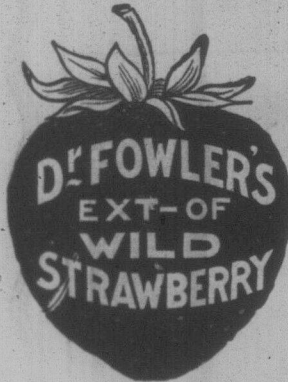


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HATRED OF SIN.

All the world knows how the French people, at the conclusion of the Franco-Prussian war, refused to hold fellowship with their foes. I stood once in a rose-garden, in a little town in Brittany-by-the-Sea, and heard an old baroness, whose son, a general in the French army, had recently been slain in battle, relate how she had refused to accept the courtesies of Von Moltke in an apartment in a railway car. Her eyes flashed, her bosom heaved, her lips trembled while she told it. "But Madam," said I, "why could you not accept courtesy even from your foe?" With a splendid and pathetic dignity she said, "Why, sir, his hands were red with the blood of my only son!" Would that we might manifest some of that spirit in our attitude toward sin! God hates it. God hates it with an utter loathing and abhorrence. How could it be otherwise? It nailed to the cross his well-beloved Son.—Sel.

OVERCOMING OBSTACLES.

I am reminded of Napoleon when he came to that stream at the foot of the Alps. He was told that they could not get the artillery across that deep stream that was running so swiftly. But Napoleon said we must cross "this stream here or we cannot see Italy." This stream is the first thing to attend to. Devote your attention to this first and then we will enter Italy. It was Bismarck who said almost the same thing with reference to a marsh they had to cross. "Men, we must cross this marsh or we cannot see Paris." They devoted their attention to the crossing of the marsh, and they were afterwards able to see and capture Paris. They would carry out Christianity to perfection and live it to the highest degree of perfection, must be always doing those things which are to be done and in the way which prepares them for the kingdom of heaven.—Selected.

ACCORDING TO HIS FAITH.

Quite lately a large number of Russian criminals were standing in the court yard of their prison, chained together, and about to start for their long, sad journey into the Siberian wilds. Among them was one Christian man sharing their banishment and punishment, simply because he had spoken to his fellow-workmen about the faith that made him count all things as dross for Christ's sake. His fellow-prisoners were jeering him about it, saying, "But you are no better off than we are. You are wearing the handcuffs as we do; if your God is of any use to you, why doesn't he knock off your chains and set you free?" The man replied fervently, "If the Lord will, he can set me free, even now." At that moment a voice was heard calling him by name, and telling him that a paper had just been received, granting him a full pardon. He was then told to stand aside, and his chains were struck off. It is said that the prisoners were perfectly awe-stricken and solemnized with the impression of what they had witnessed. It transpired afterward that a Christian lady in a high position, who took an interest in this poor laboring man had asked and obtained pardon.—London Christian.

A GREAT WELL.

On Bahrein Island, twenty miles off the Coast of Arabia in the Persian Gulf, there is to be found what is perhaps the largest well in the world. This well, called the Adari, is the great sight of the Bahrein Island, being a deep basin of water, twenty-two by forty yards in size, and beautifully clear and full of prismatic colors. There has been a great deal of discussion as to the source of the water which constantly fills this great well which serves to make fruitful many miles of desert, and cover them with date palms. It is now believed that the water comes from the far-off slopes of the Persian mountains, where the rainfall sinks into the earth and runs under the sea, and comes up under this little island. So wonderfully God has fitted the world for his children. But the God who took so much trouble to prepare for the well of Adari has not failed in preparing well's of salvation from which every thirsting soul may have in abundance the water of Life.—Ex.

THREE SAVED.

A few days after the wreck of the steamer "Central America" sent hundreds to a

watery grave and plunged the nation in mourning, a pilot boat was seen approaching New York. As the vessel neared the harbor the words, "Three more saved!" ran along the streets. The news boys left off crying the last murder and shouted, three more saved!" The porter threw down his load, busy salesmen dropped their goods, bookkeepers their pens, bankers their discounts, tellers their gold, and shouted, "Three more saved!" If cold and selfish men will thus stop short in the eager quest of gain, or of pleasure, to let the voice of humanity speak out, and to express their joy that three fellow-beings have been rescued from the ocean depths, shall we deem it an incredible thing that the holy and loving denizens of heaven should rejoice when a sinner repents and is delivered from the abyss of hell?—Dr. Ide.

MISUNDERSTOOD

There is much in this world that is unjust, much that is harsh, much ingratitude, and all because we are not understood. The life of our neighbor, our friend, our nearest kin has its own unrevealed self. The proud heart suffers long and sorely because it refuses to unobscure its own happiness. The grandest spirits that ever lived in human form have been crushed to earth and have gone unwept, save by the blinding of their own tears, to too early graves, because, not being understood, they have been counted ungrateful and undeserving. Could we but read the book of our brother's heart, could we but raise the pall that hides his own secret, not to look for the skeleton but to see the soul that we misjudge, what different treatment would we give him? In place of harsh, unkind words, we would speak tenderly and lovingly. Instead of ostracising him from our society, we would clasp him to our breast, proud of his friendship. The crust of pride, the crust of friendship, the encasement of our own selfishness, causes our dearest ones to weep over their own loneliness. The purest diamond may be hidden by the dirt of the gutter, but it is still a pure diamond, and only requires a cleansing to reveal its beauty. The purest, noblest heart may be concealed behind the screen of adverse circumstances, and unseen because of the darkness of pride and prejudice, but it is still a pure and noble soul, and needs only the cleansing power of love to discover its true value. Oh, to be understood—not condemned because the truth of our lives, the best of our lives, is hidden from our fellows' gaze.—William J. Duncan.

AN UNDAUNTED BISHOP.

Valens, the Emperor, a zealous Arian, went on a kind of visitation tour through his dominions, for the purpose of bringing his subjects to confess the same faith as himself: so he and his prefect came to Cæarea. The prefect sent for Basil; and, after a little altercation, he asked him if he was not ashamed to profess a different creed from that of the Emperor. Basil intimated that he thought it better to stand alone by the side of truth than with all the world on the side of falsehood. The prefect lost his patience, and began to talk of other weapons than those of argument.

"Are you not afraid to oppose me?" he said to Basil.

"Why should I fear?" said Basil; "what will happen?"

The prefect, bloated with rage, and almost choked with passion, gasped out convulsively: "Confiscation, banishment, torture, death!"

"Have you nothing else?" asked the undaunted bishop; "for nothing you have spoken has any effect on me. He that has nothing to lose is not afraid of confiscation; save these threadbare, tattered garments, and a few books, I have nothing you can take. And as to banishment, you cannot banish me; for the earth is the Lord's, and the fulness thereof, whose stranger and pilgrim I am. And as to torture, the first stroke would kill me; and to kill me is to send me to glory."

"No man ever spoke to me like that before," said the crestfallen official.

"Perhaps you never met with a Christian bishop before," was the reply.

A widow, one of Basil's flock, threw herself under his protection, and he risked his life to ensure her safety. The Emperor, with a body of soldiers, went to the

church and demanded the sacrament at Basil's hand; and he determined to die rather than dispense the emblems of Christ's death to one who repudiated his divinity. At last, a day of clouds and storms was followed by a calm and tranquil sunset: Basil closed his eyes upon this scene of trouble, to open them upon the unbroken calm that slumbers on the everlasting hills.—F. J. Sharr.

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