

impending no time should be lost in preparing amendments to the law, which should be pressed upon candidates for Parliament in the event of an adverse judgment.

#### Understanding Christ.

No two persons see truth in exactly the same light, says Dwight Mallory Pratt in writing to the *N. Y. Observer*: The difficulty lies as much in the person seeing as in the object seen. There are people so constituted as to find it impossible to understand each other. They look at things from opposite points of view; they discern truth through the color of their own tastes and temperaments, likes and dislikes, predispositions and prejudices. The difference lies in the interpreter, not in the person interpreted.

For this very reason people have their favorite authors. One prefers a mystic, another a rationalist; one a metaphysician, another a poet. It would be utterly impossible for such to exchange places without a radical transformation in their mental tastes and habits, and in the deepest affinities of their moral natures.

Christ is consequently viewed differently by men of varied character. The key to all interpretation of persons is conformity of nature and sympathy of thought and spirit. Treachery cannot understand honesty; the impure cannot even imagine a state of purity or innocence; hatred cannot fathom the meaning of love.

Man's greatest work on earth is to find out and know God. It is now well understood that natural science is but the attempt to interpret God in his works. Copernicus was as literally an expositor of God's truth and a revealer of God's character as was ever the profoundest exegete of the Bible. Scientific scholarship was utterly at fault until it was able to adjust itself to the thought of the Creator as recorded in his works. The secret of all spiritual knowledge is the same adjustment to God's thought in the realm of character.

Our difficulty in interpreting Christ may be understood by our difficulty in understanding our fellow man. Former races and nations left records of themselves, written on parchment, engraven on stone and preserved in monuments, but their story was unfathomable until some key was found to their meaning. The hieroglyphics of Egypt baffled the subtlest scholarship of the world until Champollion by a marvellous triumph of human ingenuity unravelled their secret. On the celebrated Rosetta stone he discovered an inscription accompanied by a parallel inscription in Greek. This translation unlocked the door of Oriental mysteries and acquainted the modern world with the language and thought of ancient Egypt. The Orientalist is one of the noblest types of profound scholarship. He stands in the presence of buried antiquity, and by the subtlest powers of human skill and intuition, masters the thought and life of his brother man in these far off ages. There is no human secret that cannot, thus, in time, be unlocked. Man cannot hide himself from his fellow man.

One of the surest proofs that man was made in the image of God is his capacity to interpret God. Every triumph of human genius in material science interprets the Creator. But man's greatest knowledge of God is not gained in the physical universe. The revelations of Him in and through the human soul are grander and infinitely more profound than those which come through sun and star. We can fathom nature for ourselves; we cannot thus master the innermost secret of the divine

Being. Christ is the translation of God's thought to man. His life becomes known in the regenerate experience of the believer. He knows what purity is by being pure; what love is by being possessed by this sweet and holy attribute. No one can compete with men for position and power on the low level of worldly desires, ambitions and principles, and at the same time discover the magnificence of Christ's spiritual manhood or the nature of His communion with the Father. Truth only comes to men through the realm of personality. "Divine communications have always been made through the medium of real life. The great truths that have moved the world have all been lived." Men know God and Christ just in proportion and only in proportion as they live the truth revealed in Christ. Men are saved only to the extent that they incorporate into their characters the moral principles taught and exhibited by Him. A person who clearly understood life as revealed in Christ could not refuse to live it without being abnormally corrupt, but if he were abnormally corrupt he could not understand Him. Regeneration is necessary to interpretation. Sanctification is the basis for lofty spiritual fellowship. "Without holiness no man shall see the Lord." Life is the key to life. Truth is known only to the extent that it is lived. We know Christ by being Christlike. "The pure in heart shall see God."

**Against Race-Track Gambling.** A timely as well as a pronouncedly strong sermon was that of Rev. Canon DuMoulin last Sabbath on the evils of race track gambling. Let other ministers raise their voices and arouse such a public opinion as would prevent the disgrace on our land of being made the hunting ground of the gamblers routed from the State of New York by the new laws enacted there.

**Missionaries Arrive.** Rev. R. P. McKay, Foreign Mission Secretary of the Presbyterian Church, received a postcard on Friday from Rev. R. A. Mitchell and Mrs. Goforth, stating that they had arrived safely at Honan, China. They had travelled the last 300 miles by boat up the river, and report that the surrounding country is desolate on account of recent floods. The crops, they say, have been destroyed, and the land is in such a wet condition that the farmers will be unable to sow any wheat for next season's crop.

**Christian Liberality.** It is not in the Presbyterian Church alone that Committees and Institutions find their funds straitened. Last week the quarterly meeting of several Committees of the Church of England in the diocese of Toronto were held, and the result of the hard times was in evidence there. The fact is that there are ebbs and flows in the ability to give, more so than in the will, but there ought to be a flow of will to offset the ebb of ability. "It is more blessed to give than to receive" is a truth hard to appreciate in proportion as the receipts are meagre, yet the blessing upon the widow's mite was and is more than countless millions can purchase and if the spirit be willing the hand will be open even should the gift be small. No time is more appropriate than the "hard" time to "despise not the days of small things."

**Enforcing the Law.** In summing up the facts regarding the enforcement of the law prohibiting the sale of liquor on Sunday in the City of New York the *Christian Advocate* says that the successful enforcement of the law proves that it can be done. That the universal cry that it cannot be done is the cry of cowards and selfishness. If the Sunday law can be enforced in New York, it can be enforced in any other city in the State. Where the proper authorities wish to enforce it, the New York Police Commissioners have demonstrated that it can be enforced. The position here assumed is the correct one, and the facts should not pass without their lesson. It is too often taken for granted that righteous laws which because of their very character are obnoxious to a certain clamorous section in a community cannot be enforced and therefore ought not to remain on the statute book. Place good and sufficient laws on the statute book and then it will be the fault of the authorities if law be not respected and obeyed.