

THE INFIDEL AND THE MINISTER.

A very learned minister preached a series of sermons on infidelity for the benefit of a very learned man in his church. There were some seven sermons, and he rendered them to his entire satisfaction. Soon after he got through the infidel came to him, said he was a Christian and accepted the Lord Jesus Christ. He was very much gratified. He took all the credit to himself. After it was all talked over, he said :

"Now, my dear friend, will you tell me which of my lectures it was that convinced you?"

He said: "Sir, it was not any of your lectures. It was that poor, hobbling, colored woman, who, when she came out, would mutter among her tears, 'O, my precious Savior, my precious Savior, I could not live without you!' and I watched that woman and saw that it came right straight from her heart. I did not hear all that you said, but I was deeply attracted by what she said, and convinced."—*Christian Alliance*.

WHEN AND WHAT TO READ.

If you are impatient, sit down quietly and have a talk with Job.

If you are just a little strong-headed, go to see Moses.

If you are getting weak-kneed, listen to David.

If you are a policy man, read Daniel.

If you are getting sordid, spend a while with Isaiah.

If you feel chilly, get the beloved disciple to put his arms around you.

If your faith is below par, read Paul.

If you are getting lazy, watch James.

If you are losing sight of the future, climb up to Revelation and get a glimpse of the promised land.—*Golden Censer*.

A BRAHMIN AND THE BIBLE.

A LEARNED Brahmin recently said in the presence of some two hundred Brahmins, official students, and others:—"I have watched the missionaries, and seen what they are. What have they come here for? What tempts them to leave parents, friends and country and come to this, for them, unhealthy clime? Is it for gain or profit they come? Some of us country clerks in the Government offices receive larger salaries than they. Is it for an easy life? See how they work, and then tell me. Look at the missionary. He came here a few years ago, leaving all, for our good. He was met with cold looks and suspicious glances. He was not discouraged; he opened a dispensary, and we said, 'Let the Pariahs' (lowest caste people) take his medicine, we won't; but in the time of our sickness and our fear we were glad to go to him, and he welcomed us. Has he made any money by it? Even the cost of the medicine he gave us has not been returned to him. What leads him to do all this for us? *It is the Bible!* I have looked into it a good deal, in different languages I chance to know; it is the same in all languages. The Bible! there is nothing to compare with it in all our sacred books for goodness, and purity, and holiness, and love, and for motives of action. Where do the English people get their intelligence and energy and cleverness and power? It is their Bible that gives it to them; and they now bring it to us and say, 'This is what raised us; take it, and raise yourselves.' They do not force it upon us, as did the Mohammedans with their Koran, but they bring it in love and say, 'look at it, read it, examine it, and see if it is not good.'"—*Helping Hand*.

THE INWARD BATTLE.

Happy for every man that the battle between the spirit and the flesh should begin in him again and again, as long as his flesh is not subdued to his spirit. If he be wrong, the greatest blessing which can happen to him is that he should find himself in the wrong. If he has been deceiving himself, the greatest blessing is that God should anoint his eyes that he may see—see himself as he is; see his own inbred corruption; see the sin that doth so easily beset him, whatever it may be. Whatever anguish of mind if may cost him, it is a light price to pay for the inestimable treasure which true repentance and amendment brings; the fine gold of solid self-knowledge, tried in the fire of bitter experience; the white raiment of a pure and simple heart; the eye-salve of honest self condemnation and noble shame.

If he have but these—and these God will give him in answer to prayer, the prayer of a broken and contrite heart—then he will be able to carry on the battle against the corrupt flesh and its affections and lusts, in hope, in the assured hope of final victory: "For greater is He that is with us than he that is against us." He that is against us is ourself; our selfish self our animal nature; and He that is with us is God—God and none other; and who can pluck us out of His hand?—*The Rev. Charles Kingsley*.

THE BROWNS OF HADDINGTON.

WE quote the following from an article in the *Speaker* by Principal Fairbairn, of Mansfield College, Oxford. We heartily commend it to the study of our young readers:—

For four generations their name has been honored. The founder of the family was a shepherd boy who learned to read his New Testament in the original while herding sheep on the braes of Abernethy. One day he went to St. Andrews to buy a Greek New Testament. In the shop stood a professor who, surprised at the boy's request, offered him one if he could read it. He read and obtained the book, which is still a treasured heirloom in the family. He became burgher minister of Haddington, was "passing rich on forty pounds a year," and reared for the ministry a race of sons, one of whom, Ebenezer, became famous as a preacher.

Brougham is said to have praised his eloquence and the story is told that once in Edinburgh, in the climax of a very dramatic sermon, he stood still, looked down the aisle, and said: "Here comes a man from Tarsus, and he cries, make mention of me"—the immense congregation leapt to its feet, expecting to see the man from Tarsus in bodily presence there.

The eldest son, the second John Brown, became minister of a church which stands high up in one of the wildest moorland districts in Scotland, where his name still lingers as a household word.

His son, the third John Brown, was the most scholarly theologian and one of the most gracious and picturesque figures in Edinburgh of his day. While his son, the fourth John Brown, of loved memory, quaint, tender, imaginative, was the friend of all good men, and of all dogs, good and otherwise, to whom we owe "Rab and his Friends" and many another page of exquisite grace and charm.—*Principal Fairbairn*.

"If you are very busy, think and pray all the more, or your work will wear you and drag you away from God. For your work's sake break away from it and give the soul a breathing time."