

moment, by a distinct act of faith. So, too, the blessing of holiness was immediately connected with a distinct, positive act of faith. And for many years we moved among professors of holiness as one of them, with much more than the ordinary success in propagating the experience. But, if possible, the act of faith was even more distinct and positive when we gave up all our fears of fanaticism, of the opinions and possible criticisms of all others, including holiness people, and accepted the Holy Ghost as henceforth our supreme, living law in life, with the perfect understanding between us and God, that unquestioning obedience was to characterize us whenever He spoke in our inner consciousness, even if all other voices, including reason, Scripture, Church and State, were silent or seemingly opposed. When, we say, this was an absolute, eternal covenant on our part, then, and not till then, did we enter into perfect soul-rest, the description of which is simply unutterable, and hence, can with perfect safety be said to exceed even the magnificent description in the article which we have taken from our ever welcome exchange.

If it is asked why we put these experiences as an apparent criticism, added to the beautiful, Christian production of another's pen, we can only reply, however misunderstood our reply may be, "The love of Christ constraineth us." For fain would we have all our brethren in Christ not only aspirants thereto, but actual possessors of, this goodly heritage.

For it is our profound conviction, that any believer who will this moment, any moment, accept the Holy Ghost after this sort, shall know of a like experience. Moreover, we give it as our decided opinion, based as we believe on the Bible, that there is no need to have that moment of glad acceptance prefaced by one hour of prayerful waiting on the Lord, either in the closet or in Scripture study. The surroundings are naught. The fact of acceptance and continued obedience is everything.

"AN iron key may open a golden treasury, and leaden pipes convey pleasant waters."

A KNOTTY QUESTION.

"If entire sanctification is the complete destruction of depravity, original or birth-sin, why are not the children of entirely sanctified parents born free from depravity, original or birth-sin?"

This question was flung at the editor of the *Christian Witness*, while lately attending a minister's meeting, in Los Angeles, and, as might be expected, his elaborate, published replies thereto are after the ordinary pattern.

These replies, stripped of all their verbiage, reduce themselves to the following:—When he teaches that *depravity, original or birth-sin* is simply destroyed in the believer by obtaining the blessing of heart purity, he means that depravity which is the result of the fall of Adam, and which propagated itself through his posterity; but which, although completely destroyed in the entirely sanctified, has not lost its power to propagate itself in the offspring of the entirely sanctified.

Now, in this we wish it to be understood, that we are really giving our version of all the answers we have seen to this question, including that above mentioned, frankly admitting that the answer in the *Witness* will compare favorably with any we have read, when given from its standpoint.

We presume that they who treat carnality as a state rather than an attitude or act, will not take much pleasure in seeing their answer put in such prosaic form. But not one of the statements of that answer can they take exception to without giving up their theory concerning inbred or birth-sin.

Let us restate them *seriatim*:—1. Original or birth-sin is the result of Adam's sin. 2. This birth-sin has propagated itself through all Adam's descendants. 3. This particular sin is completely taken out of the entirely sanctified. 4. This same sin is by them propagated in the children of the entirely sanctified, exactly the same as in the children of the unholy.

Now, we maintain that these are the facts which are taught distinctly and positively by the writers whom the *Wit-*