

Our Young People

A Meeting to Talk About the Christian Transformation.

Topic for November 5.—THE NEW NAME—*Gen. 32: 24-29; Rev. 2: 17.*

"I have called thee by thy name: thou art mine."

ur New Name.

By Rev. F. D. Power, D.D.

Jacob wrestles with God and is blessed. "The kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force." Important prayer has here a strong illustration. With all Jacob's blemishes God delights in him, takes him in hand, disciplines him, until Jacob "the supplanter," ready to do anything to gain his own ends, becomes "Israel, a prince of God." Name, heart, and character are all changed. Jacob becomes Israel, the one who had prevailed with God and seen Him face to face.

The main thing is to get a blessing. The angel did not tell Jacob who he was, but "the blessed him there." The patriarch had many footstool blessings: he wanted the throne blessing, namely, peace with God; and God gave it.

John reveals the message of the Spirit to the churches, the promise that to the overcoming one shall be given "a white stone, and in the stone a new name written." In the public games the victor was conducted with pomp through the city, and received the tessera or white stone with a name inscribed on it, which entitled him to be maintained at the public expense for life. So the believer that overcomes receives the earnest of the Spirit, the seal of adoption, and is welcomed to the means of grace, acquires a new name,—that of a child of God,—a name which no man can know until he has received the tessera, or divine witness.

To the Christian all things are made new. "If any man is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things are passed away; behold, they are become new." The old state of life is gone, broken with, and done with altogether, and a new estate begun. The reign of darkness is over and the reign of light is here. God hath delivered from the power of darkness and translated us into the kingdom of His dear Son. Once we were blind, now we see. Once we did the deeds of darkness, now we walk in the light. Once we were not the children of God, but now are we His children. (Rom. 8:14-17.)

The new creature is known by a new name. He says, "Abba, Father!" And God says, "My child." "Behold now are we the children of God." We wait not until the final judgment and eternity for this distinction. Now are we children. A gentleman had an only daughter, and she was an adopted child. One of her playmates on one occasion told her that she was "adopted." The little girl regarded the term as offensive, and hastened to her father in tears with the story, and asked what "adopted" meant. "Why," said the father, "it means that you are my real child. You know we are sinners until God adopts us into His family, and then we become His real children." The little girl was perfectly content with this scriptural explanation. What a world of sweetness and comfort and blessing in this new name, "child of God!" (Gal. 3:26-29.)

There is another name, "Christian." The name of Christ is the name that is above every name. "The disciples were called Chris-

tians first at Antioch." Almost thou persuaded me to be a Christian," said Agrippa to Paul. "If any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed," said Peter; "but let him glorify God on this behalf," or "in this name." In one of the persecutions of the followers of Christ in the second century a man was brought before a heathen magistrate. The charge against him was that he was a Christian, but of his name and nationality they could make nothing.

"What is your name?" demanded the judge. "Christianus sum, I am a Christian," was the reply.

"What is your country?"

"I am a Christian."

"What is your business?"

"I am a Christian."

"How dare you refuse to swear by the emperor?"

"I am a Christian," once more was the reply; and to every question, through torture unto death, he made the same reply, "I am a Christian!"

What better name? The Christian is the highest style of man. The best thing in the world is to be a Christian. There is no richer heritage than a good name. Think of Luther, Knox, Hampden, Washington. And can the new creature in Christ wear nobler name than that of his Master?

"Good name in man or woman is the immediate jewel of their souls." "Whatsoever commodity you lose, be sure yet to preserve the jewel of a good name." "A good renown is better than a golden girdle." "If I may but keep a good name, I have wealth enough." "A good name is like precious ointment." Every Christian should keep his name as he would keep his life.

Let us walk worthy of the new name by which we are called. Let us adorn it and glorify it in our lives and characters. Let us never bring reproach upon it.—Christian E. World.

Hints for Talks and Testimonies.

What would a true name tell about one?

What are some Bible names with a meaning?

What are some names that have gained a meaning because of those that had them?

What is meant by the truth that Christ knows His sheep by name?

When does one become so changed as to need a new name?

In the case of Bible characters whose names were changed, what change had then taken place in the persons?

How is a new name given by God a promise to its bearer?

How should one gain a new name among men on becoming a follower of Christ?

What knowledge of God does each gain through his own experience which is different from that gained by any other?

What is meant by the new name given to those that overcome?

Daily Readings.

Mon., Oct. 30—Abraham's new name. Gen. 17:1-8
Tues., Oct. 31—Sarah's new name. Gen. 17:15-16
Wed., Nov. 1—Judah's new name. Isa. 62:1-12
Thurs., Nov. 2—Simon's new name. John 1:40-42
Fri., Nov. 3—The disciples' new name. Acts 11:19-26
Sat., Nov. 4—Mine own new name. Rev. 3:7-13
Sun., Nov. 5—Topic. A new name. Gen. 32:24-29; Rev. 2:17

Ministers' Subscriptions to Century Fund.

Returns have been received from 540 ministers, who have subscribed upwards of \$56,000. It is very desirable that this list should be closed within the next ten days. It is hoped, therefore, that any other minister who intends to subscribe will report his subscription without delay.

My White Stone.

And will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written.—Rev. 2:17.

I wonder if out of God's quarries,

That with brightness of Sardis shine,

He hath told some one of His Angels

To carve a new name for mine.

As he works does he often grow tender?

Is its lustre not dimmed with a tear,

When he thinks of temptations and sorrows

That I need first to suffer here?

Perhaps even now 'tis finished,

The last letter carved with care;

And he smiles on my dear prize of victory,

At the "Jewel name" I shall wear.

I think He will whisper it softly,

And hold me close to His side,

I shall see but one face in the glory,

And my heart will be satisfied.

But, perchance, away off in the distance,

Where none but the spotless e'er came,

Will be, singing for me a welcome,

The angel who carved my name.

And in that one rapturous moment,

Sins lost at the touch of His hand,

I shall pity e'en the blest angel

Who forgiveness cannot understand.

—Mitchella.

"Thou art Simon. . . . Thou shalt be called Rock," Peter. The men standing around, and knowing Simon well, might turn away to hide a smile; but Simon knew the Lord had found him, and uttered the very word which could bind him forever to Him. And the event showed how true this appellation was. Simon became Peter,—bold to stand for the rest, and beard the Sanhedrim.—Marcus Dods, D.D.

Rev. W. Gauld, missionary to Formosa, preached on September 24th to the First Presbyterian Church, London. He gave an interesting account of his work in connection with the Formosan mission.

Mrs. Stewart, wife of the Free Church Moderator, attended a meeting of the Women's Foreign Missionary Society, held in the hall of St. Matthew's Church, Glasgow, and gave a most encouraging report of the work at Lovedale, Central Africa. At present there are over 200 young girls in training to act as teachers.