

others, or in securing positive good, whilst others leave us the sport of illusion. This being the case, every person who is the subject of one of these phantom-like visitations becomes like a reed shaken by the wind, for he is agitated by all the winds of uncertainty. Should he follow the impression, he does so in uncertainty, and should he not, he does so in fearfulness. The element of uncertainty must linger about him. Dr. Bangs then, we assume, turned back as following an impression, and in this case the impression, to all appearance, led him into needless loss of time and expenditure of muscular effort. The fact that he was a Christian does not of itself modify this statement of the case. If a Christian cuts his finger, the resulting pain is exactly the same as if he were an ordinary sinner. So if a Christian treat an impression as an ordinary sinner does, the result to both must be the same, and it is reasonable that it should be so.

Now, had Dr. Bangs in his doubt concerning his duty asked the guidance of the Spirit, and asked in faith until he clearly discerned the voice Divine, and then acted as led by the Spirit, and not by an impression, we maintain that he need have made no mistake; but as there is no evidence to show that he took this course, we refuse to accept the incident as in any way illustrating the guidance of the Spirit. We presume if he had adopted the scriptural method, that when the voice of the Holy Spirit had been heard, the impression would immediately have vanished, and he would have gone on his way rejoicing with increased joy.

We have delayed over this incident because of the prominence given to it by some who make use of it to obscure the whole subject of the guidance of the Spirit. But it will now be seen that the remarks concerning this one incident will apply to all impressions, dreams, etc.

Let us linger a little here to put the subject, thus far brought, in compact form, by maintaining that when a Christian has to do with any of these phenomena, he may look steadily at them as at a part of himself, and, by faith in his ever-present Counsellor and Guide, know how to act concerning them.

Should it be a dream which leaves a lasting impression upon his mind after he awakes, without fearfulness or agitation he may at once accept guidance Divine in the matter, and if there is some blessing wrapped up in it for him, he does not fail to secure it, or if not, it at once is relegated to the class of dreams to be forgotten, and, no matter how peculiar or startling its nature, it passes away.