

IS CHRIST WILLING AND READY TO SAVE?

Do you answer, Yes? Why, then, are you not saved? Do you say He is not able to save you? Why, He is "able to save to the uttermost *all who come to God by Him.*" Whose fault, then, is it that you are still "without hope and without God in the world?" We pray you to be honest at this point. Look into your own heart, ask yourself seriously why it is that you continue in sin. And if you answer honestly you will stand self-condemned.

But you say you are waiting for a change of heart, and that this is a work which must be done for you. But why is it not already done? Have you never heard the Gospel preached? Has Christ not been lifted up before you? Have you not heard His gentle voice calling you to come to Him that He may give you rest? You answer, Yes. You say all this is true in your experience, but that is not sufficient to meet your case. What, then, is sufficient? If the Gospel is not "the power of God unto salvation," what is able to turn you from your rebellious course? We beg you to be honest. Have you not continually refused to make a complete surrender? It may be that you have sometimes been *almost* persuaded. But you should remember that "almost" cannot avail. Christ requires the whole heart and life, and the yielding of these must be your act, or else they would be worth nothing when given. Hence do not hesitate. Remember now is the accepted time, now is the day of salvation.—*Herald of Mercy.*

ALCOHOL, MUSCLE AND BRAIN.

We put a drop of alcohol into a man's eye. It poisons it. We try it upon the lining of a living stomach. It again poisons it. We study after death the stomachs of drinking men, and find that alcohol produces in regular stages, redness, intense congestion, morbid secretions, deeper hurt, destruction of parts, utter ruin. We study its influence upon the health and strength of sailors and soldiers, and find it helps to freeze them in the Arctic regions and exhaust them in the tropics. We watch two regiments on a long march to India, one with and the other without grog, and are driven to the conclusion that even moderate quantities of alcohol weaken the muscles and break the endurance. We visit the training grounds of oarsmen, pedestrians, prize fighters, and learn everywhere the same lesson—alcohol is a poison to muscle and brain.—*Dio Lewis.*

SELF-LOVE.

It is recorded of an architect of the name of Cuidius that, having built a watch tower for the King of Egypt, to warn mariners of certain dangerous rocks, he caused his own name to be engraved in a certain stone in the wall; and then having covered it with plaster, he inscribed on the outside, in golden letters, the name of the king, as though the thing was done for his glory. He was cunning enough to know that the waves ere long would wash away the coat of plastering, and that then his own name would be handed down to successive generations. How many there are, who, while affecting to seek only the glory of God and His church, are really seeking whatever is calculated to gratify self-love. Could the outer coat, as it were, of their pretences be removed, we should see them as they really are, desirous not of God's own glory, but their own.—*Times of Refreshing.*

THE AROMA OF LIFE.

"Beauty hath its charms, but the charms of gracious manners far outweigh them. The manners that express a kindly, sympathetic heart, open to the influence of another personality as the flower to the sun, and as unconsciously giving back its own fragrance, are a gift that far outshines physical graces. Who of us have not forgotten a plain face, or seen it grow beautiful under the witchery of beautiful manners, the expression of a well-poised mind? Learning can be acquired, politeness may be cultivated, but manner is the expression of the nature and brings the object to its own level, at least for the moment. We go out from the presence of gentle manners at peace with the world."

Indisputably the believers in the gospel have a great advantage over all others, for this simple reason, that if true, they will have their reward hereafter; and if there be no hereafter, they can but be with the infidel in his eternal sleep, having had the assistance of an exalted hope through life, without subsequent disappointment.—*Lord Byron.*

Along the Valley of the Nile, from Alexandria to the first cataract, are 79 mission-stations and 70 Sabbath-schools, numbering 4,027 scholars, while the day and boarding schools have over 5,200 pupils. There has been an increasing demand for Bibles, 9,651 having been sold the last year, with 8,933 volumes of religious literature and 19,179 educational books.