

ALL OR NONE.

We had listened to a solemn sermon, my young friend and I, and as we walked home I said to him:

'Why is it that you cannot be convinced and become a Christian?'

'O,' he replied gaily, 'I am convinced. There's nothing the matter with my head; the difficulty is with my heart. I don't want to be one—at least not yet. I have ambitious plans for life which it would be very bitter for me to forego, and I would have to forego them if I became a Christian.'

'Why so?'

'Because it is not in my nature to halve things. It must be all or none with me. Now, if I become a Christian—I don't mean one of your mere professors, but an out-and-out follower of Christ—I could see no stopping-place between that and becoming a minister; and a minister I will not be. It would be to abandon the cherished ideas of a lifetime. The traditions of my family lead me into politics, and there I must find my arena—not in the narrowness of the pulpit.'

After some urgency on my part we separated, and this peculiar subject was never renewed between us again. Years passed away, and the same friend and I met at a large social gathering. After a little desultory talk he suddenly and somewhat bitterly turned to me:

'Do you know I am an utterly disappointed and thwarted man?' I expressed my surprise.

'Yes,' said he, 'all paths in life seem closed to me. You know with what high hopes I began my career, which was to end in noble statesmanship. The fortunes of war soon put an end to that. Then I sought military distinction, and threw myself with all my soul into the terrible struggle. My health was utterly wrecked before I had seen one year of service. I turned, after the close of the war, to literature—my education at least remained to me; and that hope has collapsed of late, and you see me now a thwarted and broken spirited man.'

My thoughts went back to the deliberate choice that brilliant mind had made on that well-remembered Sabbath night. I wondered if my friend's did the same; if it did he gave no sign.

Only a few years went by, and in silence and sorrow my friend went out of life into the great hereafter. Whether the heart that had so long held out, despite the conviction of the head, yielded at last, who dare say? If it did he left no record of it.

TRUE MANLINESS.

Every young man considers it high praise to be called a 'r' only fellow'; and yet how many false ideas there are of manliness!

Physical strength is not the test. Samson was endowed with tremendous bodily powers. He was a grand specimen of humanity. See him rending the lion as he would a kid, or carrying away the gates of Gaza! But he was a weak creature after all, unable to resist the wills of an artful woman.

Great intellect is not the test of true manhood. Some of the most intellectual men who have ever lived were not manly. Lord Francis Bacon was a prodigy of intellect. The sciences sat at his feet extolling him as their benefactor; yet we see him led down Tower Hill, a prisoner, for swindling.

Fast living is not true manliness. Some men think that to strut, and puff, and swear, is to be manly. To some the essentials of manliness are to 'toas off their glass like a man,' 'spend money freely like a man,' 'smoke like a man,' forgetting that virtue is true manliness. Temperance, chastity, truthfulness, fortitude and benevolence are the characteristics and essentials of manliness.

To be manly is to be honest, generous, brave, noble, and pure in speech and life. The highest form of manliness is godliness. Some one has said 'An honest man is the noblest work of God,' but the man who is honest toward God and toward his fellow-man—in short, a Christian man—is the noblest work of God.—*John B. Gough.*

PRESBYTERY MEETINGS.

Presbytery of Halifax.

The Presbytery of Halifax met at 10 o'clock on Tuesday, July 8th., in Poplar Grove Church.

There were fourteen ministers and four elders present.

Commissions were sustained in favor of the following elders: Robert Murray, Chalmers Church; Dr. Cogswell, St. Matthews; Daniel McLeod, Richmond; W. J. Burgess, Kentville; G. M. Ewan, Yarmouth, and Edmund Calkin, West Cornwallis.

Professor Forrest was elected Moderator for the year, and Mr. Simpson, Clerk.

Mr. James Anderson, M. A., accepted