

Fourth. Dan. x. The comeliest man in Babylon whose face was fairer and fatter than all others beheld the vision of "a certain man" (*vs.* 5, 6). The Lord Jesus presents Himself before the faithful man of Babylon, and the effect is that he falls to the earth and there is no strength in him. Moreover his comeliness is turned in him into corruption. His own unfitness for the ministry of God's Word becomes apparent, but when the hand touches him he is strengthened, and he hears the words, "O man *greatly beloved* fear not, be strong." Now he is able to bear the unveiling of the future purposes of God to him, and he listens to and records the wondrous prophecies of the Resurrection and the coming of the Lord Jesus. His heart and eye are consecrated for beholding and understanding the mysteries of the will of God.

Fifth. Luke v. 1-11. The loan of the Apostle Peter's boat is to be repaid by a great catch of fish. When the boat begins to sink under the pressure of the great blessing given by the Son of God, Peter begins to sink too, and says, "Depart from me for I am a sinful man, O Lord." The emptying of self prepares the way for the grand promise "Fear not; from henceforth thou shalt catch men." On the day of Pentecost the promise was fulfilled, and the gospel net cast by the humble fisherman enclosed a great multitude.

Sixth. Once more in Rev. i. we see the same blessed truth illustrated. John, the beloved Apostle, in the Isle of Patmos, banished there for his faithfulness to his risen Lord, hears the voice on the Lord's day, and being turned, beholds "one like unto the Son of man." Frightened by the solemn sight he falls at his feet as dead, when the right hand of Resurrection Power is laid on him, and he is lifted up with the blessed words "Fear not, I am the first and the last." Write the things which thou hast seen." It is as if the Lord said, "I want thy right hand John to record the visions of the future," and first emptied of all self-made pride, he is now fit for the master's use, and is given the book of the Revelation.

Oh to be nothing, nothing!
Only to lie at His feet,
A broken and emptied vessel,
For the Master's use made meet.
Emptied that He might fill me,
As forth to His service I go;
Broken that so unhindered
His life through me flow.

Oh to be nothing, nothing!
Painful the humbling may be,
Yet low in the dust I'd lay me
That the world my Saviour may see.
Rather be nothing, nothing!
To Him let our voices be raised
He is the Fountain of blessing.
He only is meet to be praised.

Rest a While.

Come ye yourselves apart into a desert place, and rest a while.—Mark vi. 31.



Oh! stop, my soul, amid the strife,
Of all these weary cares of life;
(*Matt* xiii. 22)
Oh! come apart—beneath the smile
Of His dear face—and "rest a
while!" (*Isa.* xxxii. 2.)

The things of time which gather
round,

The things of sense which so abound;
How they both heart and sense beguile!
Oh, leave them all! and "rest a while." (*Phil.* iii. 8.)

Weary of care, of unbelief!
Where shall I go to find relief? (*Phil.* iii. 21.)
I am so full of sin—so vile!
Oh, hear His call, "Come rest a while!"

Oh! rest in Him—He'll take thy care;
Oh! rest in Him—thy sins He'll bear; (*Isa.* liii. 11.)
He knows thou'rt weak; He knows thou'rt vile;
Calls thee apart—to "rest a while!" (*Isa.* xxxvi. 20.)

Lord I accept Thy dear request,
Alone with Thee—Thy humble guest; (*Mark* iv. 34.)
I would leave all for Thy dear smile,
Apart with Thee, to "rest a while!" (*Matt.* xii. 44.)

J. G. S.

GEMS RE-SET.

DUTIES are ours, events are the Lord's; it is our part to let the Almighty exercise His own office and steer His own helm.—*Rutherford.*

THE Church of Christ is built up, not by force of arms, nor by sharp words of angry controversy, but by the quiet preaching of the gospel of peace.

WHEN one has learned to seek the honor that cometh from God only, he will take the withholding of the honor that comes from man very quietly indeed.

IT is remarkable that, until through the Spirit we feel Christ within us as one that is alive from the dead, the fact of His death seems to affect us but little.

THE PERFECT SATISFACTION with which a HOLY GOD regards the PERFECT WORK of His Beloved Son, is the ground of a believing Sinner's PERFECT PEACE.

TO EVERY man his work. A David fights, and a Solomon builds; a Paul plants, and an Apollos waters. The Lord has a place and a work for each of his servants.