

1. All analogy shews that a total change of mind may occur very suddenly. In solving a mathematical problem, every student knows, that often, when the mind has pored over the diagrams in vain for a whole night, and nothing but perplexity has been the result, the introduction of one small truth into the mind casts a flood of light over the whole, the truth of the proposition flashes across the mind with the rapidity of lightning, and yet he may require much time and pains, or he may find it even impossible to go slowly over the different steps by which he was led to the truth. But if this is true in mathematics, it is much more true in those cases where the affections as well as the intellect are engaged. In all cases of prejudice, when the understanding is blinded and turned aside by the heart, it often requires but a slight shifting of the affections to rectify the judgment and enlighten the whole mind. Now this shifting of the affections may take place in the twinkling of an eye. How often have the prejudices that for half a century had been building themselves up in the mind against medicine and medical men been swept away in the first half-hour of a dangerous illness; so that the judgment has been thoroughly changed simply by the awakening of fear?

Now scripture shews plainly that there may be, and often is, the same suddenness in the turning of a soul to God. Many of the invitations of the Word are made upon the understanding that conversion may be sudden: "*To-day, if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts.*" "*Turn you at my reproof. Behold I will pour out my spirit upon you.*" "*Behold, now is the accepted time. Behold now is the day of salvation.*"

The Bible would never invite men to turn *now* and *this very day*, if immediate conversion were a thing impossible. Again, we have many scripture examples of men being brought suddenly from darkness into light. In one day 3000 souls, among whom were many who had helped to crucify the Lord of Glory, and many who, but a few minutes before, had mocked the holy apostles, saying "these men are full of new wine," were thoroughly and lastingly converted. And, again, the heathen jailor of Philippi, in the same night in which he had drawn his sword and would have killed himself, "rejoiced, believing with all his house." In both these cases, though the *supernatural* power of the Spirit of God was manifested in a way that may well shut the mouths of cavillers, there was no *miraculous* agency employed, but the simple preaching of the Word was the instrument of conversion.—*McCheyne*.

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## TO AGENTS AND SUBSCRIBERS.

THE present No. closes the fiftieth volume of the *Monthly Record*, and the Committee take this opportunity of returning thanks to all those who have in any way assisted in bringing about the gratifying result that they have the pleasure of reporting, viz., that, if all the promises are fulfilled, they will be able to meet the expenses of 1869, and commence the New Year free from any embarrassment. What we want now is, that all accounts be settled immediately, new lists forwarded, with guarantees for payment for 1870.

Circulars are enclosed in the present No. to all subscribers who are in arrears for 1869 to whom the *Record* is sent singly, and it is hoped that a prompt answer will be made, as the pre-payment of postage involves an outlay the Committee are not disposed to assume unless assured that subscriptions will be forthcoming.

Agents will also receive a Circular in a few days, showing the present state of accounts. Those indebted for 1869 will enable the Committee to meet their engagements by remitting at earliest convenience.