

Americans, chartered and sealed by the Declaration of Independence." "By no means," returned Agnes. "In the very face of the Declaration, we have in this free country the very worst aristocracy in the world—that of money."

"Money," replied Kate, "cannot buy goodness, refinement, cultivation or any of the graces of the mind and heart." "I know that," said Agnes; "I am only speaking of the perfect independence it allows its possessors. If they live in an elegant home, dress in the latest fashion, &c.,—why, they display their taste. While on the contrary if they live and dress plainly, it is only a proof of their independence. In fine, they may confuse their senses and double their negatives, may never have heard of Milton, and think Shakespeare to be the name of a new plant, possibly of a mineral, eat with their knives, dress in colors at war with each other—all is right, because they are rich. While we have to wear heavy suits in summer and take ourselves out to freeze in winter, because the claims of society require it of us."

"Here, Agnes, you are wrong," said Aunt Susan. "You may not be able, for the lack of wealth, to live always as you please, yet the privilege of dressing in comfort and with reference to the season is certainly yours."

"By no means, my dear good Aunt Susan. Now, let me explain. When I was visiting in the city last winter, my friend Julia Newbold sent me word that she had engaged a carriage to return some stylish calls upon their fashionable reception days; and as the obligation was mutual, she would call for me. On the appointed day, which was bitterly cold, I dressed myself in my black silk suit, over which I threw my cloth cloak, which every one says is so becoming to me; then I put on my felt bonnet, trimmed with velvet. When Julia came, I saw disappointment in her face. 'Am I not dressed suitably?' I enquired. 'Why, dear Agnes, it is not exactly the dress for carriage and reception calls. Why do you not put on that pretty mauve silk so becoming to you? and then you could wear a large India shawl and a set of ermine; or, if you have not the ermine, seal-skin might do.' And without waiting for my reply, Julia told me she would attend to a little commission of her own, and would be back in a few moments, leaving me just time enough to change my dress. So I arrayed myself in my mauve silk which, being intended to do double duty, is cut pompadour waist and elbow sleeves. As I had no large India shawl and neither ermine nor seal-skin, I was obliged to employ the best substitute, which was a stella with camel's-hair border. My concert hat is only a white lace frame, covered with pansies and mauve ribbon. A nice dress for the thermometer at six above zero! When Julia returned she smiled in approbation, and with a 'Now, you do look fit to be seen,' we took our places in the carriage. I do not know how I looked, but I never suffered so with the cold in my life; my ears tingled, the end of my turned-up nose was as red as my shawl, and my teeth chattered so it was impossible for me to hold any connected conversation. While calling on the fashionable Mrs. Grantley, that rich Quakeress, Mrs. Morris, was there in her drab suit. Above all, that great millionaire, Mrs. Harding, came in her elegant coach. She was dressed in a cachemere dress, an ulster cloak, and a velvet hat; for she was rich and could afford to dress so. While speaking of the severity of the cold weather as well as my stiffened muscles would allow, Mrs. Morris, with grave irony in her Quaker dialect, said to me: 'Does thy dress keep thee warm?' while Mrs. Harding looked me through with her discriminating eyes and said in words of sympathy, in which were encased a decided sneer, 'Poor child.'

"When once more alone in the carriage with Julia, as I quoted Mrs. Harding as an example for comfortable and seasonable dress I was silenced by, 'Why, of course you cannot expect to imitate Mrs. Harding; she is rich and can do just as she pleases.'

"And then this summer when invited to that great fair and musicale at — Park, I put on my pretty figured linen suit and gypsy hat, but I was stopped by, 'Agnes, that dress is not at all suitable; you will meet strangers, gay and fashionable people.' So I was obliged to put on my heavy new suit, all lined, and my dress bonnet—while with my parasol, and linen duster to wear on the cars and ferry, my hands and arms were too occupied to use my fan, though the heat was

most oppressively hot. The mercury in the thermometer rose higher and higher, and to make matters worse, there was that rich Mrs. Walker (whose husband holds such a splendid position under Government as, in addition to his enormous salary, to have made a large fortune out of it) dressed in a linen duster with a large shade-hat over her face. Her excuse for her apparel was, that she could never bear to hold an umbrella or any other article in her hand when not in the carriage. So there she was in her shade hat and duster, the star of the occasion, every one seeming to feel honored by and grateful for her presence.

"Now I am through," said Agnes. "but one thing I wish understood—I do not envy Mesdames Grantley, Morris, Harding, Walker, & Co. the velvets and satins, the silks and laces, the diamonds and furs that their wealth brings, but the independence that allows them to wear ulsters and cachemere in winter, shade-hats and linen dusters in summer."

"My dear Agnes," said Aunt Susan, "I think you are entirely wrong. Why should not this independence be yours? Why should you, the daughter of a clergyman, a person of education and refinement, submit to a thralldom which you feel to be oppressive, even if you have not wealth? In neither case which you have quoted were you properly dressed, for the first principle of taste in dress is comfort. You went shivering in winter at the risk of ruining your health (for outraged nature always avenges herself), to call upon some persons of great wealth and position, and who probably, as your personal suffering must have been apparent to all, only criticised your folly. Why should you be almost overpowered by the heat and dust of summer, attired in a heavy silk, when Mrs. Walker could dress in such great comfort because, as you say, she was the possessor of a large fortune made (as she herself may see in the sharp criticisms of the daily press) in over-pay in the office of trust with which her husband has been invested by his fellow-citizens?"

"As a nation we are almost servile imitators of the rich. Wealth has entirely too much power, and there is truth in your assertion that our moneyed aristocracy is the most tyrannical in the world. A few magnates lead the way and we follow on. We see too much with other men's eyes; we hear with their ears; we eat with their palates; we follow the fashion set by them in the choice of our churches."

"Now, my dear girls, be truly independent. Be contented with your lot in life and willing to appear just yourselves, endeavoring to fulfill all life's duties in that station in which it has pleased God to call you; and your lives will be both useful and happy."

"In ourselves maintaining, and regarding in others, the simple standing that God has given, there is a native dignity and a moral elevation which sets aside these false assumptions of pride and vanity, gives an influence over all with whom we are thrown, and enables us to fill with integrity and honor those earthly positions to which God has called us."

"Thank you, dear Aunt Susan," exclaimed Agnes. "I feel you are right. Now, for my part, I shall abide by the maxims of the Declaration of Independence and regard myself as 'free and equal'; and so, even if not rich, I feel as if I too can afford to dress plainly."—*Christian Intelligencer.*

THE CABMAN'S FAITH.

There are nine children in the family, the eldest of whom is dying in consumption; the father is a cab-driver, and, through many being away from London, has for some weeks been able to earn little more than sufficient to feed his horses, leaving scarcely anything for his poor wife and their nine children. They would actually have starved had not the promises, as of old, borne the pressure their faith put upon them. In the midst of this destitution, "at the very worst time," to use the mother's own words, but, as she triumphantly added, "to prove that man's extremity is God's opportunity," came early one Saturday morning, after a fruitless week, the tempting offer of a good cab fare on the morrow, amounting to 8s., provided he would work on the Lord's Day. The struggle in the father's mind was severe; he looked on the two hungry children gazing upon him from each knee. Satan for a time got the mastery. "Feed your children any day," the tempter exclaimed; "to refuse it is to cast away the bread of two days from your

household." The struggle was great, and, in answer to his wife's enquiry as to what he should do, he exclaimed, "I don't know." But she knew where her great strength lay. The mighty God of Jacob could give relief, and she prayed for herself and husband. And that mighty heart that ever beats in unison with His children's wants sent down this answer: "Them that honor Me I will honor." That was enough for her. Her great Provider demanded simple faith, a childlike trust in His bare word of promise, and the pledge He gave was in that event success was certain. The husband returned at dinner-time. "Well, what have you decided to do?" asked the wife. "To abide by God's Word, and take all risks," said the husband. "Thank God," exclaimed the wife "my prayer is answered!" And so they rested, two faithful children of a promise-keeping God. A lady in the neighborhood, who had heard of the tempting offer, but had not heard of their decision, yet knowing the Christian character of the cabman in converse with a friend upon the subject, exclaimed, "He'll never do it;" and the blessed Spirit, who came to the poor mother on her knees, and gave that pledge of help in the text, "Them that honor Me I will honor," now came down into the heart of this other daughter of Heaven, and laid upon her this from the lips of the Saviour: "Verily, I say unto you, inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these My brethren, ye have done it unto Me." The King's word was enough. She immediately commissioned the friend to go and visit the stricken home and see how matters went. This was Saturday afternoon. The father had again gone out, but the wife remained within. "How goes the matter?" asked the visitor. "Oh! we are determined not to accept it," exclaimed the godly woman. "We and the children will starve, if needs be; but we will not break God's commandment. He promises, 'Them that honor Me I will honor.' " "And He has honored you," rejoined the visitor; "what would the fare have been?" "Eight shillings," replied the wife, and drawing from his pocket the exact sum, he placed it on the table, returning home from that cottage with his own love to Christ inflamed by "the luxury of doing good." After a little while the husband came back. "God has been as good as His word," exclaimed the wife—"Them that honor Me I will honor!"—and she drew out the eight bright shillings, the reward of their fidelity to God—the pay without the labor, the food without the sin, the two days provided for, and provided for fifteen hours sooner than would have been the case had they yielded to the tempter.—*Fanny Jones, in Word and Work.*

THIRTEEN WAYS OF BEING HAPPY.

Happy is the man whom God correcteth; for He maketh sore and bindeth up.

Happy is that people whose God is the Lord.

Happy is he that hath the God of Jacob for his help.

Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding.

Happy is the man that feareth alway.

Happy is he that condemneth not himself in that thing which he alloweth.

He that hath mercy on the poor, happy is he.

Whoso trusteth in the Lord, happy is he.

He that keepeth the law, happy is he.

If ye suffer for righteousness sake, happy are ye.

If ye be reproached for the name of Christ, happy are ye.

Behold we count them happy which endure.

If ye know these things, happy are ye if you do them.—*Well-Spring.*

A WORD FITLY SPOKEN.

The following incident actually occurred:—

A father who openly denied the Christian religion, and was a professed infidel, observed his little son intently reading the Bible.

"What book are you reading?" he said sternly.

The boy looked up abstractedly and said, with eyes swimming in tears, "Father, they crucified Him!"

The professed unbeliever stood still. It was a word in season. God had spoken to him through the lips of his child. Ere long the scales fell from his eyes. His soul was prostrate at the foot of the Cross, seeking

peace and pardon from the Saviour he had rejected.

And now he is among those who testify to the truth of Christ's religion—to his promise—

"Him that cometh to me, I will in no wise cast out."—*N. Y. Observer.*

THE BRIDEGROOM COMETH.

Shadows vanish with the light,
Brightness comes with dawning;
Sorrow lasteth but a night,
Joy comes in the morning.

Watch then, children of the day!
Clouds may gather thickly;
Heaven and earth must pass away:
Jesus cometh quickly.

—Sunday.

S. L.

Question Corner.—No. 6.

Answers to these questions should be sent in as soon as possible and addressed EDITOR NORTHERN MESSENGER. It is not necessary to write out the question, give merely the number of the question and the answer. In writing letters always give clearly the name of the place where you live and the initials of the province in which it is situated.

BIBLE QUESTIONS.

61. What became of the ten spies who brought back an untrue report of the land of Canaan?
62. What punishment was sent to Korah, Dathan and Abiram when they rebelled against Moses and Aaron?
63. How many were consumed by fire at the same time for offering incense?
64. When these men were consumed the Israelites still murmured against Moses and Aaron, and further punishment was sent. What was the punishment, and how many died?
65. Why did the children of Israel murmur as they journeyed from Mount Hor, and how were they punished?
66. Which of the leaders of the Israelites had died shortly before this, and who was his successor?
67. What was the first miracle performed after the death of Moses?
68. What city was called the city of palm trees?
69. The hand of what king of Israel withered as he tried to injure a man of God?
70. What king of Judah was smitten with leprosy, and for what sin was he thus punished?
71. For how long a time was rain withheld from Israel during the reign of Ahab, and at the word of what prophet was it withheld?
72. Whom did Elijah raise from the dead?

ANSWERS TO BIBLE QUESTIONS IN NO. 4.

37. The brook Besor, 1 Sam. xxx. 10.
38. He was pursuing after the Amalekites who had burned Ziklag and carried away their families captive, 1 Sam. xxx. 1, 10.
39. By the brook Kishon, 1 Kings xviii. 40.
40. Elijah, 1 Kings xvii. 3.
41. Cherith; it ran through the northern part of the tribe of Gad and emptied into the Jordan.
42. Ahab, 1 Kings xviii. 2.
43. Chebar, Ezekiel i. 1.
44. Damascus, Gen. xv. 2.
45. Bethlehem, 1 Sam. xvi. 1, 4.
46. Bethsaida, John i. 44.
47. Upon Chorazin, Matt. xi. 21.
48. Turning the water into wine, John ii. 19.

ANSWER TO BIBLE ACROSTIC.

1, Cain (Gen. 4: 8); 2, Lot (Gen. 19: 15); 3, Elect lady (2 John 1); 4, Abraham (Rom. 4: 3); 5, Vashti (Esth. 1: 12); 6, Elijah (2 Kings 2: 11); 7, Uzza (1 Chron. 13: 10); 8, Nabor (Gen. 11: 26); 9, Thessalonians; 10, Obadiah (1 Kings 18: 3, 12); 11, Timothy (2 Tim. 2: 15); 12, Hannah (1 Sam. 1: 10, 13); 13, Endor (1 Sam. 28: 5-9); 14, Laodiceans (Rev. 3: 14, 20); 15, Obed-edom (2 Sam. 6: 10, 11); 16, Ruth (Ruth 1: 16); 17, David (1 Sam. 30: 3, 4).—*Cleave unto the Lord* (Joshua 23: 8; Acts 11: 23).

CORRECT ANSWERS RECEIVED.

To No. 4.—Mary E. Coates, 12 ac; Eliza Colhoun, 11 ac; Edward Phoenix, 9.
To No. 5.—Abbie Hawkins, 12 ac; Maggie Sutherland, 12 ac; Sarah Fowler, 8 ac; Edward Phoenix, 7; H. A. Lunan, 5 ac; DeForest Leathers, 5 ac; Joseph Bell 5 ac.

The answer to question 18 in No. 2, should be Acts xvi. instead of Acts xli. and the words "of themselves" in the question should be left out.