

Power of a Mother's Love.

A father's love is the chief feature of the Divine image; it is the key to the Divine heart. The parent knows best Him who pitieth "like as a father." At the outbreak of the Trojan War, Ulysses, who did not wish to leave Ithaca, feigned madness and set himself to ploughing the sand. Palamedes, famous for his inventive genius, placed Telemachus, Ulysses' little son, in the line of the furrow, when the father instantly diverted the course of the oxen, and thereby proved himself to be possessed of the crowning attribute of manhood. It does not require a Palamedes to discover that there is many a father who has lost his fatherly heart, who is no longer sane, who deals the fatal stroke to his child, or makes his life one long agony until the law steps in and the monster is deposed from his forfeited throne.

Holier than a father's love is the love of a mother. Wherever it exists paradise is not all lost. A bit of heaven's azure is still visible. That love burns on in constant flame amid poverty, coldness, neglect, believing all things, hoping all things, until the last message is delivered and the lips are motionless for ever. It knows no geographical limits, is not bounded by parallels of latitude or longitude—

See by Greenland, cold and wild
Rocks of ice eternal piled,
Yet the mother loves her child.

Henry Drummond says that the aims of organic nature was to make a mother, affirms that this is the greatest thing she has ever done, and draws a graphic picture of the first mother warming herself at the hearth of her child's love, and when she feels its thrilling response, placing a new creative hand upon the world. Here is a fact which no human mother can regard without awe, and no man can realize without a new reverence for woman that the goal of the whole plant and animal kingdom was the creation of the family. And yet the mother's love is exercised by a stronger passion, and the result of creative cycles is frustrated by the entrance of a foul spirit whose demands are so imperious that love for aught else—even a mother's love for her child—is incompatible with the relentless sway of its unlimited sceptre. Surely the mother's love is from God, who comforteth as a mother and pitieth as a father; surely a mother is His noblest work, and surely the power which destroys it is from the Adversary of God and man; and here every thoughtful mind is conducted to the strait gate, and and pressure is brought to bear upon him as to whether he will enter it or not.—Selected.

Take God at His Word.

BY REV. JOHN MCNEILL.

Some years ago in Russia, a man was condemned to be put to death. When the moment came for the sentence to be carried out, the Czar, who presided over the execution, asked him if there was any one petition that he could grant him. All the condemned man asked for was a glass of water. They went and got him a tumbler of water, but his hand trembled so that he could not get the water to his mouth.

The Czar said to him: "Your life is safe until you drink that water."

He took the Czar at his word, and dashed the water to the ground. They could not gather it up, and so he saved his life.

My friend, you can be saved now by taking God at His word. The water of life is offered to "whosoever will." Take it now, and live.

Our Young People

A New Year For Christ.

Topic for January; Scripture References: Phil. 3: 12-14.

BY REV. FRANCIS E. CLARK.

The best day in all the year—the best day for a hundred years—to take a forward look is the first day of January, 1901, the first day of the new century.

I am sorry for the man who makes no use of anniversaries, whether they mark his own birthday or the century's. He must have a dull and sluggish soul, indeed, who is not stirred by the thought of the new century with all its wondrous possibilities.

St. Paul, would, I believe, stand on this mountain-top of opportunity and speak to us some such words as he spoke to the Philippians: "Forget the past. Forget the mere mechanical triumphs and scientific glories of the nineteenth century. Forget your personal achievements and victories. Do not rest satisfied with what you have attained. Look forward. Stretch forward. There are better things ahead."

The new century may be a year of unspeakable blessing. Vastly stronger churches; better Christian Endeavor societies; a deeper personal religious life. Apprehend the things for which you are apprehended of God. Understand why he has called you into the Christian life. Grasp the possibilities that He has put within your reach. They are close to your grasp to-day.

The revival is here. Will you share in it? This first year of the new century may be known through all coming time as "The year of the great awakening." Will you let God use you to bring this about?

The most dangerous place for any man to reach is the summit of his ambition. The great sin of the Rich Fool consisted not in his acquisition of houses and lands and barns filled "with much goods laid up for many years," but in the fact that he cared for nothing but well-filled barns, and that he said to his soul, "Take thine ease." He had reached the top. He wanted nothing more. He took no forward look.

Will you be a follower of St. Paul or of the Rich Fool?

It all depends upon whether you take the Forward Look, or are content with the backward look.

God help us to look and live.

For Daily Reading.

Mon. Dec. 31.—In a new century. 2 Pet. 3: 1-13.
Tues. Jan. 1.—Freedom from the past. 2 Cor. 5: 14-17.
Wed. Jan. 2.—Long views helpful. Deut. 34: 1-6; Acts 7: 55-59.
Thurs. Jan. 3.—Looking upward. Ps. 121: 1-8.
Fri., Jan. 4.—Concentrated purpose. Eccl. 9: 10; Matt. 22: 35-39.
Sat., Jan. 5.—The end of the race. 2 Tim. 4: 6-8.
Sun., Jan. 6.—Topic. A forward look. Phil. 3: 12-14.

If any of us failed to take a new start on New Year's Day, or if, since our new start then, we have had a setback, let us call this, the sixth of January, our New Year's Day, and let us begin a new year for Christ right here. A thousand years are as one day with Christ, anyway, and He cares far more for deeds than for dates.

Seed Thoughts and Illustrations.

The longer I live, the more I am certain that the great difference between men, between the feeble and the powerful, the great and the insignificant, is energy, invincible determination—a purpose once fixed, and then death or victory.—Fowell Buxton.

The great thing in this world is not so much where we stand, as in what direction we are moving.—Holmes.

"What do you intend to become?" asked Lord Melbourne of young Benjamin Disraeli. "Prime minister of England, my Lord," promptly, confidently, came the answer. And although few young men in England had smaller promise of attaining this object than had Benjamin Disraeli, yet, by persistently keeping to his determined purpose, he at last, to the amazement of the world, realized that object.

One thing is sure: we shall not accomplish anything this year if we expect to accomplish nothing. If a man walks along a road, he sees a thousand things he didn't expect to see when he started out, but he sees them because he started out. Who ever launches forth on God's promises may not get where he thought he would, but he will get somewhere.

The Blessedness of Giving.

That saying of our Lord, recorded by the apostle Paul—"It is more blessed to give than to receive"—does not apply alone to the giving of money. Peter had neither silver nor gold, but he gave to the lame man something which money could not buy. Any man worthy of the name desires to do something for God's glory and humanity's good.

Now, there is no place in which one can render service so easily, so well, and so fruitfully as in connection with the Church of Christ. The Church abides while instrumentalities of good outside of it have a more or less brief currency. If their roots strike down into the soil of Christianity which is made fertile by the streams which flow from Mount Zion, they are virtually a part of the Church, and partake of its abiding character.

So let it be repeated that he who is ready to test the truth of our Lord's utterance will find that he can do the best and most effective work in the Church rather than outside of it.

Further, the work that the Church does is at the foundation of things. It aims at regeneration rather than reformation. He who would have the blessedness of giving service may have the comfort of feeling that through the Church he is exerting influences that will go on from generation to generation.

Still further, it is work so varied that one can find therein opportunity for the exercise of any talent of which he may be possessed.

We are coming to understand this variety better than ever before. We are learning how many lines of service open out before the Christian worker. It is no narrow field that the Church presents to him who would give personal endeavor to be of use among his fellow-men and who would find that giving is more blessed than receiving.—New York Observer.