

"That is what my pillow wanted ; it is soft now," and she soon, too, was sweetly sleeping.

Are there not thousands of other pillows in the world which might be softened by prayer?

CONVERSION.

In religious talk the word *conversion* constantly occurs; in the Bible only *once*. Everybody believes in it. Now what is it? Some think it is lightning from a clear sky, capriciously hurling people into the Kingdom of Grace. Some think it a miraculous visitation of strong and peculiar feelings bubbling and boiling up into outward and visible signs. I know a man who has waited twenty years to "get converted" in this way.

Conversion is a Latin word, and means *a turning around*. The Greek word in the Bible which is translated conversion means *a turning around* too.

Suppose you travelled all the morning, and at noon some men told you that you were on the wrong road, and you retraced your steps. You were converted by those men. So, in a higher and better way, is he converted, who turns around on the "broad road to destruction" and begins to retrace his steps. But is there not *joy* in conversion? Yes, but conversion is not joy. Joy is incidental. When you turn on the road you would rejoice that you were surely on the right way, and had not gone on till lost in night. So is *sorrow* incidental to conversion. You feel sorry that the bright morning has been wasted, that your strength has been spent in vain. How much you will feel joy and sorrow at

conversion, will depend on temperament and circumstances. Some will be most affected with joy for the future, some with sorrow for the past.

How are men converted? This has been a vexed question for many a year. Some say they are turned around. Look again at your case on the road; how did it happen? Those whom you met showed you your error, showed you the right way, perhaps helped you along; without them you would have gone on. Yet they did not force you; they did not turn you, that was done by your own free will. Conversion was your own act. God's spirit meets you in the way; God's Word directs your steps; God's people lead their advice and aid; without these you hasten to perdition. And yet the act of conversion, the act of turning, the act of placing your back to *sin* and your face to God is an act of your own soul.

And how may one know when he is converted? By his feelings? Alas, no; our feeling may be controlled by our livers. Does the pilot, when the sky is overcast, say—I feel this is the North and that is the South? No, he goes to the never varying compass. So let us go to God's unfailing Word; let it tell us if our faces are turned to the Lamb of God, who taketh away the sins of the World, and "being justified by faith, let us have peace through our Lord Jesus Christ."—*The Church News*.

It is a fact worthy of remark that the twelve articles of the Apostles' Creed may be collected from the discourses of St. Peter in the first chapter of the Acts.