

Contributions.

Waiting For the Roll-Call.

Thus spoke an aged Christian
As he neared the other shore,
Calmly waiting for the summons
That would call his spirit o'er.

C. R.

The Suicide.

PETER ANDERSON.

What fatal meshes—who shall say—
Their coils had round him spun;
What shadows falling on his way
Had into darkness turned his day

Summerside Letter.

In my last letter I told you about
P. E. Island. I also told you something
about our work and our workers.

and wherever it is being carried on.
What a benefit can be derived from an
exchange of experiences, both for the
individual and for the church.

The second hindrance I want to tell you
about in this letter is Infidelity.
Christianity has been opposed and misrepresented
in all ages. Still it has grown and
flourished.

when you show what Christianity has
done... enlighten and elevate and moralize
the world—what lessons of humanity
it teaches us—these are the
points infidels cannot get over.

During this winter I have delivered
weekly lectures on the Bible when
practicable to highly pleased audiences.

W. H. HARDING.
Summerside, P. E. Island.

The Critic's Corner.

Arrangements have been made for the
underground to occupy a small space in each
issue of the CANADIAN EVANGELIST.

"Do the Scriptures require the Christian
to pledge or promise anything?"

I understand, from an explanation
accompanying the above question, that
it is in regard to the pledge of the
Christian Endeavor Society—a query
put by one whose scruples deserve an
unprejudiced and scriptural answer.

Certainly the profession of Christianity
implies a promise or pledge to
do the will of Christ, and surely it is
His will that the Christian should make
it "the rule of his life" to pray, to read
the Bible every day, to attend the
regular Lord's day and mid-week
services and to lead a Christian life;

The Israelites, after hearing God's
commands from Moses at Sinai to keep
His Covenant, made a promise or
pledge in the following words:

"And all the people answered together
and said, all that the Lord hath
spoken we will do," Ex. xix. 8; and
the commission given by Christ to the
apostles, not only requires that those
who believe and obey the gospel are to
be taught to observe all things that
were commanded, but also that those
who are thus instructed are pledged,
as His disciples, to do, in mutual
integrity, His holy will.

I say in "mutual integrity," for every
true believer is required in union with
his fellow disciple not only to do all
that is required in the C. E. S., but to
assist and strengthen him in the discharge
of duty and the enjoyment of
privilege—this can be done, not only
in the regular meetings of the church,

but in social visits in the home and by
coming together in such meetings as
those held by the organization in
question.

Again, it is evident from the following
promise of Christ, that His followers
should agree together to obtain religious
benefit. "Again I say unto you, that if
two of you shall agree on earth as
touching anything they shall ask, it
shall be done for them of my Father
who is in heaven; for whomever two or
three are gathered together in my name,
there am I in the midst of them."
Matt. xviii. 19, 20.

A mutual agreement certainly
requires a mutual pledge as to the
subject, time and place to meet for this
prayer; and so this society which is
doing so much to advance the cause of
Christ is a holy and pious acquiescence
in the Saviour's purpose.

E. S.

BLOTTING OUT OF THE BOOK OF LIFE.

DEAR BRO. SHEPPARD—Please turn
to John x. and read the 27th, 28th and
29th verses, and then see if it is possible
for the name of any Christian to be
blotted out of the Book of Life.

Yours fraternally,

J. W.

The verses referred to are: "My sheep
hear my voice and I know them, and
they follow me: and I give unto them
eternal life; and they shall never perish,
neither shall any man pluck them out
of my hand. My Father, who gave
them me, is greater than all; and no
man is able to pluck them out of my
Father's hand."

This is indeed a blessed and comforting
promise, to give assurance that
all those who hear the Saviour's voice
and follow Him shall have eternal life;
but, like all the promises made by God
and the Saviour, this one is conditional,
and though the conditions are not
always stated, they are, as in this case,
always implied; and the same is true of
God's threatened judgments (see 1
Samuel, ii. 30, and Jonah iii. 4). A
distinct promise with condition only
implied, on one hand reserved through
disobedience and a positive threat not
executed on account of repentance on
the other. A continuance in well doing
in order to be saved is stated or implied
in all cases in the N. T.

Take for instance the figure of the
vine: "If a man abide not in me he is
cast forth as a branch, and is withered.
. . . If ye abide in me, and my words
abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will,
and it shall be done unto you." John xv.
The whole tenor of this metaphor, used
by the Saviour, is intended to teach
that only those who keep His commands
abide in His love, ver. 10;
while it is also certain that no one can
be cut off who was never a branch of
the true vine.

Be it noticed that in this passage
given by our brother, it is not said that
the sheep cannot desert their Shepherd's
care, but that no man can pluck them
out of His hand or out of His Father's
hand; which is undoubtedly true and
positive.

And so if a Christian's name is
blotted out of the Lamb's Book of
Life, it is because he apostatizes from
the faith. "He that overcometh the
same shall be clothed in white raiment,
and I will not blot out his name out of
the Book of Life, but I will confess
him before my Father and before His
angels." Rev. iii. 5.

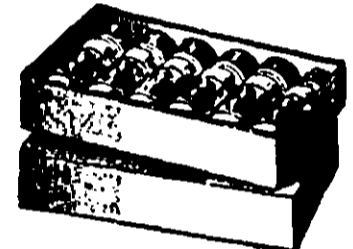
Dare any one say that this is only an
intimidating threat which could not be
executed, that Jesus Christ knew that a
name once written there would always
remain, for it would be idle nonsense
to affirm that it was never written there;
and the promise is given that it shall
remain as a guarantee of eternal
blessedness for those who "overcome."

In Exodus xxvii. 32, Moses says in
prayer to God, "Yet now, if Thou wilt
forgive their sin—; and if not, blot me,
I pray thee, out of thy book which thou
hast written. And the Lord said unto
Moses, whosoever hath sinned against
me, him will I blot out of my book."
Can anything be more decisive than
this?

To prove that salvation is conditional,
not only for those who
come to Christ by faith, repentance,
confession and obedience, but also that
those who were purged from their old
sins and adopted into the family of God,
will be eventually saved only by a
patient continuance in well doing, by
faithfulness unto death, after enumerating
Christian virtues Peter says,
"Wherefore the rather, brethren, give
diligence to make your calling and
election sure; for if you do these things
ye shall never fall." Let us not for one
moment cease to watch and pray for
the divine guidance to lead us safely to
the paradise of God, and then is our
salvation sure. E. S.

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