

BATHERSOME HINDRANCES.

How frequently Christians are bothered by hindrances, and how many times they are fretted and sored by them. They want a plain path, clear sailing, and no obstacles or dangers. Ministers are as much troubled and fretted as other people. Sometimes indeed, it seems as though ministers stood at the head of the list. Their field is a narrow one, while they are too frequently, in their own opinion, better suited to a wide one. The people are dull, and unspiritual and unhelpful, leaving them to waste their lives in the efforts to push the cause of Christ inwards. They sometimes forget that conquests are sometimes significant not alone from outward show, but from inward or heart betterment. Then, too, obstacles to a minister's success are really obstacles to the Master's success. Does Christ think of abandoning his work because of obstacles? It will help us to know that Christ met with larger and more harassing and perplexing hindrances than confront us. Because of the antagonism and murderous purpose of the Jews he could not more walk openly among them, but crossed the Jordan into the borders of the wilderness. "He could there do no mighty work because of their unbelief, save that he healed a few sick." Even the disciples hindered and he had to chide them. "O, foolish men, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! Behoved it not the Christ to suffer these things, and to enter into his glory?" He was constrained to rebuke the ardent hearted Peter. "Get thee behind me Satan (adversary), for thou savorest not the things that be of God but those that be of men." The chief priests and Pharisees planned for his arrest at the near at hand feast of the Passover. They commanded that if any man knew where Christ was, he should show it that they might take him. They knew that Christ was accustomed to attend the feast, and to take advantage of such gatherings for teaching and for doing his works. They meant to put an end to his procedure. But how utterly mistaken they were. They were too late to be effective and were destined to witness, or hear of Christ's triumphant entry into Jerusalem, amid the demonstration of loyalty and hosannas of the people, as they hailed him "Blessed is the King of Israel that cometh in the name of the Lord."

Hindrances overcome are a blessing to man. Better one difficulty mastered than a thousand difficulties run away from.—Exchange.

THE PRAYER MEETING.

A church without prosperity and spirituality is a public nuisance; it is like an unrented building, costing taxes, losing value, bringing no income. Prosperity and spirituality depend upon the faithfulness of the members.

A church is not like an ocean steamer, where a few can do the work of running the machinery, preparing the food and taking care of the state rooms, while most are passengers enjoying transportation. It is rather like a Roman trireme, where each rower did his share of the work—a broken oar, an unshipped oar, a sleeping rower delayed the boat.

It is the duty of each member of the church to be present at every prayer-meeting so far as possible. There is no obligation on the pastor that is not on every member. First, then plan to be present, count your presence a business obligation; let this duty push aside social functions. If neighbors call in, invite them to come with you, or excuse yourself. If a friend had telegraphed you to meet him at the station you would not urge as an excuse for not meeting him that a neighbor called in just as you were leaving the house. As a member of this church you have made a weekly appointment to meet the Master's at the midweek service. Make it your business to keep your appointments.

Come prepared, bring your mind with you bring it full of thoughts. Surely the stream of time, flowing over your life for a week, must have some golden deposit of truth that you can cast into the common treasury. Think before you speak and speak after you have thought. You expect the new convert to relate an experience—did your experience stop when you accepted Christ? You can at least bring a passage of Scripture that has

strengthened you during the week and tell us what it has done for you.

Come in spirit of prayer come from the closet bring spiritual power with you. You cannot promote the spirituality of the church by always seeking power from others. You cannot ride on the street car without paying a nickel; why should you expect to be carried to heaven "on flowery beds of ease?" Come prepared! Come to help!—Dr. O. P. Gifford.

VICTORY.

When you are forgotten or neglected, or purposely set at naught, and you smile inwardly, glorifying in the insult or oversight because thereby counted worthy to suffer with Christ—that is victory.

When your good is evil spoken of, when your wishes are crossed, your taste offended your advice disregarded, your opinions ridiculed, and you take it all in patient loving silence—that is victory.

When you are content with any food, any raiment, any climate, any society, any solitude any interruption by the will of God—that is victory.

When you can lovingly and patiently bear with any disorder any irregularity any unpunctuality or any annoyance—that is victory.

When you never care to refer to yourself in conversation, or to record your own good works, or to itch after commendation, when you can truly love to be unknown—that is victory.

When you can stand face to face with waste, folly, extravagance, spiritual insensibility and endure it as Jesus endured it—that is victory.—Selected.

HOW IS THIS?

Lady Henry Somerset in a recent interview published in "Great Thoughts," speaks of a visit made by her to Mr. Edison, whose vast laboratories she inspected with much interest. On being asked who were his best workmen Mr. Edison replied that the Germans and Italians were good routine workmen but that he could depend on them for little else. The English and Scotch were remarkable, but he could not depend on their return punctually after holidays, their hand was not steady, nor was their eye accurate, for the simple reason that they used alcohol often to excess. A Connecticut American-born workman was the only reliable man he had, for he was not only a total abstainer himself but he had a total abstaining ancestry behind him. Edison could count on his accuracy and steadiness the time he would put into his work, and the hour he would return.—Irish Temperance League Journal, Belfast September 1st 1903.

VAGARIES OF OUR LANGUAGE.

The vagaries of English spelling are well illustrated in the following extract. The words sound poorly, but the spelling does not correspond to the meaning required. It would make a good exercise in spelling to rewrite the extract in its proper form.

Know won knead weight two bee toiled the weigh too dew sew.

A rite suite little buoy, the sun of a grate kernel, with a rough around his neck, runs up the rode as quick as a pear. After a thyme he stopped at a blew horse, and wrung the belle. His tow hurt him and he kneaded wrest. He was too tired to raze his fair, pail face. A feint mown rose from his lips.

The made who herd the belle was about to pair a pair, butt she through it down and ran with awl her mite, for fear her gussed wood knot weight. Butt when she saw the little won, tears stood in her ayes at the site.

"Ewe, poor deer! Why dew ye lye hear? Are yew dyeing?"

"Know," he said, I am feint.

"She bore hymn in her arms and hurried to a rheum where he mite be quiet, gave him bred and meet, held a cent bottle under his knows, untide his neckscarf, rapped him up warm, and gave him a suite drachm.—Ex.

Mrs. Bizzey—I notice you're cleaning house, Mrs. Newcombe, and I was afraid you might be tempted to throw your rubbish out on the back lot. I just wanted to say that we don't do that sort of thing here.

Mrs. Newcombe—I burned all our rubbish in the furnace this morning, Mrs. Bizzey, including an old book on 'Etiquette,' which I might have saved for you.—Philadelphia 'Press.'

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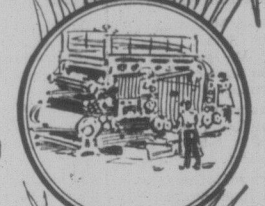
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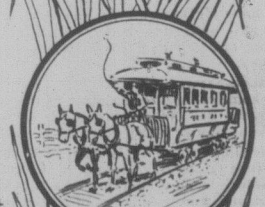
When you travel you pick the fastest train and go to the best hotel.



When you purchase goods you find the man who carries the best stock.

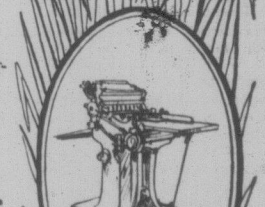


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