

harmonizes with facts revealed elsewhere by the Spirit of God.

We notice that the actions of a certain man in obtaining labourers in his vineyard, and his treatment of them at the close of the day, illustrates in some respects the actions of the church or kingdom of heaven towards the world. He went out early in the morning, as soon as it was light, just as soon as circumstances would allow him, to reasonably expect that men would be willing and ready to work in his vineyard. Every Bible reader will realize at once how beautifully is illustrated the actions of the church in coming to the world in the fullness of time and immediately calling for labourers to work in the vineyard. He wanted—not gentlemen, not idlers, not theorists, but labourers. Just the very class of men the church is seeking; for the time is short, the fruit is valuable, and if not saved within the day is lost forever.

Some have said, and others may be saying, laborers here means ministers, the preachers!! Does any one mean to say that the only ones that are to labor in the vineyard are the preachers!!! Has any one been invited into the vineyard to do nothing but to eat up the fruit the Master has been hiring laborers to save!!! Let such remember the only ones that were rewarded at the close of the day were those who had been labouring.

This also is in keeping with the principles made known to us by the Holy Spirit through the ambassadors of Christ, the King of this kingdom which we are now considering: "Be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, for as much as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord: But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty and continueth therein, he being not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, *this man shall be blessed in his deed*: This we command you, that if any man would *not work* neither should he eat." This last injunction is, and will be, more literally carried out in spiritual affairs than in temporal.

He went to the "Market Place," the very place where men would gather when seeking work, and stating to them the nature of the work, and agreeing with them for a penny a day, which at that time and place was a fair day's pay, he was willing to hire them all.

The purpose and actions of this "householder" find their correspondents exemplified, but in a higher and purer sense, in the motives and conduct of Christ and His kingdom on earth. Christ came into the world to save sinners. He came to seek and to save the lost. Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. And the Spirit and bride say come! And let him that heareth say come! And let him that is athirst come: And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely. Here we find the Saviour coming or sending the citizens of His kingdom to the very place where men, in need of assistance, were to be found. The nature of the work is made known, the invitation is to all, and the promise is eternal life.

Now there are many other points in this parable which, with much profit, could be studied as indicated in the foregoing, but there are a few things worthy of our special consideration before closing this article. (1) That when these men agreed to labour for the day, the hours of that day and their energies of body and mind were no longer their own, but the man's who hired them, and should be used for the furtherance of his purposes. This at once suggests to us the language of Paul to the Corinthians: "For ye are bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's." (2) The man going out at different times through the day might represent the church anxiously calling through the different years all classes of men to come into the work of the Lord. (3) For what reason did he give to those working but one hour the same pay as those who had worked through the

heat of the day. Every one will see at a glance there was no injustice to any one. It may be that these men exhibited more confidence in their Master in simply taking him at his word, whatsoever is right I will give you Or the householder being of a kind benevolent disposition, and knowing the circumstances of these men, that to give them just what their work would command would not furnish them with the present necessities of life, concluded to give them a full day's pay. They had not worked a whole day, it's true, but it was no fault of theirs. They accepted the first opportunity, and worked until the close of the day, and, proportionately, did more perhaps than others who had been called earlier. The possibility of such a thing being true is found in the history of Paul. Although, as an apostle, he was as one born out of due time—he laboured *more abundantly than they all*. How often do we find, even in this day, certain members of the church doing more in six months for the honour and glory of God than others do in *six years*.

We notice the murmuring was entirely out of place. There was no injustice done them. The fault lay not with the Master, but as is generally the case, with the MURMURER.

Are we labourers in the vineyard of the Lord? If not, why not? Is it not time we commenced? Have we any excuse that will justify us in not being engaged in this glorious work. I think not.

ALPHA.

RANDOM NOTES.

Old injuries are seldom cancelled by new benefits.

If you want enemies, excel others; if friends, let others excel you.

Let your inclination be to those who advise rather than those who praise your conduct: for if they think well of you it will not be less for not being told, and the advice if not applicable to you, it may be you will see a chance to give it to others.

It is astonishing how much easier it is to do evil than bear to be told of the evil we have done.

Mammoth Cave: This is the largest cave in the world. It is in Edmonson Co., Ky., on the left bank of Green River. It consists of a series of caverns, and has been explored to a distance of ten miles.

The greatest river in the world is the Mississippi, four thousand one hundred miles long.

The longest railroad in the world is the Pacific Railroad, over three thousand miles in length.

The Chinese are evidently pagans. They celebrate all their holidays by paying their debts, forgiving their enemies, and shaking hands all round. The people who have gone to China have not yet induced them to relinquish these old and barbarous habits.

The election to repeal the Scott Act in Westmorland County, N. B., resulted in the Act being sustained by a majority of seventy-three. So that after three years in which to judge of its merits, and though meeting with the most determined opposition, the conclusion is favorable to the Act.

The people of the United States have before them four candidates for the Presidency,—Blaine (Republican), Cleveland (Democrat), St. John (Prohibition), Butler (Greenback). The history of each one is being unmercifully scanned by the opposing party, to find if possible some crime or irregularity in life, that may be magnified so as to destroy the chance of his gaining the honored position.

The Old Testament Committee of Revisers has finished its labors. This work has now to be submitted to convocation before placing it before the public. In all probability we may expect its appearance early in 1885.

The American Political Alliance seems disposed to run Gen. Grant and Tremont for the Presidency, if they will accept nomination.

We have been informed that Bro. M. B. Ryan is to be at our Annual, also Bro. William Murray, who is now preaching at Lubec, Maine. We shall be more than glad to meet these brethren, and talk with them concerning the things that pertain to the glory of God.

Our readers will read with interest the following, clipped from a report issued by the Board of Foreign Missions: We have Missions in England, France, Denmark, Turkey, India, and Japan. We hope to open another in Africa at an early day. Six new names have been placed on the pay-roll since the last Convention. A medical missionary has been appointed to go to Japan. He will sail in a few months.

The largest lake in the world is Lake Superior, which is truly an inland sea, being four hundred and thirty miles long and very deep.

An effort is being put forth to have the British government pass a law making it a penal offense for a girl to be married under twelve years of age. The plea is that there is a good deal of native public opinion in this direction now, and that a government enactment will do much to foster such views even if the law were not strictly enforced.

The London Times says that, on appeal from the Jews of Jerusalem, the Sultan has annulled the sale of the part of the Mount of Olives which contains the graves of the prophets Haggai, Zachariah and Malachi. The purchasers were the Russian priesthood. The burial place of the prophets has been secured to the Jews in perpetuity.

Dr. W. H. Ward, editor of the *Independent*, is to go abroad the coming autumn as the head of an exploring expedition to work in the region of Babylon. A wealthy lady, a Miss Wolfe of New York, has furnished the funds of the party, which will have in Dr. Ward a competent and enterprising leader.

There are in India six hundred thousand widows under nineteen years of age, who ought never to have married, and who are doomed to perpetual widowhood, or worse, by the custom of child marriage. Of these seventy-eight thousand are less than nine years old, and over two hundred thousand between ten and fourteen. Here is a hint as to the cause of the degradation which the natives of India have suffered.

During his visit to Palestine General Lew Wallace visited the old mosque at Hebron, being only the fifth Christian who had ever entered it. His predecessors were the Prince of Wales and his two sons and the Emperor of Austria. He went into every part of the cave except the Cave of Machpelah, which is entirely closed.

Moltke the Silent, as he is called, is tall, slender, erect, with a shallow, beardless face, strong gray eyes, and yellow hair, wearing a cap and a long military coat. Unattended by even a single servant he walks through the streets of Berlin slowly and noiselessly. Saluted by every soldier he meets, he returns the courtesy, but apparently without noticing to whom, and every-where he retains the cold, absorbed, mysterious manner which he did not allow to be broken even at Sedan.

The President of Harvard College in his last annual report tells us: "Early in the year 1880—1881, a circular was sent to the parents and guardians of the eight hundred and twenty-eight undergraduates, asking if they held daily family prayers in their households. The number of replies received was seven hundred and forty-one, of which two hundred and eleven, or two-sevenths, answered yes, and five hundred and thirty, or five-sevenths, answered no. The object of the inquiry was to ascertain how much support morning prayers at college had in the habits of the families from which the students came.