

Without faith it is impossible to please Him.—Hebrews xi. 6.

The Venture of Faith.

ANY years ago, when living in the country, I observed several men running rapidly down a wooded slope toward the river near by. Thinking something unusual had happened, I quickly followed, and was surprised to see, on a little rock that rose mid-

way in the stream, a boy of six or eight years, drenched and trembling. He looked timidly towards those who had gathered on the bank, and now and again glanced with alarm on the boiling river he had just escaped from, and which threatened to devour him. How he came there we afterwards learned. The first thing to be done was

to save him. A long ladder was speedily procured and pushed out to the rock, and a brave man volunteered to rescue the child. Slowly and steadily he stepped along



ladder, till he reached the rock and stood beside the boy. So far from gladly welcoming his deliverer, he refused to leave the rock. "You may trust me, I will carry you safely to the shore." The boy answered, "No, no, I cannot do it." Then said the other, "You will perish if you stay here." The conflict in the heart of the child could be seen in his face. At length trust conquered fear, and he yielded to the love of his hitherto unknown friend who, clasping him to his heart, returned with him by the ladder, and landed him safely, amid much rejoicing.

This is an illustration of the salvation which is in Christ Jesus. The child is a picture of the sinner, miserable and helpless. The ladder is the Cross by which the Saviour finds his way to the sinner's side, to plead for the sinner's heart. Happy is the man, who, by God's grace, makes trial of Christ, and speaking in the Holy Ghost can say, *I believe*. Christ saves no man against his will; and it is not until the sinner is persuaded and enabled to embrace Jesus Christ, that his salvation is an accomplished fact. There is only

one way by which the unsaved sinner can put honor on Christ, and that is by trusting Him. Do you trust Christ? If not, why not?

"Venture on him, venture wholly,
Let no other trust intrude;
None but Jesus
Can do helpless sinners good."

It Still Draws.



WE hear much in the present day about providing attractions whereby the people may be induced to attend Church. Read the following "Impressions" of an onlooker during a series of services recently held in England:—

"The first thought that occurred to my mind, as I witnessed the large numbers gathered together every morning to listen to the exposition of Scripture, or Bible reading, and the still larger numbers that crowded each night into the hall for the Evangelistic address, was that the simple Gospel faithfully and lovingly proclaimed, has lost none of its power and attractiveness for men. The service, though most reverent and devout, was always very plain. *No grand display*, no flower shows, no performances had to be resorted to, to induce the people to come. The old yet ever new, the ever simple and therefore ever grand story of the Shepherd who died for His sheep, the great love and longing desire of the Father for the salvation of all men, the glorious provision made in the Gospel for the needs of every soul, the terrible responsibility and the awful doom of those who "neglect so great salvation," and who will not surrender their wills and "let the Saviour in,"—on these and kindred themes did the preacher dilate with fire, zeal, intense earnestness, boldness, and tender entreaty: and no marvel that with such a feast of royal dainties, and spread out so lavishly, the people flocked to listen, the Spirit wrought mightily, souls pressed into the Kingdom, and some who—

'Came to mock, remained to pray.'

"The lesson we *must* learn from the services just concluded is this,—preach Christ the present Saviour, waiting, willing to save to the uttermost, able not only to deliver from the *curse*, but also from the *dominion* of sin, ready to supply all the deep needs of the soul, and the people will come to listen, and the Holy Ghost will honour and bless.

"Another impression left on my mind is, what marvellous and glorious things there are in our grand old Bible, which many even of the Lord's people have never discovered. Day after day this thought came back—how deep, how new,