

The Power of Love.

There is no power like love. I loved my little boy long before he loved me. One night I heard him say to his mamma, when he thought me asleep, "I love papa." What a thrill of joy that gave me! I had loved him from infancy, but now he was beginning to love me. A few weeks before he might have seen me carried out of the house in a coffin, and perhaps, not knowing better, have thoughtlessly laughed about it. But now my love for him had found a response. Something like this is the feeling God has when a sinner melts under his love. Love produces love. What a power it might become in our pulpit and Sabbath school classes and meetings! The reason we have so little love for Jesus Christ is that we are so little acquainted with him. The more intimately we get acquainted with the Son of God the more shall we love him, and we may get acquainted with him by reading about him in his word.—D. L. Moody.

God's Personal Care.

The earth and the lily springing from it held lessons of God's loving providence and teach man the secret of tranquility. Agassiz found a lily on the banks of the Amazon whose cup was measured by feet and not by inches; found birds so beautiful that he called them birds of paradise. But even our humble lilies of the valley and our field sparrows have wit to tell nature's overruling care. The lily's lesson is that each blossom carries an equipment of root and leaf fitting it to fully achieve those ends named beauty and sweetness. The lily does not sow and reap with man's tools, but it sows and reaps with the tools that God hath appointed for flowers. It thrusts its roots down and pumps up the sap and moisture for food and drink. It thrusts the stalk up and untwisting the sunbeam seizes upon the hue and color that it doth need. Setting up its laboratory in the roots, it dissolves the minerals as food for its strong stalk. Through the chemistry of the leaves it absorbs the gasses of the air and works them into glowing textures. Using the instruments and tools given, the flower achieves its mission of tranquil yet passionate beauty, and every sweet blossom that waves and riots in the sunshine whispers that if a flower, working as a flower, achieve its appointed end of beauty, that man, working as a man, can achieve those ends named happiness and peace.

Those modest flowers that, without haste, tumult or anxious worry, have toiled in their sheltered nook and extracted the whitest hue from black soil and the sweetest perfumes from noxious odors, have earned the right to rebuke man for his paroxysms of effort, his fevered querulousness, his worry that wastes his life. The things about which man frets and twists are things that have never happened in his career, and happen these fears never will. As the test of the flower is beauty and the test of the bird that it soars and sings, so the test of the children of God is radiant joy, tranquil gladness and that inspiring atmosphere that betrays trust in God's all-loving providence. That which is easy for a blossom and a bird ought not to be hard for a man who bears God's image.—Rev. Newell Dwight Hillis.

We cannot create spiritual power, but we may create its conditions.

Our Young People

Good Tidings.

For reading in the meeting.

Good tidings every day.

God's messengers ride fast;

We do not hear one half they say.

There is such noise on the highway,

Where we must wait while they ride past.

Their banners blaze and shine

With Jesus Christ's dear name

And story, how by God's design

He saves us, in his love divine,

And lifts us from our sin and shame.

Their music fills the air.

Their songs sing all of heaven:

Their ringing trumpet peals declare

What crowns to souls who fight and dare,

And win, shall presently be given.

Good tidings every day.

The messengers ride fast;

Thanks be to God for all they say;

There is such noise on the highway

Let us keep still while they ride past.

Saxe Holm.

Wise Listening.

BY ARTHUR W. KELLY.

How can one have any control at all over the sense of hearing, unless, indeed, by stopping the ears altogether? How can the ear help receiving the sounds that reach it? What power has it to cause sounds to come? Yet we know that it's largely a question for the will to decide whether or not we notice a given sound. Whether what we hear leaves an impression on the mind is a matter that rests with us still more. Those that have ears need to be bidden to hear as well as to take heed how they hear. There are none so deaf as those that will not hear.

Listening is a matter of heeding, of giving attention. We listen to one sound by shutting out others. The art of not hearing is no small part of the art of listening. We make our own choice of what shall command our attention. A shipbuilder after listening to Whitefield said that during other sermons he had in his mind built ships from stem to stern; while the great revivalist spoke, he was not able to lay a plank. In that case the power of the preacher had done for him what he should have done for himself at other times. He that courts the din of hammers has decided to let that shut out other sounds. If your mind is in the office, or in the schoolroom, or on a bicycle-ride, or at a football game, it does not matter much where your ears are. If you want to hear God speak, see that you give him the best chance to be heard. It was when God saw Moses turn aside that the voice came.

Two persons go to the same gathering. They hear the same address. The one is stirred to the greatest enthusiasm; to the other the words are senseless jargon. The sounds are the same; but to the one they are his mother tongue, to the other they are an unknown language. Listening depends on training. Paul's speech may have been contemptible in the judgment of some, but not to those skilled in discerning spiritual things. We wonder sometimes how it is that certain persons seem so often to hear God speak directly to them and to be so sure of His guidance. If our ears were more frequently strained to hear His words, we might learn to catch His lightest whisper.

What we hear depends on what we are
Topic for Dec. 9.—How to listen.—Matt. 13:1-28
"He that hath ears, let him hear."

trying to hear. If we are on the lookout for errors in pronunciation and grammar and rhetoric, what fault can we find if those are what we hear? If we are seeking help and strength, we may find them. George Herbert reminds us that, when nothing else is to be gained, God takes a text and preaches patience to the hearer. Who can tell how many unprofitable discourses Christ heard in the synagogues? But it remained His custom to go. Others might be there to criticise; He went to worship.

The voices of the captain, the general, the guide, may be sweet or harsh. Of that the sailor at the helm, the soldier on the field, the traveller on the mountain, may think not at all. Not the voice, but what it says, is important. Not to pass judgment, but to do, is the hearer's part. So with the messages that come to us. It is not we that test them but they that test us. It is not for us to pick out what we like and dismiss the rest from our thought. It is not for us to listen for the moment, and straightway to forget.

Much is said against hearing for others instead of for ourselves. It is all true in the sense in which it is meant. But there is a listening for others sakes that is a duty. The great occasions when God has spoken to men have been occasions when what came to them was meant for them to share. It seems like a perilous course to make the spread of Christ's kingdom depend so largely on human ears and on words breathed into the air from human lips. But it is by hearing that faith comes, it is by preaching that souls are to be saved. When listening, one is to bear in mind the charge. "He that heareth, let him say, come." Christian Endeavor World.

For Daily Reading.

Mon. Dec. 3.—Use for ears. Mark 8:14-21.
Tues. Dec. 4.—The art of hearing. Luke 11:1-18.
Wed. Dec. 5.—Curious ears. Acts 17:16-21.
Thurs. Dec. 6.—Jesus a hearer. John 8:120-27.
Fri. Dec. 7.—Ears and tongues. Luke 12:1-3.
Sat. Dec. 8.—Taking heed. Deut. 28:1-6.
Sun. Dec. 9.—Topic. How to listen. Mark 13:1-23.

As Christ Did.

We are to touch men wherever and however found. We are to put the mind of Christ into life and effort and to make His Gospel a living, ameliorating and at all times and under all circumstances. When the church rises to this high conception of her privileges and her obligation, we may look for a ripening harvest upon a most magnificent scale. Indifference will flee away, and warm earnest and persistent work will take its place. Talent, genius, wealth and energy will be consecrated to and find their fullest and noblest development in the cause of Christ. The slums will be reached; the home will be improved and elevated; the city will be redeemed and purified; the nation will be regenerated; society will be leavened; mankind will be benefited and saved, and the Lord of the harvest will get increasing glory and honor from the mighty and blessed gatherings of Christian evangelization.

There is no individual liberty apart from social responsibility.

Public wrongs will not be righted till men are saved from personal sin.