

The Quiet Hour.

Christ Risen.

S. S. LESSON—1 Cor. 15: 1-15. June 19, 1904.

GOLDEN TEXT—Now is Christ risen from the dead.—1 Cor. 15: 20.

BY REV. C. MACINNON B.D., SYDNEY, N.S.

The first day of the week, v. 1. The Christian Sabbath is a fitting monument and proof of the best evidenced and most joyous event in the world's history, the resurrection of our blessed Lord. As it begins to dawn toward that day, our thoughts should go back to that glad morning, when the bonds of the grave were broken, and death was vanquished. It is also a promise of the future, when the archangel's trumpet shall rend the tomb and the sea shall give up its dead, and "them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with Him," 1 Thess. 4: 14. On the Lord's day we not only, like the Jews on their seventh day Sabbath, commemorate the rest after creation, but also joyfully celebrate our Saviour's return from the tomb. The Apostolic Church was guided by the Holy Spirit when it made the change.

Rolled back the stone from the door, v. 2. No obstacle is too formidable for God. Some have despairingly thought that this stone could never be rolled away, that from the grave there would be no return. But God has many resources which we cannot dream of, and we place our confidence in Him. These women knew that there was a stone at the grave and also a Roman guard, but they knew that there was a God above. The resurrection has some perplexing problems for man, but none for Omnipotence.

Fear not ye, v. 5. The other world had strange terrors for the pagan Roman guard. They naturally enough trembled at its disclosure. But for the believing women there was no cause of alarm. How often since have Christians approached the grave with calm confidence, like Stephen declaring that he saw the heavens open, or like Samuel Rutherford sighing for a well-tuned harp to sing his Redeemer's praise, or like Moody saying, "God is calling me."

He is risen, v. 6. The significance of this great announcement grows continually on the believing soul. It confirmed all Christ's claims, His divinity, His power to pardon, His position as Judge; all Christ's promises to hear our prayers, to give us peace, to send us the Holy Spirit, the Comforter. It assures us that He whom we love no longer "sleeps in the lone Syrian town," but is with us always even unto the end of the world, as He said. The sun may be pouring its golden rays over a radiant and rejoicing world and yet be excluded by closed shutters from many a darkened room. Has Christ who arose so long ago and has been shining with increasing power upon mankind, arisen in our hearts and filled them with His glory?

As they went . . . Jesus met them, v. 9. If we too would meet our risen Lord, we must render Him the same immediate and implicit obedience. These women had many convincing proofs that Christ was risen; there were the empty grave, the angel's announcement, His own prediction; but none of these equalled His own presence. After that there could be no shadow of a doubt. So have we many infallible proofs of the resurrection of Christ, this "best evidenced fact in history"; the witnesses Paul cites (1 Cor. 15: 5-8), the testimony of the Gospels, the belief of

the Christian church, the Lord's Day, and many others; but none of them equal in value the soul's entering into the immediate presence of Christ through His Spirit. This happy experience is open to all, who, like the women in the Lesson, will obey Christ's commands.

Commonly reported among the Jews, v. 15. Unbelief rests upon a lie. Before Strauss, the great German scholar died, he declared himself an atheist. A certain chemical substance had been found at the bottom of the Atlantic, which the enthusiastic discoverer announced to be the missing link between living and lifeless matter. Strauss believed this, became an atheist, died with no hope of a future, and was but a short time in the grave when the error on which he based his atheism was scientifically exploded, just as no one to-day accepts the falsehood upon which the Jews denied the resurrection of Christ. There is no fear that we shall have to pull down anything that is built upon this sure foundation, that Jesus did indeed rise from the dead. The foundation stands unshaken from all attacks.

FOR DOMINION PRESBYTERIAN.

More and More.

BY H. M. McCUSKY.

In the letters that Paul wrote to the different churches there is this noticeable feature. In referring to the Lord Jesus his expressions are always in the superlative degree, yet leaving the impression that words faintly expressed the glorious facts; while his messages to believers imply a wealth of unattained possibilities, while he is ever stimulating them to make strenuous efforts to possess. In his letter to the Philippian Church and also in the first letter to the Thessalonians one can not fail to observe it. The love of Christ manifested in His humiliation is most vividly portrayed, then there follows a description of the height and glory of His exaltation which fills the heart with assurance and the most exuberant joy.

Then most lovingly Paul approves the lives of these believers finding little occasion to censure but is that all. Most emphatically, no; he bids them "to increase and abound more and more"; they were not to be satisfied with small or present attainments in the Christian life. Of himself he writes near the close of a life of consecration and activity in service only excelled by the Perfect One, "I press on, if so be that I may apprehend that for which I am apprehended by Christ Jesus." Often as people advance in years and see the younger workers assuming their responsibilities, they feel that for them there is only retrospect instead of "pressing on" like the great apostle, to a larger more wonderful life. It is said of the Rev. Theodore Cuyler that the past ten years has been more fruitful than all the years of his wonderful pastorate; through the press he has reached an increasingly larger number of people who have been helped and blessed. Mr. Moody's last audience was the largest he ever addressed. God does not bring His people to places where they cannot serve Him, or where there is not something special that He would have them do for Him. It may not always be clear to the natural eyes, but enlightened by the Holy Spirit vast possibilities are before every

child of God and each attainment prepares the way for a larger service. To those who are looking and listening for it there comes each day some new manifestation of the love and power of God; not to be selfishly hoarded for like the manna of old it would soon become worthless, but to be passed on and on until the knowledge of the Lord fills the whole earth.

Holland Patent, N. Y.

Concerning Patience.

Doubtless there are more brilliant virtues than patience, but none so essential to noble strength and success. To rule it out of the catalogue of desired virtues is to court defeat and disappointment. The history of three-fourths of the failures of life will probably reveal the absence of this power. And, on the other hand, in three-fourths, if not all, of the successful attainments of purpose will be discovered this element of patience as a contributing cause. The race is not to the swift, but to the persistent. Push, alertness, zeal are excellent qualities, and very attractive to American eyes, but it is supreme folly for them to look with contempt upon their sister patience, for without her they are one-half weakness. It is the power to keep on in all circumstances, the determination to stick to a chosen purpose or work, that counts most in the end. It matters little how bravely one may have begun the race, if he drop out. He must run with patience.

Even supposing the purpose of life to be that of making money, patience in pursuing that end is the secret of success. It means hard work and constant endeavor for a long period of years, and one man's spirit is not strong enough to work out his purpose to the far off end, so he gives up and settles down into easy going ways, living only for the day. Another does not give up the struggle, but, impatient of the plodding that wins but little gain each year, he leaves the safe, sure way of honest method and careful investment, and pushes out into the exciting way of gambling and speculation. The haste to get rich has ruined more men in fortune than it has made. Many times, impatience at the honest pursuit of purpose has led men to put their gains into shaky and questionable ventures to lose them all. Diligent care and patient industry is the rule for honest success.

The same thing is true in the matter of education. There is no royal road to learning. To all alike it comes only as the reward of patient application. The same foe operates in this field as in that of wealth, and impatient haste is figuring against true culture and deep thinking by making students satisfied with a mere smattering of knowledge and superficial views of all great questions. True knowledge must lay its foundations deep and strong. The chief requirement is not brightness of mind, or largeness of opportunity, but patience and determination. Perseverance is the secret of success here. To work and to wait is the price of the mind's treasure. The brilliancy that has lifted many a man, like a rocket, to the highest college honors, burning out in the hard working world, has let him drop like a stick, while the patient doggedness that kept the dull boy at the foot of the class, pegging away at his problems, has worn out all his vicissitudes and left him the strong and successful master of the situation. Coupling this quality with brilliant gifts gives genius. But patience alone is the potent winner of the promise. The eagerness to understand the truth must not overlook the necessity of mastering each step that leads upward to the full-orbed light.