

shall take its place in simplicity as the Word of God on the earth.

If these things are so, is it not time that the Treaty of Ararat should be exhumed from the archives of the past? Is it not time that its terms should be made a matter of study and honest experiment? May it not be that God, who years over the human race with a pity that is divine and infinite, has found it necessary to send famine after famine upon the world, that His people, long dead to the gentle, reminders of the ever-recurring rainbow, may at last be waked up by these thundering calls, to remember His covenant, which has lain in His Bible a dead letter so long?

"Awake, awake, put on thy strength, O Zion; put on thy beautiful garments, O Jerusalem."

FOR DOMINION PRESBYTERIAN.

A Difficulty Explained.

BY C. H. WETTERBE.

A large number of Bible readers have found it very difficult to satisfactorily understand the statements that God hardened Pharaoh's heart, and that he hardened his own heart. It is thought by many people that these statements contradict each other, but in reality they do not. Some scholarly men assert that God, being a Sovereign over all mankind, directly hardened Pharaoh's heart just because he had purposed to do so. I never could believe such a thing, for it does not accord with God's character, as generally revealed in the Bible.

A reader of the Union Gospel News lately asked Rev. James M. Gray this question: "Why did God punish Pharaoh when he hardened Pharaoh's heart?" Dr. Gray says: "I apprehend that this question is often asked, though perhaps not in this instance, with the hope of finding some flaws in God's character whereby he may be blamed, and man in some sense justified. God is true, though every man a liar. Nineteen times in Exodus is that word 'hardened' used with reference to Pharaoh's heart. Sometimes it is God who is said to do the hardening, and sometimes Pharaoh himself; but, to quote 'The Mosaic Era' (Gibson), 'The two things are really identical. Pharaoh, by his conduct, put himself under the operation of the invariable law by which a man's heart becomes harder the longer he resists divine mercy and grace. Inasmuch as the law spoken of was God's law, God hardened his heart. It is the same process viewed from its two sides. We must not suppose that God singled out Pharaoh, or that he singled out anyone, and says, 'I will harden his heart.' But, by the operation of the law according to which the soul becomes less and less susceptible to impressions which have been resisted, God hardens the heart of everyone who does not yield to him."

This explanation is thoroughly reasonable, and I am confident that it is in full harmony with general Bible teaching. It is a fact that, in an indirect manner, God does harden the heart of every sinner who refuses to heed His calls to repentance and salvation. God has established certain laws for the good of mankind, and he who persistently violates those laws hardens his heart, his conscience, his will. God bids sinners to repent and to believe on his Son, and every time that they refuse to obey they harden their spiritual natures. O, it is an awful self-hardening and self-destruction.

As false ambitions drag the whole life down to their level, so do true ambitions raise the whole life.

Our Young People

May 16 Ambition.

Some Bible Hints.

Most ambitions know not what they ask (v. 22). Had we clear vision, many of our prayers would be reversed.

False ambition is quick to say, "We are able" (v. 22); wisdom's true word is, "We are not able unless Christ enable us."

An evidence of the evil of false ambition is the enmity it arouses (v. 24). True ambition makes all men rejoice in it.

The Christian's only ambition is to be like the chief Servant of the universe (v. 28).

Suggestive Thoughts.

The more we cherish false ambitions, the more difficult it becomes for us to entertain true ambitions.

False ambitions know well how to masquerade under the guise of true ones; nothing is easier than to persuade one's self that having one's own way is altruistic.

We think we are only postponing the Christian ambition when we are destroying it. Every day lived for money is a mortgage on all coming days.

A Few Illustrations.

A false ambition is like intoxication, whose chief allurements is that the fool thinks he is happy, becoming blind to all real enjoyment.

False ambition is a gaol that seems at first to be in line with the higher goals, but the Adversary craftily moves it around until he has us racing directly away from the higher goals.

False ambitions always have something of the true in them, as beer has in it a tiny bit of nutritive value. Men swallow a gallon of poison for an ounce of bread.

True ambition is like the sunlight, in whose beams the false ambitions die like a fungus growth.

To Think About.

Are my ambitions such as to continue beyond death?

Did Christ or self-love inspire my ambitions?

Are my ambitions such as make me happy from day to day?

A Cluster of Quotations.

To help the growth of a thought that struggles toward the light, to brush with gentle hand the earth stain from the white of one snowdrop—such be my ambition!—George MacDonald.

Most people would succeed in small things if they were not troubled with great ambitions.—Longfellow.

The happiest heart that ever beat

Was in some quiet breast,

That found the common daylight sweet

And left to heaven the rest.—Cheney.

Our Eyes.

The eyes of the society are the lookout committee. If they are shut, the whole society goes to sleep.

To keep them open, appoint upon this committee none but the best workers, those that are courageous and faithful.

Their main duty is to keep the pledge before the society. Sometimes by a series of talks on the various sections, one to a meeting. Sometimes by placing a printed copy before the society, or moving it to a new place. Sometimes by making a bold placard of some section of the pledge that is often neglected. Sometimes by calling for a series of sentence prayers for fidelity to the pledge. Something of the sort should be in every meeting, carefully arranged beforehand.

The lookout committee will get new members for the society—and there is only one way—go and ask them!

The Giver.

John 3:16.

BY ALICE VAN ORDEN.

"Giver of all," for Thy best gift
We lift our grateful praise,
And for the love that gave the Christ
Our thankful hearts upraise.

This gift is life, eternal life,
To all who will believe,
And ev'ry faithful, trusting one
The blessing may receive.

We take Thy gift, so freely sent
To save the world from sin,
And find Thy heaven in our heart
Thyself hath entered in.

The Hidden Roots.

A true servant of Jesus draws his motive of action from his deep loyalty, his deep heart-love to his Redeemer. These are his roots. Up from these hidden roots spring his daily obedience and devotion to those things which are pure and honest and holy and of good report. These are the motives which keep him self-denying and steadfast. They hold him firm in times of sudden temptation, as stout roots hold a tree against the assaults of a gale. The reason why Paul never fell from grace is that he was rooted and grounded in Christ. Jesus held him and Jesus fed his strength. That is the double office of a root; it holds and it feeds. Here is the test question with all my readers who profess and call themselves Christians. Are our hearts in all their motives, desires, and affections so united to Jesus Christ that we draw him up into our daily lives? Do we keep the connection close by secret prayer? Is Jesus actually in us? Is his law our law, are his interests our interests, do we give conscience the casting vote, and always say honestly to our Saviour, "What wilt thou have me to do?"—Rev. Dr. Theo. L. Cuyler.

Daily Readings.

Mon., May 16.—The Babel builders. Gen. 11:1-9
Tues., " 17.—Abimelech rebuked. Judges 9:1-21
Wed., " 18.—David's ambition. Ps. 131:1-3
Thurs., " 19.—Amaziah reproved. 2 Kings 14:8-14
Fri., " 20.—The disciples corrected. Mark 9:33-37
Sat., " 21.—The Pharisees condemned. Luke 20:45-47
Sun., " 22.—Topic—False and true ambitions. Matt. 20:20-28.

Prayer.

Almighty Father, we thank Thee that there is no storm on the sea of life so fierce as to drown our cry to Thee. We thank Thee that there is no tempest which may not at Thy word be stilled. Teach us to appeal for Thy help in every difficulty. Enable us in the hour of saddest abasement to understand that every soul is precious in Thy sight. Give us hope for the future. Let us not forget Thy mercy in the past. To those who have never heard of thy infinite pity and forgiveness, grant that the quickening message may be brought. We ask all in the name of Thy Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.