

on between Faith and Reason. And, still nothing happens!

Then Isaac, with the ingenuousness of youth, says, "Father, I see you have the preparations for a sacrifice, but where—is—is the lamb?" How that question would burn into Abraham's soul! "*Where is the lamb?*" It would seem as if this might be the great testing point of the whole episode. I can see him look up, great beads of perspiration standing out upon his forehead, betokening the anguish within, and bravely say, in absolute ignorance of how, "My son, God will provide Himself a lamb." God Himself must have wept tears of joy at the trustfulness of His friend, He knew, yes, He knew, and had known all the time. Still He makes no sign yet. At last, Abraham, after doubtless a brief prayer, takes Isaac, himself wonder-stricken and appalled, and ties him on the altar. Still nothing happens!

Finally, I see him grasp the knife, give one last despairing look at his son, setting hard his teeth, and raise his outstretched hand above the prostrate boy, already dead in the father's eyes, the knife glitters, and **THEN SOMETHING HAPPENS!** (Isaiah xliii. 2.) Your affectionate son,

CHARLES W. BRADLEY.

THE LETTER AND THE SPIRIT.

AN INCIDENTAL ILLUSTRATION.

We are very frequently asked about travelling on the Lord's-day on railroads. We do not believe that Christians should do this, unless compelled to do so by very positive circumstances, except in the cities, where we do believe that the street cars may be lawfully used to go to the house of God, but not for general and indiscriminate travelling. We have felt free to use them as we would our own horses for the especial purpose of attending upon religious worship. We were led to this conviction after acting upon the other for years, and taking many a long walk on the Lord's-day for conscience' sake, but at length our Master made us feel that we were grieving Him by carrying this matter too far. There are certain limits of necessity for the sake of His work which might legitimately be extended, and we have had His blessing and peace in doing so, but we have the greatest respect for those whose consciences are still more rigid, and who prefer to walk or go to a nearer church. The simple scriptural rule for all such cases is, let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind, and let him always act according to

his own conscience. While the Sabbath is not hedged about with all the rigors of the Mosaic law, yet Christ certainly adopted it into His moral system, and has given it to us with sanctions no less strong because of the change of the day, but with a spirit of love and holy freedom which is part of the Gospel.—*The Christian Alliance.*"

"But at length our Master made us feel that we were grieving Him by carrying this matter too far." How the Spirit thus communicated with Rev. Mr. Simpson is not told, nor is it important to know; but this much is here affirmed, viz., that after years of Sabbath observance after a legalistic manner he changed his practice to a certain extent at the direct command of the Lord of the Sabbath.

But can any Christian take his stand on the same platform with the certainty that this same brother even would not object? We mean, if he should assert that he had the same authority for being still more liberal in patronizing the cars!

But, if it is a desecration of the Sabbath to have the cars run at all hours, will not the fact of Christians using them to attend church encourage the owners in their work? Does it not, in short, sanction their work if we use them even when our motive is that of attendance at the sanctuary? The fact is, that no argument will support this action of Rev. Mr. Simpson, but that of personal divine direction. And yet admit the conclusiveness of this argument in this connection, and he is a very obtuse man who will not have to admit that the letter of the law concerning Sabbaths has been absolutely superseded by the reign of the Spirit in this His dispensation, i.e., to all who accept Him as the law of laws in their lives.

THE comforts of the Holy Ghost are not animal spirits. I myself am witness that spiritual comforts are sometimes highest when bodily health, strength and spirits are at the lowest; and when these latter are highest, spiritual comforts are sometimes the lowest; whence the witness of the Spirit is something independent of health and spirits.—*Toplady.*