

SETTLED.

Nothing is ever settled until it is settled on the principles of eternal right. Cain thought when he had his brother buried out of sight, that the matter was settled; but he soon found out that the trouble about his sin had just begun. "Where is thy brother Abel?" Pharaoh thought that he had matters settled when he had driven Moses away, and had proclaimed he would see his face no more. The Pharisees thought they had matters settled when Christ was crucified and entombed, and a Roman guard placed to keep Him in. They found out their mistake. Then these unrepentant murderers killed Stephen, and scattered abroad the disciples, and surely thought, we have forever ended our trouble with these church-defiling fanatics, but their trouble and sorrow had only just begun; for "they went everywhere preaching the Word," and as soon as God could use these Christ-rejecters no more to drive His people closer together and nearer to the likeness of Christ and His cross, God let loose his judgments upon them eternally, as they had destroyed themselves spiritually, and "turned Jerusalem upside down and wiped as a dsh." More than a million were slain, and the slave-market was glutted with them. Even then their trouble had only just begun. The old slave oligarchies of our land thought when they obtained decisions in the United States courts defending their slave property that the question was settled forever. They thought when Northern men took back their slaves to them, and hunted them with packs of bloodhounds, that their pretended rights were secured. Little did they think that one dead in every house North and South was the sacrifice for their sin, with the entire devastation of their country. When the slaves were set free then the blood ceased to flow. That was the settlement that was demanded by the Constitution and by God. The Jews rejected Christ, and God has not done with them as a nation to this day. The prophecy of God is fulfilled daily all over the world where they are scattered. They are a hissing and a by-word, "as mean as a Jew," everywhere; a faint emblem of the wrath of God that will be visited eternally upon those who reject Christ and trample His blood under their feet. If any man love not the Lord Jesus Christ, "let him be, *anathema maranatha*." A true and honorable settlement among men brings peace to the parties in litigation. So a true settlement with God brings His receipt

in full into the heart of the believer. Then there is uninterrupted "peace like a river, and righteousness like the waves of the sea." What kind of a settlement have you got with men? Do you love your enemies? Do you pray for those that despitefully use and persecute you? Have you that divine assurance of peace that nothing offends? "No stumbling-block?" (Ps. cxix. 165.)

If you have not this right kind of settlement, there is no time to spare. Heaven, hell, eternity and the judgment stand at the door. "Be ye ready also, for in such an hour as ye think not of the Son of Man cometh" (Luke xii. 40).—*Fire and Hammer*.

DEATH RETREATS BEFORE LIFE.

I have seen in the autumn, when the trees had shed all their leaves, that two or three leaves have stuck fast on the branches, and have clung to them all the winter through. Storms have beaten them; frosts have bitten them; snow and rain have blackened them, yet they have clung to the tree. But when the springtime has come, and the sap has begun to ascend and push its way through every branch and every twig, the leaves have disappeared—pushed off by the rising tide of new life; for death can never stand before life. So it is with us. Those old, inveterate habits, that belong to our fallen nature, are very hard to get rid of. We battle with them, and try to beat them off, but again and again we are defeated, so that we cry out, "Oh, wretched man that I am, who shall deliver me from the body of this death? Mortification does not seem to cure them. But when the Spirit of the Lord fills and possesses us, then these habits disappear almost unconsciously, because death cannot stand before life; then we are able to rise up and say, "The law of the Spirit of Life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death." So, then, quickening must be by the power of the Holy Ghost.—*Rev. A. J. Gordon, D.D.*

"Doubts are lost, dissolved in the light of His clear shining. Christ is no more One of whom we have but vacant memories and vague thoughts; we know Him as real and present. We claim Him as our own. There bursts from the heart the triumphant assurance, an exultant possession, which cries, my Lord and my God! We put a bold constraint upon our King, and compel Him, by our importunity, to abide with us."—*Mark Guy Pearse*.