

The Critic's Corner.

Arrangements have been made for the undersigned to occupy a small space in each issue of the CANADIAN EVANGELIST, in criticisms upon important and difficult passages of the Word of God, and he will be pleased to receive any suggestions or queries in regard to such from any of its readers: with the understanding, however, that only such questions as relate to what is practical and useful will receive attention, and that subjects of mere speculation or idle curiosity will be discarded. E. SHEPARD, Walkerton P. O., Bruce Co.

John iii. 5.

We have another communication from our persistent critic "S" on the subject of this Scripture, which is headed, "The Baptism of Christ." Though willing to award due respect to all the correspondents of our paper, yet there is a limit to the patience and forbearance of all concerned in its welfare and usefulness, to be found in a useless and irrelevant prolongation of any subject, even though it is an important one; therefore, instead of the publication of the entire article before us, we will only give quotations of the most interesting portions and append a few remarks.

"E. S. admits that the sins of Cornelius were remitted, and he had entered the kingdom upon receiving the baptism of the Spirit before he was baptized in water."

No answer but a reference to E. S.'s last paper on this subject is needed for a refutation of this assertion.

"The kingdom of God is righteousness and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost. The kingdom, mark you, is in the Holy Ghost. How then could these Samaritans be in the kingdom when they were neither in the Holy Ghost, nor the Holy Ghost in them?"

In our simplicity we have always thought that the apostle meant that the "joy," not the kingdom, was in or through the Holy Spirit!

"Paul affirms that Christ did not send him to baptize. No matter what reason may be urged to modify this statement, the fact remains. He also declares emphatically that in nothing was he behind the very chiefest apostles. Must we not infer from this that neither did Christ send the other apostles to baptize?"

"Go ye, therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost."

"But if the apostles did understand that they were to make disciples by baptizing them in water, using the solemn formula prescribed in Matt. xxviii. 19, how was it that Peter disobeyed and substituted therefor a formula of his own?"

When and where and how did the change in the formula take place? Peter, on the day of Pentecost, exhorted the enquirers to "repent and be baptized . . . in the name of Jesus Christ;" that is by the authority of Jesus Christ, which authority is embodied in the commission which our rather reckless correspondent is seeking to belittle and set aside; and, further, we would ask what is the use of debating a question with any one who is so unfair as to imply that we have even hinted that the apostles understood "that they were to make disciples by baptizing them in water?" What Christ commanded and what we insist upon is that they were commanded to "teach all nations (or to make disciples of all nations), baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit."

"Is it reasonable to suppose that just after placing the baptisms in such marked contrast (in Acts i. 5) one of water, the other of the Spirit, that he would go on to enjoin them to baptize with the former instead of the latter?" and again "certainly for the Lord to command Peter to baptize with the Spirit" would be no stronger than to

declare to him: "I have given unto thee the keys of the kingdom, etc."

The writer seems to have forgotten the words she wrote (quoted above), "Must we not infer from this that neither did Christ send the other apostles to baptize," for she now has them enjoined to baptize, but in the Holy Spirit and not in water, thus contradicting her own words in regard to the command, and, what is much worse, directly contradicting the word of God in regard to the element of baptism.

It is true that an explanation is attempted in the following words: "We are baptized into Christ figuratively by water. We are baptized into Christ literally by the Spirit." When was the writer of these assertions baptized by the Spirit? When did she hear "the rushing mighty wind?" When did the cloven tongues like as fire "sit upon her," and being "filled with the Holy Ghost" speak with other tongues as the Spirit gave her utterance? But enough. Instead of attempting to set aside the plain commandments of Jesus, let us do and teach them. Grand Valley. E. S.

Woman's Work.

Conducted by Mrs. S. M. Brown and Miss Jessie R. Agnew. Everything intended for this column should be sent to Mrs. S. M. Brown, Warton, Ont.

"Here We Have no Continuing City."

HEB. viii. 14.

Our president, Mrs. S. M. Brown, is about to move from her old home in Warton to Ridgetown. We sympathize with the Warton brethren losing the immediate presence of so good a Christian worker and so kind and helpful a friend, and yet we rejoice with the Ridgetown friends. All changes remind us that "Here we have no continuing city, but we seek one to come." What a large ground the word "seek" covers. Paul's seeking was arduous work for the Master, spending and being spent in His cause. Are we exempt from seeking? "By Him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is the fruit of our lips giving thanks to His name. But to do good and to communicate forget not, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased." Thoro lies the secret of success in seeking in a nutshell; first, continual thanks and praise to God for His goodness, then doing good, the one naturally follows the other, and we know that with "such sacrifices God is well pleased."

Do we realize God's goodness to us? He gives us each a whole, new, clean day 365 times in a year to serve Him in, and we best serve Him by serving others. "Never despise the gift of a day," it always holds another gift within it for us; perhaps a tender sunrise or glorious sunset, reminding us of the continuing city for which we seek; perhaps an opportunity to do some one a good turn or a good turn is done us, all are gifts from the Father of lights. Watch these gifts and count them up when the day is over and return thanks for them. Let us not forget Paul's loving benediction: "Now the God of peace that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do His will, working in you that which is well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever." Amon.—Hob. xiii. 20, 21. J. R. A.

A fresh mind keeps the body fresh. Injuries should be written in dust, kind actions in marble.

Gold in this world covers as many sins as charity in the next.

Children's Work.

Mrs. Jas. Ledard, Supt., Poplar Hill, Ont.: to whom communications for this department should be addressed.

When I Am a Boy.

If, when I'm a boy, I am lazy and shirk My work upon some one that's smaller, The chances are good I shall do the same thing When I have grown older and taller.

If, when I'm a boy, I am always behind, And never make any advances, When I am a man, Some one else, and not I, Will be sure to get all the best chances.

If I use, when a boy, Cigarettes and talk slang, Without either thinking or caring, You will probably find me, When I am a man, Chewing navy tobacco and swearing.

If, when I'm a boy, I drink cider and beer, And persist, against reason and warning, You may find me in rags, And as drunk as a sot, Fast asleep in the gutter some morning.

Now that's not the kind Of a man I would make; The world has too many already; So I will begin, Right away, while a boy, To be temperate, honest and steady.

DEAR MRS. LEDIARD,—I would like to say a few words to our young sisters in the Mission Bands. At our last meeting, one or two of our members said they were discouraged, and thought there was not much use in trying to keep on. I know people, especially young people, do not like advice, but I am going to offer a little. Let those members of the Band, who are in the Church, come to the meetings full of prayerful determination to do all they can, individually, to make it interesting and helpful to the others, and to live and act, as followers of the Saviour should, as nearly as possible, so that those who have not yet decided for Christ may be led to see how good it is and give themselves to Him. We do not think how much harm we do by our careless way of talking and jesting to those who are not Christians. We need more of the spirit of the Master and more love to Him and each other, then we shall be willing to work for Him in every way we can, and "let us not be weary in well doing." "but let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and for an helmet the hope of salvation." M. H.

And so, some of our young people are getting discouraged, are they? Well! I am very sorry, because if the sense of discouragement has become prevalent, it will hinder us and rob our work of some measure of success. Will you all read the above letter carefully, and if you are feeling despondent and disheartened it may be, you will find the clue you need, to scatter the clouds from your mind, and to re-light your zeal and interest in our work. There is a beautiful thought which often carries me over the head of discouragement. It is this: The kingdoms of this world will one day become the kingdom of our Lord, whether we do anything to help it along or not. The Lord's arm is not shortened that He cannot save; and the work will go on; with our help if we choose to give it, and without, if we draw back and refuse to go on with it. I expect you can all remember trying to help in some home emergency, when your untrained hands were anything but un-mixed blessings, but how proud and pleased you were to be trusted to do something, and the mother's words of thanks and approval were very sweet

to remember. But suppose you had gone to play or to sleep, don't you suppose that same mother could have managed very nicely without you, but she would know that the untrained hands would grow expert from practice, that the child mind would only develop by being taught to think and act by experience. So our Father is dealing with His children. There is a great work to be done, and it is going on day by day, and He accepts our smallest most feeble services, and waits patiently until we have gained strength and experience and are able to be trusted about more important parts of the work. Shall we go on with our work rejoicing in the Infinite power and wisdom, which can carry on the redemption of the world, and win His approval now, and a reward by and by? Or shall we draw back discouraged? Which?

I have heard nothing from Dr. Macklin as yet, but expect to get a letter every mail. Will our Children's Bands who have not yet sent in their quarterly reports please do so.

DEAR MRS. LEDIARD,—Our Band met Saturday, Sept. 6. We had a very interesting meeting, which consisted of the usual exercises and two readings on mission work. The officers were all present. The money received as fees amounted to 40 cents. Hoping all the funds are prospering. P. CAMPBELL, Sec. Ridgetown, Sept. 12, 1890.

The anniversary of the Lobo Children's Band of Cheerful Givers, which was intended for a garden party, took the form of a parlor social instead. Between seventy and eighty children and young people with a few older folks met at the minister's house, and between disposing of the contents of numerous well-filled baskets and taking all the pleasure possible out of an impromptu programme, the evening was spent very enjoyably by every one. Such meetings, carefully managed, do good and are helpful. J. E. I.

A Short Rule For Fretters.

A young friend has been visiting me who was a fretter. She fretted when it rained, and fretted when it shone. She fretted when others came to see her, and fretted when they did not. It is a dreadful thing to be a fretter. A fretter is troublesome to herself and troublesome to her friends. V. e. to be sure, have our trials; but fretting does not help us to bear or get rid of them.

I have lately come across a short rule for fretters, which they shall have. Here it is: Never fret about what you can't help; because it won't do any good. Never fret about what you can help; because if you can help it, do so. Say this when you get up in the morning, say it at noon, and say it at night; and not only say, but do; and that will be, do not fret at all—a fine doing.

"But we have our trials!" my young readers say. Yes, you have; and your little trials are as hard to bear as our big ones. But fretting doesn't help them, nor wishing we were somewhere else or somebody else, or dwelling upon them till they look a great deal bigger than they really are.

There is no fool like the man who accounts himself wise.

A MOSSIDE STORY.

I have used your Hurdock Blood Bitters and Pills and find them everything to me. I had dyspepsia with bad breath and bad appetite, but after a few days use of B.B.B. I felt stronger, could eat a good meal and felt myself a different man. W. H. SROAR, Mossido, Ont.

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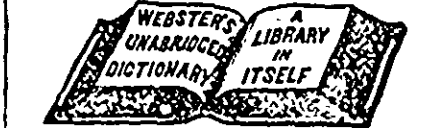
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