

[FOR OUR MISSION.]

## The Power of the Position of the Christian.

BY REV. J. A. R. DICKSON, B. D.

### 3.—FOR SANCTIFICATION.

**I**F a Christian holds any lower place than that to which God in His grace has called him, the demand that is made upon him for holiness, shall be exceedingly hard and oppressive. His cry will be, "Who am I that I should be so separate from sin, so holy; how can I carry out these words, 'Be ye holy, for I am holy.'" This claim that God makes, and must, by a necessity of His nature, make, must always be grievous, and in a measure repulsive, being above the level to which we have yet risen, until we see, in no dim or uncertain light, the position into which we have been called. Then, the claim will be not only reasonable, but to yield to it, an unspeakable joy. Then we shall run after God, because we are drawn. Then we shall delight in Him, because we know that He delights in us. Then we shall say to every temptation that insinuates itself, "How can I do this great wickedness and sin against God?" Then we shall realize in our position of acceptance with God, and favour, and fellowship, a source of power for holiness. Being "Sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all," (Heb. 10: 10), and having "by one offering *perfected for ever* them that are sanctified," our privilege is to enter into the enjoyment of this by faith. And as faith is dead without obedience, — then, through a life of obedience to all the will of God. It is with us to-day as it was with the Hebrews when they were brought out of Egypt. In God's purpose, the land flowing with milk and honey was theirs. He was, in His great mercy and love, leading them up into it. Their position was that of possessors. But some of them would not accept and hold this position, and consequently they did not enjoy the land. His Word to them was, "If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land; but if ye refuse and rebel, ye shall be devoured with the sword; for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it." Isaiah 1: 19, 20. To-day God gives us, as we trust in Jesus, sonship—a standing before Him that is unquestionable—rights and privileges through the promises that are wide as the sway of God's sceptre, and imperial as His crown, and pure as His holiness—and it is ours diligently to seek to enter into this rich heritage of blessing. When our eyes open on this glory we are weaned away from, and lifted above all earthly glory. All the power and pomp of evil is as naught compared with the purity of our standing and the blessedness of our hearts. This is one of the best securities against sin, when it is realized. Aye, REALIZED, but that is what so very few take time to do, and I might say as well, take pains to do. We are to employ our minds upon

it, and meditate in the law of God, taking in its wondrous and glorious revelation, that we may be *strong*, morally and spiritually by it, dwelling in us. Strong for further advances in the knowledge of God; strong for fuller resistance to every form of evil; strong for Christ-like sympathy and gracious action; strong for testimony. We are not to work ourselves up to a position of sanctification, we are to work from a standing before God in Christ Jesus, where we are accepted as holy, where we are justified from every offence and sin. Being made free, we are to keep ourselves by God's grace free from every weedy entanglement of sin. Being regarded as holy, judicially, we are to perfect holiness in the fear of God. Our power for this lies in what God declares concerning us. When the child that lay in the gutter has been washed, and clothed upon with beautiful garments, how careful it is not to soil its skin or stain its clothes. The very outward cleanliness seems to enter into the heart and spirit of the child. It is so with the workman who comes home and "cleans up;" he seems to be lifted up out of the region of dust and smut into another, and he is careful of his appearance in his new position; before he cared not what unclean thing touched him, because he was unclean himself, but now that he is clean, he is concerned to keep himself pure. These illustrate the power of the believer's position for sanctification. He is holy in God's sight, and he is to be holy as a follower of Christ in his daily life. As Paul puts it, in a way we cannot think too deeply upon, "Now, being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness and the end everlasting life." Rom. 6: 22. You will note the close dependence of the two facts. "Being made free from sin and become servants to God." It is not "*become*," advance to this, go on to this height. No. The one involves the other; necessitates the other; secures the other. And that on many grounds which we need not enumerate.

We have no doubt, that many of God's dear children have only to see the relation of their position to holiness, to enter upon a land flowing with milk and honey at once. It may be only ignorance of the teachings of Scripture that hinder them from so living that their joy may be full. "If ye, then, be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affections on things above, not on things on the earth. For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God."

[ORIGINAL.]

### I Don't See any Harm in it.

BY REV. C. A. COOK.

**P**ERHAPS you don't, and it is just possible the reason is in yourself. Some people cannot see harm in anything for the simple reason that they are blind. [1] Perhaps you do not see any harm in it because you are blind. Read Eph. 4: 18; 2