

CHRIST, THE GREAT SUBSTITUTE.

It is not by incarnation, but by blood-shedding, that we are saved. The Christ of God is no mere expounder of wisdom, no mere deliverer or gracious benefactor, and they who think that they have told the whole gospel when they have spoken of Jesus revealing the love of God do greatly err. If Christ be not the *substitute*, He is nothing to the sinner. If He did not die as the *sin bearer*, He has died in vain. Let us not be deceived on this point, nor misled by those who, when they announce Christ as the deliverer, think they have preached the gospel. If I throw a rope to a drowning man, and risk my life to save another, I am a deliverer. But is Christ no more than that? If I cast myself into the sea, and risk my life to save another, I am a deliverer. But is Christ no more? Did He but *risk His life*? The very essence of Christ's deliverance is the substitution of Himself for us, His life for ours. He did not come to *risk His life*, He came to die. He did not redeem us by a little loss, a little sacrifice, a little labour, a little suffering; "He redeemed us to God by His blood." "The precious blood of Christ." He gave all He had, even His life for us. This is the kind of deliverance that awakens the song, "To Him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in His own blood."—*Dr. Bonar.*

CONVERSATION.

Very few persons recognize the large possibilities of good with which conversation is freighted. It can diffuse intelligence, spread knowledge, inspire new ideas, animate the drooping spirit, move the feelings, kindle the affections, stimulate the activities. These possibilities may be gradually made realities by every one who will constantly and patiently put in practice the two essential parts of good conversation—to seek or the best that is in one's self. No large fund of information, no years of culture, no powers of eloquence are necessary in order to do this.

In reply to the inquiries as to the chief causes of non-church-going in Glasgow the following have been given as reasons:—Intemperance, dull trade, secularism, worldliness, migratory habits of the people, want of parental authority, late hours on Saturday, Sabbath labor, Romanism, football and Plymouthism.

MOTHERHOOD.

She softly sings and paces to and fro
Patient, unwearied, hearing in her arms
The fretful sickly child, with all his harms,
Deformed and imbecile her love and woe
Croons with caressing intonation, low,
Some sweet old minor melody, that charms
The ear that listens, and the sufferer calms,
And her own sorrow soothes with silver flow.
O holy tenderness of motherhood!
Most pitiful and patient to the child,
Foolish, unlovely, seemingly defiled
By powers of death and darkness. The
All Good
Alone so loveth and remembereth
And, like a tender parent, pitieth.—*Sel.*

FACTS FROM JAPAN.

The Rev. H. Loomis, of Yokohama, sends some interesting statistics from Japan:—There are in Japan, of all Protestant denominations, two hundred and fifty-three missionaries; there are two hundred and twenty-one organized churches, of which number, seventy-three are wholly self supporting; there are 19,829 communicants; 7,145 scholars are receiving education in the day-schools established by missionaries; 13,017 scholars attend the various Sunday schools. There are one hundred and two native ministers and two hundred and sixteen theological students, besides two hundred and thirty-three native helpers, cultporteurs, Bible women, &c. Tokio alone has nineteen churches. In ten years, perhaps a less time, Japan will be recognized as a distinctly Christian nation. "What hath God wrought?"

In a Glasgow lecture the Duke of Argyll said: "In the last year of his life Mr. Darwin did me the honor of calling upon me in London, and I had a long and interesting conversation with that distinguished observer of nature. In the course of conversation I said it was impossible to look at the wonderful processes of nature which he had observed, without seeing that they were the effect and the expression of mind. I shall never forget Mr. Darwin's answer. He looked at me hard, and said: 'Well, it often comes over me with overpowering force, but at other times (and he shook his head) it seems to go away.'"