

New Testament. Meanwhile, he went on with his quiet preaching and teaching, and a considerable number of the people of Lyons were converted to God. Not only did he now read the Bible to the people of Lyons, but he determined that people in other parts of France and in other countries should hear the Word of God. As soon as the copies of the New Testament were ready, he gathered the men who had begun to love and serve God and sent them as Christ did his Apostles, two and two, over the country to teach the Gospel quietly to the people.

They could not go as preachers, but they travelled as pedlars, with boxes of jewels, trinkets and other articles, and in this way they gained access to the castles of the great as well as to the houses of the poor. Then, after showing their trinkets and introducing the subject of the Gospel, they would produce their New Testament and read it to the people gathered in the castle or house. Some copies were sold to the richer families, and so by Peter's efforts the Bible, which had hitherto been an unknown book, save in name, became a much coveted treasure from which people were eager to learn.—'Sunday Magazine.'

The Cost of Genuine Conversion.

(The Rev. Theodore L. Cuyler, D.D., in the 'Evangelist'.)

Many persons just now are revolving these most vitally important of all questions, 'Ought I to become a Christian? If so, how shall I become one?' To such a person I would venture to say, with loving frankness, that to become a genuine, thorough, useful Christian is not, as some thoughtless people say, 'just the easiest thing in the world.' On Jesus Christ's side, your salvation cost the bitter agonies of the cross when he died for the sinner's redemption. He desires you to become his followers, and entreats you to do so, and the Holy Spirit is now pressing you to decide for Christ. But you must count the cost on your part. Cheap things are commonly poor things, and nothing is more utterly worthless than a cheap religion.

Jesus Christ never lowers the terms or the demands of discipleship. He provides neither palanquin or parlor car to transport you to heaven. 'Whosoever will not take up his cross and follow me, he cannot be my disciple.' At another time he said, 'Strive to enter into the strait gate.' He knows human nature perfectly; he knows how hard a human heart is, and what an ugly thing sin is, and how busy Satan is with his temptations, and how many bad habits you may have to root up if you become his sincere and happy follower. Count the cost carefully. The so-called 'conversions' that are the outcome of shallow sensational preaching, commonly end in shallow and short lived religion. There are names on church registers that are not worth the paper that contains them. Do not add one more.

The first step in a genuine conversion is a thorough repentance of your sins. The rubbish must come out before the foundation-stones of a Christian character can be laid. Christ himself began his ministry with the word, 'Repent!' and he never ceased to demand that all those who followed him should quit their besetting sins. The amiable young ruler would not quit his, and that ended the matter; he went off frowning and disappointed. Mark what that clear-eyed old Christian, Samuel Rutherford, once said: 'Many people only play with Christianity, and take Christ for almost nothing. If ye never had a sick night

and a pained soul for sin, ye have not yet lighted upon Christ. Look to the right marks; if ye love your Saviour more than the world and would quit sin and the world for him, then that proveth that the work is sound.' You cannot cleave to your sins, and lay hold of Jesus with the same hand.

When David's eyes were opened to behold the depravity of his heart and the loathsomeness of his conduct, he cried out, 'Create in me a clean heart; wash me thoroughly from my iniquity.' He was willing to be thrown, like a filthy garment, into a cleaning vat, and be rubbed and pounded until the foul spots were washed out of the fabric of his heart. That was thorough repentance and is just what you need. The Holy Spirit will aid you in this vital business. Thorough repentance is proved by change of character and change of conduct; the one is what you are, and the other is what you do. The very first sin that you give up in order to please Jesus Christ is a vital step toward conversion. Pray for, and work for, a thorough conversion. It is deep ploughing that cuts up the weeds of sin by the roots, and yields a good crop of clean, useful and godly living. 'Must I not have faith?' Yes; but the very essence of saving faith is to obey Jesus Christ. He condensed it into these two words, 'Follow me!' You have been going the wrong way. Conversion means a turning round; instead of living for self and sin, turn the other way and follow Jesus. Prayer, in order to be practical, must be asking the help of the Holy Spirit, to do this very thing. Without that divine power to aid you, nothing permanent will be accomplished. Quench not the Spirit.

Once more let me urge you to count the cost. To be a strong, athletic, useful, happy Christian will cost you the cutting up of old favorite sins by the roots, and the cutting loose from sinful associations and bad habits; it will cost you some fights with the tempter, and the submission of your will to the will of Christ. This is the only road to peace of conscience and solid happiness. A man is always happy when he is right—happy in doing right and in the satisfaction of Christ's approving smile. 'I get more solid satisfaction in teaching my mission-school class,' said a converted man to me, 'than I ever got out of my theatre-goings and all the social gayeties of my whole life.' He had a new idea of life; it was not living to please sinful self, it was to please Christ and help others.

If it costs much to be a useful and effective Christian, it will cost you infinitely more to go back into thoughtless impenitence and live and die an unforgiven sinner. Genuine conversion to Christ costs self-denial; a falling back into sin will cost you self-destruction! There is a way that seemeth easy and pleasant to a man; but it leads down to death. Look at this mighty question calmly, and make the honest reckoning. Put into the one scale some self-denials and conflicts and oppositions, and at the end of them heaven! Put into the other scale self-indulgence and a life of sin, and at the end of it hell! Weigh the two, and weigh them for eternity. Then decide! 'What shall a man give in exchange for his soul?'

The Golden Prayer-Chain.

A lady missionary in India tells the following striking incident illustrating the power of prayer.

Upon her arrival in India she was given charge of a large class of native boys, and entered upon her work with much zest. But although she was very earnest and enthusiastic, and exerted all her tact and talent, from

the very first her efforts threatened to prove a failure. The boys were idle and lawless, and refused to be instructed.

Week after week she toiled on at her thankless task. The thought of failure in what she considered her God-given work was unendurable, and she long refused to entertain it. She left nothing undone to gain the love and obedience of her boys, but in vain. The very spirit of mischief was among them, and with all her efforts they daily became more and more refractory.

Tried beyond endurance, she entered her schoolroom, after a night of prayer, determined to tell her pupils that because of her inability to gain their obedience she had given up her work, and would be their teacher no longer.

Imagine her surprise when, entering her schoolroom, as she supposed, for the last time, she was approached by one of the worst of her pupils, who said, with much feeling, 'Oh, teacher, I am so sorry and ashamed! I have been a bad pupil, and made you much trouble. Only forgive me and I will be better. I have shown you how bad I can be, now I will show you how good I can be.'

Before she could recover from her glad surprise another boy, said: 'Teacher, forgive me too. I, too, have been bad to you! but now I am sorry, and promise to be good.'

A contagion of penitence seemed to seize the boys. One after another expressed sorrow for his conduct, and promised to be studious and obedient. And from that day the school was changed. Day after day passed busily, and the school prospered.

She made careful note of the day on which the change began, 'for,' said she, 'it is God's doing, and some time he will surely let me know how and why he sent me and my pupils this great blessing.'

And he did. One day she received a letter from an old friend in London. The letter stated that on a certain day—the very day that she had noted—this friend, who was very devout, had resolved to pray daily for this teacher and her work. And ever since, from this home in London, earnest prayer had daily gone up to God for this teacher and her school away in India. And even as the first prayer was being uttered it was answered, for that very day God lightened the teacher's burden by touching her pupils' hearts and making them sorry for their idleness and disobedience. It was as if a golden chain reached from that devout heart in London up to God, and from thence reached down to that discouraged teacher in India, bringing help and blessing.—'Sunday Companion.'

Postal Crusade.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT FROM MISS DUNHILL.

We have just received from Miss Dunhill, now well known to our readers, the following letter, which we are glad to insert, hoping it will reach the anonymous giver.

112 Irvine Ave., Westmount, Que.,
October 3, 1904.

The Editor of the 'Northern Messenger':

Dear Friend,—Will you please give space for a few words of gratitude? My heart goes out in thanks to the kind friend who sent me two dollars anonymously from Ottawa (or near). This is my only means of reaching this co-worker, but I pray the Lord may reward. 'They that tarry at home divide the spoil.' The very moment I gave the glad news to Mrs. Edwards Cole, of the Post-Office Crusade, she put into my hand a request from Mrs. C. H. Archibald, W.C.T.U., India, for literature for a needy Institution there (Bangalore). The cost exactly corresponded with the sum sent! We together praised the Lord for this striking answer to the prayer of faith.

Among the many joys that have come to me in your land is the news that the Westmount Y.'s have arranged to support a W. C. T. U. worker in India—a native Christian sister. This is truly supplying a great need. A very few dollars will do this, especially in the South, where Bible women are paid from less than two dollars a month, but there can be the harvest of the hundred-fold;—yea, one can chase a thousand.

Gratefully,
H. E. DUNHILL,
National Organizer, W.C.T.U., India.