

in the King's garden, and His banner was over us.

There is a wonderful power in a glowing ecstatic love-song to Jesus. The language may not be very artistic; it may savour of extravagance to the skeptical critic. But the warmer and the stronger it is the better to a genuine child of Jesus. When a soul is on fire and melting, it don't want elaborate poetry or artificial tunes. It longs for simplicity, fervour, and elastic glow. It craves endearing epithets. There are moods of mind when a blood-bought believer revels in the love of the Saviour and only wants to sit beside the mouth of the well, and drink and sing, and sing and drink, until the soul overflows with grateful joy.

It was in such moods of rapturous communion, that the holy Rutherford broke out into those passionate words of endearment which rival the song of Solomon. "O fair Lord Jesus!" he exclaims, "let me wrap my withered arms around thy great broad love! How little of the sea can a child carry in its hand; as little am I able to carry away of my boundless and running over Christ Jesus. All lovers blush, when ye stand before Christ; shame forevermore be upon all but Christ's glory? Would to God that all this kingdom knew what there is betwixt Christ and me in his person—what kisses, embracements, and love communions! I would not exchange Jesus for Heaven. Nay, I think that a soul could live eternally blest on Christ's love, and feed upon no other thing; yea, when Christ in love giveth a blow, it doeth a soul good, and there is a kind of comfort and joy to it to get a cuff with the sweet soft hand of Jesus."

Of this holy literature of love the church ought to read more; and in our devotional meetings we ought to sing more of these love-songs in praise of our Redeemer, who bought us with his blood. This element of *Christliness* is wanting too often in the pulpit and in the prayer-meeting. For fear of being thought extravagant or enthusiasts, we tame down our language, and stiffen our countenances, until we freeze up the best impulses of the soul. We sacrifice our devotions to our dignity.

But the more the love of Jesus abounds and glows within us, the more shall we burst out into those hymns and into those utterances in prayer which are the best foretastes of Heaven. The most delightful feature in a true Christian service, is when all hearts break out in some strong rapturous love-chant to our Redeemer. Wesley struck this note when he struck his incomparable "Jesus, lover of my soul." We ought to have more of such melodies of Calvary in our prayer-meetings, and sing them with open mouths, and eyes brimming with tears.

I confess to a great liking for the godly old negro "uncle Johason," who used to say "Massa, you know *de flesh be weak*; and when dey begins in de meeting to talk and sing about Jesus I begins to *fill up*, and putty soon I has to holler, and den dey say, 'carry dat old man out; he 'sturbs de meetin.'" Would to God that all our church prayer-meetings had a few more such blessed *disturbances!*—Cuyler.

THE MINISTER AN ORGANISER.

We give the best part of an article, by Dr. J. S. Hart, in the *Sunday-school Times*, and heartily endorse the wisdom which apportions to every man his work, and provides that the minister shall be truly the overseer of the Church:

"The minister in his pulpit, equally with the doctor in the sick room, has to deal with the practical living issues of the day. He has to deal with men, women and children as he finds them, and with the spiritual wants growing out of their temporal affairs the manifold temptations arising from business, pleasure, or passion.

"A pastor then needs something more than theological training, or even theological oratory. He is the head of a spiritual corporation, a highly organized living body, and as such he needs executive ability, and this ability is all the more needed from the fact that the tie which binds together this spiritual body is a purely voluntary one.

"Many a pastor who has this executive ability, excels in usefulness others who are far more eloquent in the pulpit. The secret of the matter, which some