

THE HOLY SPIRIT NOT AN INFLUENCE.

THE following extract which we clip from an exchange is suggestive and will repay careful perusal.

"I remember when I was but a young man having a conversation with Henry Ward Beecher in his study and of kneeling with him in prayer before we separated. In praying he made mention of the Holy Spirit as an influence which would inspire us with warmth and love. The brilliant preacher (whom I never knew but to love) was then in the height of his greatness, but I had the audacity, though but a young man, to say to him that I did not believe that his prayer would be heard. He asked me why, and I told him because of the dishonor which he had shown to the Holy Ghost. It was some three or four years after this that I met Mr. Beecher again, and he remembered what I had said to him, and said in his playful way: I think we will not pray this evening! About ten years after this I met him again in a railroad car, and at that time he said to me, like a true man: "I do not believe that that prayer ever *was* answered."

WE WHO believe in Christ are already living our eternal life: he that believeth hath—hath already, not shall have by and by, eternal life. We are already in Christ's kingdom, living out His plan, doing His bidding, keeping His word; we are doing this as really though not as perfectly as we shall do it in His kingdom in Heaven. His kingdom is so unbounded that the place where you and I live and obey is within its limits. If you were in Heaven today you would not be anxious about doing or not doing, going or staying—there would be but one thing to do—His will. There is but one thing to do now—His will. This truth simplifies every perplexity for me. Ask Him what you may do and do it, that is all. If He permit you to make a mistake, the mistake is a part of His will, too. Don't be afraid of making a mistake, be as willing to do that for Him as anything else. You may think that you have made a mistake when you haven't at all. Do the thing that is most like Him—the thing He would do if He were you—and rejoice with all your heart.

JENNIE L. CONKLIN.

Selection sent by a friend.

THE LIGHT THAT IS FELT.

A tender child of summers three,
Seeking her bed at night,
Paused on the dark stair timidly;
O mother take my hand, said she,
And then the dark will all be light!

We older children grope our way
From dark behind to dark before,
And only where our hands we lay,
Dear Lord, in Thine the night is day
And there is darkness nevermore.

Reach downward to the sunless days,
Wherein our guides are blind as we;
And faith is small and hope delays—

Take Thou the hands of praise we raise
And let us feel the light of Thee.—*Whittier.*

—John Miles related his experience in teaching the Indians in Sabbath-school in Indian Territory. The lesson was, "In my Father's house are many mansions." It was quite amusing how they used the buffalo hide houses and log houses to illustrate to the Indians about our Father's house. He described the conversion of Steamboat Frank; after a long conference with him he rode away, but after a time returned riding rapidly, and said in a loud voice in the Indian tongue. "The white man's God's Son has appeared unto me." After that he was a devoted Christian for years until his death.

—We take it that all our readers know of Mark Guy Pearse, the great-hearted, eloquent, and witty Wesleyan minister, who wrote "Daniel Quorn: and His Notions." His power of retort is something wonderful. When someone reproved him—so the story goes—for making temperance speeches, and told him he ought to be taking care of his flock, he answered: "The sheep are all right just now; I am looking after the wolf." The moral is so obvious that it does not need to be pointed—*Divine Life.*

—The Holy Spirit who is the administrator of redemption takes the place that the Lord Jesus Himself occupied during His earthly life. The departure of the Christ was the condition of the Spirit's advent. Jesus said, "I will pray the Father and he shall give you another Comforter that he may abide with you forever." Jesus the first Comforter is thus succeeded by the Holy Spirit. What Jesus was to those who followed him over the acres "of Immanuel's Land," the Holy Spirit is to those who should hereafter believe on his name. Did Jesus convince men of sin? So does now the Holy Spirit. To deny that is to resist Him. Did Jesus guide men in their quest of truth? So does now the Holy Spirit, all who in later days search for it as for hid treasure. There is no tablet like a loving memory and no chronicler like the Holy Ghost. He brought all things to the recollection of the first disciples and he is with the followers of Jesus still. To deny that is to grieve Him. Did Jesus say to the poor sufferer whose name we shall never know, "Son, thy sins be forgiven thee?" So does the Holy Spirit now to those who conscious of their need take Jesus as their Saviour. To deny that is to tempt Him.—*Christian Witness.*