake of some true believers whom God had particularly favored. While Joseph was at Potiphar's house, as a captive servant, the blessing of the Lord was plainly upon him, and upon the work that he did. Concerning the situation it is said: "And it came to pass, from the time that he made him overseer in his house, and over all that he had that the Lord blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; and the blessing of the Lord was upon all that he had in the house and in the field."

The Lord was with Joseph in gracious power, and those who were associated closely with Joseph were also benefitted, even though they were ungodly people. That benefit was so marked that Potiphar and others readily saw it. It must have made a great impression upon them. Such a thing was entirely new to them. When Potiphar bought Joseph he got a far better bargain than he had any expectation of receiving. And one point in this connection is noteworthy, and that is, when an unconverted man gets into his home a genuine child of God he obtains a person who is worth to him and his household a great deal more than his bare physical services are worth. A blessing thereby comes into the home, for God is with His servant to prosper him, and others through him.

We also see that it is highly important for a true believer to live up to his principles wherever he may be placed. Joseph was the same God-fearing and obedient believer in Potiphar's house that he was before he went there. His surroundings were not then as congenial to him as they were in his old home; indeed, they must have been very unpleasant to him, yet he stood true to God and duty. It was because of that attitude that God blessed him, and that blessing was a distinct benefit to others around him.

BEST WAY TO GET ON.

A young man once wrote the celebrated Thomas Carlyle, asking his advice about the best way to get on. The following was the quaint answer: "Study to do faithfully whatsoever thing in your actual situation you find, either expressly or tacitly, laid to your charge. That is your post; stand in it like a soldier. Silently devour the many chagrins of it, as all human situations have many, and see that you aim not to quit it without doing all that it at least requires of you. A man perfects himself by work much more than by reading. They are a growing kind of men that can wisely combine the two things—wisely, valiantly, can do what is laid to their hand in their present sphere, and prepare themselves withal for doing other wider things if such be before them."

Every young man should remember that cleverness will not take the place of energy. Perseverance will win where smartness will go to the wall.

The "wonder" of the humble shepherds did not prevent them from publishing abroad the great truth of a Saviour born among men and for men.

A movement is on foot for a union of the churches throughout South Africa.

He who sat by the well of Sychar turns the windlass at the waters of everlasting life, and his word to us all is, "He that drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst."

MORE THAN CONQUERORS.

*C. E. To'ple for Sunday, Jan. 20, 1907.—Gen. 3:46; Matt. 26:41; Rom. 8:37.

LIFE'S BATTLEFIELD: It is given to few men to be great conquerors on the battlefields of this world. Alexander the Great was one, and yet when the whole world lay prostrate at his feet and cursed his dominion, he sighed that there were not other worlds for him to conquer. But there is a battlefield in this world for every man, and one, too, where he is called to be, and may be, a conqueror. It was the Saviour himself who said, "I send you forth as sheep among wolves"; only the sheep and the wolf are both within us. And so the war goes on—the same enemy; the same warfare.

GOD OUR STRENGTH: If we would be conquerors in the great battle of life, we must learn this truth, that human strength is weakness. Before adversity, or affliction, or passion, it fails and disappoints our trust. And the greater our confidence, the greater our disappointment. When we think we stand, we are weak. When we think we stand, we are to take especial heed lest we fall. Peter, boasting of his fidelity and love, was weak; Peter, weeping bitterly, was taking hold on strength. It is only when we know that we are weak, that we are really strong. That which causes us to trust in ourselves is a source of weakness. That which drives us to the Lord, points out the path of strength and victory. Without Christ men can do nothing; opposed to Christ, they are as chaff before the whirlwind. Every hope fails when we trust in the might of our own strength. The pinnacles of our self-confidence are the slippery places whence we slide to dangerous falls, and every effort and struggle but completes our downfall and ruin. And it is only when we turn in brokenness of spirit to the Lord that we find help, and strength, and salvation. It is only in God, and through Christ, we conquer. Let us not attempt to fight this battle alone. Alone we can never conquer. Satan is no match for Christ, but he is more than a match for us. Stand fearless with God. Stand alone with Him, if need be. One man with Christ standing by his side is invincible, unconquerable. He is strong in God's strength, and in God's faithfulness to his promises, and, having done all, "shall stand."

VICTORY THROUGH CHRIST: Christ has conquered sin, and showed us how to conquer it also. By the same strength of love and patient endurance by which He saved you on Calvary, He will come into your lives and hearts, if you will let Him, and train your saved life into perfectness of grace and glory. He has conquered sin for you, so that you may not be the servant of sin any longer. And now He is pleading for you in His great love that you give Him entrance into your hearts, that His victory may be complete. His first victory will be all in vain, unless you take Him to be your king and dedicate yourselves to Him in a new life of obedience. Then will you indeed be more than conquerors in and through Him. Above all the din and conflict of this world, hear the words of Christ: "Be of good cheer; I have overcome the world." May we too come off conquerors!

Whatever convulsions may come to this world two things will remain—God and ourselves. The soul is not changed by the earthquake or the fire. The body may be torn from it, as an outer robe is swept away in the gale, but the true self, the self that God knows and that He loved and loves still, is not carried off by the hurricane or ground beneath the avalanche. That remains.

"Unhurt amid the war of elements,
The wreck of matter and the crash
of worlds."