

THE PRIVILEGES OF THE CHRISTIAN IN CHRIST'S ABSENCE.

Christ turns abruptly in His thought to assure His disciples that although He must leave them, they are to have many blessed privileges in His absence. The Christian on earth shall do what Christ has done and even more. His triumphs in carrying the gospel to mankind and thus in renovating the world and introducing a new civilization, shall greatly exceed the preparatory work which was done by Christ.

Nor will the Christian be without Christ's aid. He has but to call on Christ in prayer to secure the outflow of divine power in his behalf. "Whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do." Here is a most remarkable power granted to those whom He leaves behind. Although He is gone, He is within call. In their emergency He will send relief. He is, then, potentially present with them all the time.

To this Christ adds the gift of the Holy Spirit. He whom we call to our side for comfort, strength, defence,—for all this is meant by that untranslatable word "Paraclete" shall be with us forever, sent by the Father at Christ's prayer. He shall make Christ known. He dwells within us and we become His temple. By stimulating our thought in regard to Christ's teaching, He brings Christ to us. The Holy Spirit is the manifestation of God to man in this present dispensation and His influence on our mind makes the invisible Christ real to us and ever present with us.

One other privilege Christ, though absent,* gives to the believer,—that is peace. We find ourselves inevitably in the midst of troubles. We are overweighted in the journey of life. Care is continually eating into our heart. But Christ teaches us that He is with us and that all is well. With His presence and through His assurances, there comes to us a great content. The peace of the trustful Christian is a marvelous triumph. Christ has lifted him above the mists of the valley and placed him on the mountain top, wrapped in the sunlight of eternal love.

Leaving Questions with God.

In one of his letters touching a very important event in his life George Fox wrote: "Wherefore I let the thing rest, and went on in the work and service of the Lord." There is a deep and vital truth of practical living suggested by this fragment of a sentence—a truth which, received and acted upon, goes far to make the mind calm, the heart peaceful, and the hands effective. There are a great many conscientious but anxious people who find themselves continually tempted to postpone work until all questions can be settled; who attempt, in a word, to anticipate the education of life by grasping at the beginning those results which come only at the end. For there are a great many perplexing problems which can never be thought out; they must be worked out. The man or woman who wants to settle them in advance will fail alike of the settlement of the question and the doing of the task. It is through the active putting forth of one's power that light continually streams in on the questions which concern what one ought to do. In any education the understanding of the ultimate uses of things must be postponed; those uses are revealed only when the educational process nears its close. This is pre-eminently true of the supreme educational process which we call life. There are thousands of questions weighing upon every sincere and conscientious mind which cannot be settled by any amount of thinking, but which in a way settle themselves as one slowly but faithfully does the duty which lies next. This comes very near being the whole philosophy of life, which is in no sense a settlement of ultimate questions, but which is always primarily the doing of the thing that presses to be done. He who is able to do faithfully and heartily that which lies in his hand is on the road to the settlement of all the final questions. He is working his way through the experience which is to be, from the spiritual side, one of the great sources of personal illumination. To learn to leave things with God, and to do one's work as if God could be trusted, is to gain the repose and full-heartedness which permit one to pour out his whole strength without anxiety, worry, or distraction.—*Outlook*.

Looks into Books.

AMERICAN PRESBYTERIANISM in its Development and Growth. By the Rev. R. M. Patterson, D. D., LL. D. Philadelphia, P. B. P., 1896. Price 50 cents.

This volume gives the results of years' patient reading of records, collection of facts and figures and comparisons of periods and of denominations. It does not include Canada at all, but any one who is interested in the progress of our church in the United States, will find here an instructive, and we believe a trustworthy repository of facts. They are presented too in such a way as to make anything but dull reading.

WITH OPEN FACE; or, Jesus Mirrored in Matthew, Mark, and Luke, by Alexander Balmain Bruce, D.D. New York, Charles Scribner's Sons; Toronto, William Briggs, cloth extra, price \$1.50.

The writer of this book will be remembered as the author of the "Kingdom of God" which was so well received and proved so helpful to its many readers. This, his later work, differs very largely from its predecessor, being devoid of its devotional and spiritual character. In the main it is a reprint of original papers published in "The Expositor" and although it will be read with interest by any lover of wholesome religious literature, yet its chief value will be to the student or teacher. We think perhaps the title is a little misleading, and one cannot help regretting that a different and more appropriate name had been selected.

THE POWER OF THOUGHT, by John Douglas Sterrett. Introduction by J. Mark Baldwin. New York, Charles Scribner's Sons; Toronto, William Briggs, price \$1.75.

This is decidedly a psychological work specially adapted to the general reader. Though it has been divested of scientific terms, it is still purely scientific after the latest results of investigation. Originality of diction and method mark the development of the subject, and some important and well established theories are rejected. The topics treated are those which suggest themselves to every thoughtful person, and the reader is led through the author's own process of reformation of thought and theory.

THE PROHIBITION HANDBOOK, with numerous tables and diagrams. By George B. Waldron, A.M., author of "A Handbook on Currency and Wealth." Funk & Wagnalls Company, New York and Toronto.

Although this compilation is for use in the United States it will be found timely and serviceable in our own Dominion, and especially at this juncture. It is a book of one hundred and fifty-eight pages, and of a most convenient size for the pocket or the hand, full from cover to cover of the most valuable and recent reliable information upon the drink question in almost every phase of it needed for popular purposes, and is accompanied by a very full index, making reference to any point treated easy and speedy.

PLATFORM PEARLS. For Temperance Workers and other Reformers. By Lillian M. Heath. Funk & Wagnalls, New York, London and Toronto.

This is a book of 244 pages of selections, for reading or recitation, suitable not only for temperance meetings, but for all Evangelical Church meetings. It contains pieces on the ballot, Church votes, finance, home, labor, woman, and all that touches social life. The selections appear to be mostly from American sources. They will, no doubt, be popular and useful on many occasions.

THE READER'S SHAKESPEARE. His Dramatic Works Condensed, Connected and Emphasized, for School, College, Parlor and Platform. By David Charles Bell. Vol. II., 471 pp., buckram, \$1.50. Toronto and New York, Funk & Wagnalls Company.

There are many admirable distinguishing features which account for the popularity of this Reader's Shakespeare. 1. Certain judicious abridgments and omissions of unnecessary or objectionable scenes and words make the text more acceptable for family and class reading, without marring the poetry of expression or the interest or humor of situation and action. 2. These readings are intended chiefly for the voice and ear rather than eye, and thus will facilitate the much prized but still neglected art of reading aloud. The present volume contains all the tragedies, with the addition of one romantic play, "The Tempest." The third and last volume will contain all the comedies.

The *Presbyterian and Reformed Review* partakes somewhat of the character of an obituary number containing notices of the late Dr. Talbot W. Chambers and of Anson D. Randolph the well known New York publisher. Dr. Morris writes on "The Jerusalem