

Sunshine in the Christian's Heart.

REV. W. W. MERRICK.

There is sunshine in the Christian's heart... The sun is shining in the Christian's heart...

to prevent our judgment, to blind and lead away our conscience, to make evil appear good, and good evil.

And how great is their art of deceiving! How they will deceive us in the practice of leading astray.

And then, more perilous still, they have after tricks. They have territory and fortress. They can offer a bait to the necessary disposition, or spread a feast of sensuality.

"O watch, and fight, and pray."

—St. A. L. Stone, D. D.

Nearly Safe.

In giving his leavers not to rest satisfied with anything short of complete salvation, and not to suppose that creatures they repent they will be safe.

A Christian minister says, "When, after rately circumventing the globe, the Royal Charter went to pieces in Mexico Bay, on the coast of Wales, it was my melancholy duty to visit and seek to comfort the wife of the first officer, made by that disaster a widow."

Some are in the suburbs of the city of refuge. I want you against staying there. Oh, what a pity it is that any should perish at the gates of salvation for want of another step!

Must Wait Till We are Better.

I never knew a man to be saved that came to Christ in that way. You cannot be saved in a year's time. You cannot be saved in a month.

"I was both pained and irresistibly amused by an incident that occurred not two hundred miles from New York, when the horse was in the first stage of training."

"The missionary was announced to speak in the church on a given Sunday, when the annual collection would be taken up."

"The appointed Sunday came. Mr. A. and his family staid away from church. They therefore missed the announcement which the pastor made."

Winding up a Horse.

The following story is well told, and applied by the Rev. Dr. Chamberlain.

"It never took thirty seconds to get him off with the key. After a little he ceased objecting to have it put on."

"My native neighbors said, 'That horse must be wound up, or he cannot run.'"

"Many hearty laughs have we and our friends had over the winding up of horses."

"There are Christians (yes, I believe they are Christians) who have to be wound up by the same pressure before they will start off in any work of benevolence."

"I knew of one good member of our church who would never give a cent to our domestic missionary board unless he happened to hear of some missionary in the West who was actually without the necessities of life."

"Thank God, I found hosts of noble-hearted men and women all through the Church that would not be content with a convention and consecration had extended down to their pockets, who were always at the forefront in every good work, who required no spasmodic appeals!"

"Well, said I, 'I shall be very glad to come and tell you something of our work just as soon as I can edge a day in between our engagements. But if you have made up your minds to do something handsome for the Lord, why not do it on the spot. You need not fear. We will give a gum that is settled, and it is almost pledged. But you must come and talk to us first.'"

"I smiled, and said to myself, 'There is my horse in its third stage of training. That kind is bending down its ear and snorting to the fact that it has made up its mind to go, only it requires to be wound up first.'"

"A Sunday-school superintendent came to me one day with smiling countenance, saying, 'Our Sunday-school has raised one hundred and seventy-five dollars during the past year for missions, and we have a mind to give it to the work in India. The year closed three months ago, and it is all in the hands of the treasurer; but we want you to come and give a speech, and then you will be formally voted and sent at once to the London Convention of the Board.'"

"I was both pained and irresistibly amused by an incident that occurred not two hundred miles from New York, when the horse was in the first stage of training, and stoutly resisted allowing its ear to be touched."

"The missionary was announced to speak in the church on a given Sunday, when the annual collection would be taken up."

"The appointed Sunday came. Mr. A. and his family staid away from church. They therefore missed the announcement which the pastor made."

"The following Sunday Mr. A. and family all fled into their pew, serene and happy in the thought that they had avoided the old missionary."

when the pastor rose and said that Mr. A. the missionary, as announced last Sunday, would now address them.

"Mr. A. was thunderstruck. He did not like to go out in the middle of the service, and he was troubled with a talky horse, the missionary told his simple tale. The place came in. The collection was unprecedentedly large."

"It required some of the very best and most skilful masquerading to get hold of the ear of that church; but it was obtained, and the wind-up of the church started on the trot in the most successful manner."

"Scores of incidents which occurred in my own experience among the churches in America, and which re called my 'horse winding,' come crowding into my mind, but I forbear."

Religious Trifling.

REV. C. H. SPURGEON.

We are not afraid to be examined upon anything in the Word of God; and we dread a case that will be put upon us that will show the Word of God has been sifted the more fully has it been confirmed."

"The statement made had been the opposite, the gentleman had questioned it; for he is bound to doubt everything. He is one who could take either side and refuse, but neither side and defend. There are minds so constructed that they can set in every way except the plain and down."

"But 'do they not have the Sunday-school?' Yes; and a well-equipped and Christ-presenting Sunday-school is the right arm of a church. But a right arm is not the main body, and an arm severed from the body is a bloodless and impotent arm."

"How do they spend the Lord's day at home? If you commit the sin of beginning the day with your Sunday newspaper, you may be quite sure that the boys and girls will be deep in the police reports and fashion and gossip and wretched scandals of the Sabbath breakers while you are listening to the sermon."

"Then keep the secular desecrators of holy time out of your doors, and take your 'bairns' with you to the place where their young hearts may be led heavenward. Expect their early conversion to Christ."

When is Silence Golden?

That silence is golden has been accepted as an axiomatic by general consent, yet we are surprised to find how few are in which it is leader, copper, or alloyed with something base still. Who does not know and dread the exasperating silence of anger, harder to endure than the fiercest blast of speech?"

"Well, said I, 'I shall be very glad to come and tell you something of our work just as soon as I can edge a day in between our engagements. But if you have made up your minds to do something handsome for the Lord, why not do it on the spot. You need not fear. We will give a gum that is settled, and it is almost pledged. But you must come and talk to us first.'"

"I smiled, and said to myself, 'There is my horse in its third stage of training. That kind is bending down its ear and snorting to the fact that it has made up its mind to go, only it requires to be wound up first.'"

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away; for I never could stand it, never! And," I continued, "if I ever see you hanging round bar-rooms and tavern doors, Tirzah Ann shall hang too!"

"I don't look so bad for a boy as it does for a girl."

"Custom makes the difference; we are more used to seeing men. But," says I, "when liquor goes to work to make a fool and a brute of anybody, it does not stop to ask about sex; it makes a wild beast and idiot of a man or a woman, and to look down from heaven, I guess a man looks as bad layin' dead drunk as a woman does."

"Things look differently from up there than what they do to us—it is a more slightly place. And you talk about looks, Josiah Allen, I don't go on over looks; I go on principle. Will the Lord say to me in the last day, 'Josiah Allen's wife, how is it with the soul of Tirzah Ann—' as for Thomas Jefferson's soul, he's a boy, it haint no account!"

"I have brought Thomas Jefferson up to think that it was just as bad for him to listen to a bad story or song as for a girl to weep for her lover more strongly to run away, and that it was a disgrace to him to talk or listen to any stuff that he would be ashamed to have Tirzah Ann or me to hear."

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