

THE SOWER.

CHRIST'S APPEAL

"Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me." (Rev. iii. 20.) "Therefore will the Lord wait that He may be gracious unto you." (Is. xxx. 18.)

“ I AM standing outside thy door to-night,
Seeking thine heart to win; [light—
The world for a while has withdrawn it's
Wilt thou open and let me in ?

I have travelled far on a lonely road,
In sorrow and agony;
I have borne sin's heavy crushing load,
All for the sake of thee.”

“ I am standing to plead with thee to-night,
While the dews of evening fall;
O'er the moaning and surging waves of life,
Dost thou hear my yearning call ?
I would free thy soul from the chains of earth,
Its care, its sorrow, its sin,
I would give thee joy for its hollow mirth—
Wilt thou open and let me in ?”

“ From the glorious heights of heaven I came.
To seek thee and to save;
But the world it gave me a cross of shame,
And a lonely borrowed grave.
I left my radiant home above,
All for the sake of thee;
I have died, to prove my deep deep love—
Wilt thou open the door to me ?”

"Thou hast wandered far in the paths of sin,
 Thou art weary, and sad and lone;
 But my blood can cleanse, and my blood can win,
 May I make thine heart my own?
 The world it has given thee care and pain,
 Often famine and misery;
 I offer thee treasures of priceless gain—
 Wilt thou open the door to me?"

"If thou *wilt not* answer my pleading call,
 If thou *wilt not* open' to me.
 Thou *wilt* sadly repent thy wilful choice,
 Through a lost eternity!
 And *thy* bitter cry will arise too late—
 "Open, O Lord, to me!" [me wait,
 While the door of grace, where thou mad'st
 Must be shut forever to thee?"

"Behold, *now* is the accepted time, behold, *now* is the day of salvation." (ii Cor. vi. 2.)

HE has washed me from my sins in His own blood. Do I believe this? Oh yes! I do. I believe that every one of them is washed away, and that He has done it, as it is said in Hebrews, "By Himself purged our sins." Ah! you say, if I only felt this! But let me ask you, will your feelings add to the value of Christ's blood? Oh no! Then why not rest in it as that which has perfectly satisfied God, on account of the sins?

THE FIVE CARD-SHARPERS AND THE
FORTUNE-TELLER.

ABOUT twelve years ago I was returning home in a train from Oxford to London. After we had started, five men spread their newspapers over their knees, and commenced playing at cards. They were not long ere they made effort to induce others in the carriage to join them, but the "fish were slow at taking the bait." At last they brought their persuasive powers to bear upon me, and "baited" me most temptingly. They professed to see something in my face and eyes which meant "mischief" with the cards, and ere long the most dull looking of them won five shillings, which he pocketed with great glee, while the others affected much temper at it. Again they applied their eloquence to me, and asked me to join them, but I assured them that the game had quite faded away from my memory, and any skill I may have possessed in card-playing was dead, and had become a thing of the past. The only lingering vestige of power left in me with the cards, was to tell fortunes by them, and if they liked, I would do my best at divulging to them their fortunes. This was "awfully" good, would I open the "*seance*" at once. I thereupon requested them to give me the ace of spades, and the five of spades, which two cards were quickly handed to me, and all eyes and ears present

were wide open. I then had to admit that I could not proceed without the aid of the bible, which they assented to as being quite "orthodox" in the art of "fortune-telling." When I asked them for a bible, they replied that they had come from home without it.

We decided that the card, the five of spades, represents—first, the two top pips, our two eyes; the middle pip our mouth; and the two bottom pips our two knees. In the 1st chapter of Revelation we read: "Behold He cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see Him." And in the 2nd chapter of Philippians, it says "That at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow, and that every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." Therefore this card teaches you five gentlemen, every time you look at it, that the two top pips are your two eyes, which shall surely see Jesus face to face. You shall see Him, (Matt. xxiv.) coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory," accompanied by all His holy angels, and in the great day of judgment your eyes shall see Him on the "great white throne," (Rev. xx.) as the "Judge of quick and dead"; and then the two bottom pips teach, that your two knees shall be made to bow in that awful day, before the Judge who sitteth upon the throne; after which the middle pip teaches you that your guilty mouths will have to confess

that Jesus is Lord, to the glory of God the Father, and this you will be forced to do, whether you like it or not. This, gentlemen, is the first part of your fortune according to this five of spades.

The second reading is, that these five pips represent five steel spades already made in some iron-mongers' shop that shall dig your five graves, into which you will soon have to be lowered, and at which time your guilty souls will be in "hell," with "your father, the devil," which this second card, the ace of spades, represents; and when in hell, the third part of your fortune will be, (Matt. xiii.) "weeping and wailing and gnashing of teeth," and not a drop of water to quench your flaming thirst, and you will be, (Rev. xx.) tormented in fire and brimstone, with the devil and his angels. After your "eyes" have seen Jesus, and your "knees have bowed" to Him, and your "tongue has confessed" Him Lord, then the Judge will say to you, (Matt. xxv.) "depart ye cursed into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels." Then, gentlemen, I know you will wish you had never been born.

Now, I beseech you to receive the solemn lessons that your cards, with these holy writings, teach you, and take warning in time. Come to Jesus, repent of your sins, and believe in Him; let your eyes now look away to Jesus, hanging on the tree, bearing the judgment due

to you and your sins. See Him there, (Isaiah liii.) "wounded," "bruised" and bleeding, "stricken, smitten of God and afflicted."

"He tasted death for every man."

Therefore why not you five sinners believe in Him ?

If you will repent of your sins, bow your knees to Him now, and call upon the name of the Lord, you shall be saved, for (Rom. x.) says, "whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." Why not use your mouth to confess Him ; for it is written, (Rom. x.) "If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved."

Why not confess Jesus now as your Saviour, in this present life, and then you shall be saved from the judgment and the wrath to come.

And now as regards my fees, I expect that neither of you have a penny to spare, or to call your own, when all your just debts are paid. I shall therefore feel myself well paid and satisfied, if but only one of you repent of his sins, and fully surrenders himself, body, soul and spirit to Jesus, and meets me in heaven.

They made a quick exit from our carriage at Reading.

On a Sunday evening, at Shepherds Bush, when we had finished an open-air meeting, and

were moving towards home, a man came and touched my shoulder. He expressed his gladness at seeing me again, and said his name was William Perrott. He was one of the five card-sharpers, whom I had met with in the train from Oxford to London, and had told them their fortunes. He added, I shall never forget that scripture, Rev. 1, "Behold he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see Him," and those five pips on the cards, representing five steel spades, one of which was to dig my grave, and though three of my companions have had their graves dug, and are now rotting in the earth, thank God, it is not yet fulfilled in me. Two of us broke our journey at Reading, and the other three went on to London. I cannot tell you my feelings, and the state of mind I was in, when you had finished telling us our fortunes, for that was the very scripture that my dear mother was so fond of; and when she was dying, one of the last things she spoke, was—"My son," "Behold He cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see Him." I tried to make myself happy, but could not, for it seemed as if some one was, all the while, repeating that text in my ears. After some days I left Reading and went to Portsmouth, and what with the drink and fast-living companions, my misery partly passed away. At last, I started on a sea voyage, where I had not been long, when I discovered that ~~one~~ of my 'mates'

was in the habit of getting alone, and there reading his bible. This stirred up and revived the feeling of conviction within me, and at last I told him my state of mind, and how it had been brought about by your meeting with us in the train. I also explained to him your way of telling our fortunes with the cards, and the texts of scripture, which he soon found in his bible, and he read them all over to me. While doing so, I saw the tears shining in his eyes. I told him that the *one* scripture was my mother's favourite verse, and that she said it to me when she was dying. This he read over and over again to me "Behold he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him;" and many a time, when he had been doing so, it seemed to me as if I saw you standing up in the train, and heard your voice repeating those words with great earnestness, and I sometimes thought I saw the faint outline of my mother's face and figure above your head, whispering into your ear, "Say it over again to him," and I often went aside and had a good cry. In the course of time all the men on board knew about you telling us our fortunes, and often when they were playing at cards, they would have a big laugh when the five of spades turned up, which card they nicknamed Mr. Two-eyes-two-knees and a mouth." After touching at several places we reached San Francisco, where we had to stay some time. While there, my

christian "mate" found a meeting, and on his second visit to it, I went with him, and towards the close we had to kneel down, and my "mate" said to me softly, "Behold He cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him." "Do Bill! try now and see, and believe in Jesus." I thought to myself, "every knee shall bow to Him," and here I am on my knees, and it seemed to me as if you and my dear mother were there, as well as the young man and my "mate," and you were all saying to me, Believe! Believe!! Believe!!! And there was a great struggle going on within me.

At last, I saw Jesus, hanging on the cross, agonizing and dying, and the words "every eye shall see him" came afresh, with great power to me, and something within me, inclined me to say, "Lord Jesus, I do believe, I will believe, Lord Jesus, I take Thee as my Saviour, thou art my Lord and my God, I will trust Thee."

While I was thus speaking to Jesus, all my burden and misery left me, and my spirit was set at liberty, and I felt quite free, and altogether a new man, and so unspeakably happy. I would have given the world to have seen you or my dear mother just then, and I cried out aloud, "He's got his fee, Lord, He's got his fee, for telling us our fortunes."

And now I feel overwhelmed with indebted-

ness to Jesus, especially for meeting you in the train, also for my christian "mate," and for giving me a good loving mother, but above all, for His revealing Himself to me that night, at the meeting. Praise God I am so happy now.

Three of my companions are now dead and gone, and as far as I know they died as they lived, in their guilt and sin. The other one is still alive, and I think he is anxious about his soul. I left him at Reading Railway Station the other day, and my last words to him were, "Remember, Sam, the two top pips are your two eyes, the middle pip is your mouth, and the two bottom pips your two knees, and "behold He cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see Him, and every knee shall bow to Him, and every tongue shall confess that Jesus is Lord to the glory of God the Father.

"In the blood of yonder Lamb,
Washed from every stain I am."

THE question of sin Christ settled between God and Himself; "when He had by Himself purged our sins." He did it according to the holiness of God, and according to my need. And what cleanness do I get? The cleanness which God's eye requires; all that which shut us out from God being perfectly put away, so that we are brought into the light as God is in the light; and in doing it his perfect love has been revealed.

TWO DEATH BEDS.

TWO burials had taken place in the same village. The two funeral processions passed, one after the other, and a large number followed each hearse.

The whole village seemed to be covered with a dark cloud of grief, for both of the young girls who were being conveyed to their last resting place were well known and their absence was now sadly felt.

They were nearly the same age, their mothers and their grandmothers had lived in the village, and many of their relatives were buried in the cemetery to which these two processions took their way.

Some months, indeed some weeks before, they had both been in good health and happy, rejoicing in the beautiful days of early summer and gathering the flowers which were then in bloom. They had no thought that long before autumn returned, before even the flowers of summer had fallen that both of them would have passed to that place from which none return.

I have not written their life in these pages, I merely cast a glance upon the final scene.

Let us enter the dwelling of one of them. The young dying girl is nearing the end of her sufferings. She has asked her only brother to come to her and sing her favorite hymn. He did so,

but never had he had so difficult a task. His voice trembled; he could scarcely retain his tears as he sang:

“I will sing of my Redeemer,
 And his wondrous love to me;
 On the cruel cross He suffered,
 From the curse to set me free.
 I will tell the wondrous story’
 How my lost estate to save.
 In His boundless love and mercy,
 He the ransom freely gave.

He continued, and the eyes of the sister were brilliant while he sang:

I will praise my dear Redeemer,
 His triumphant power I’ll tell;
 How the victory He giveth,
 Over sin, and death, and hell.

The hymn was finished, and she softly murmured that she could bear no more. The young man stopped, and kissed his dying sister a last good bye. They had been left orphans on the earth but she had been a mother to him, and they had been bound together by the bonds of a most tender and intimate affection. Death only could separate them, and death had come. She went to be with her Saviour where her mother had preceded her, while he remained alone and friendless in a cold hard world.

Thus died one of these young girls. Her end

was sweet, for she possessed the peace that Jesus had won by His own blood.

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Let us enter another house. The young girl who is there dying, was at a dance the night before; the gayest and most animated of all the company. It was for her that the party had been given; and she was like a queen in the midst of the scene, attracting the attention of all, whilst she conducted the dances. She had gone a long distance to be there, for her home was far from the house in which the ball was given. She did not return home until daybreak, when she went to bed slightly indisposed, at least so her friends thought, but, in reality, she went to bed to die.

During the morning her indisposition increased. Doctors were called in, and alarmed at seeing the gravity of her condition did not leave her. A burning fever had set in accompanied by delirium, and a friend from a neighbouring house had to help with her strong arms to hold her while she struggled in terrible agony, as she cried: "I am not dying! Don't let me die! I cannot die! I will not die!"

Presently the awful struggle ended in death, and they covered with a cloth the distorted visage, agonised by the terror of death. When the coffin came, the doctor ordered that it be closed at once, and advised the father and mother not to look at the face of their beloved child.

Poor young girl! She had never thought that she would be taken away so suddenly, without Christ, and without hope, into eternity. She thought that she would have time to prepare, after having enjoyed the pleasures of the world: that she would perhaps be attacked by a lingering disease which would allow her to think of her salvation; and in any case, that death would not come suddenly. But the Lord had said: "In an hour that ye think not," and: "Be ye also ready." Furthermore He has said: "Watch." But she had forgotten all that; she had given no attention to it, in the midst of the excitement and distractions of the world.

Perhaps these lines may fall under the notice of some one who may be in the same unhappy condition this young girl was. If so, Ah! I beseech you, do not delay a single moment, come to Christ; receive Him as your Saviour now, while there is time. Which do you prefer; to fall asleep peaceably in the arms of Jesus, and open your eyes to the ravishing happiness of His presence; or to leave the world and awaken in the torment of a hopeless eternity?

SAVED! what a word! saved from hell, and saved for glory! The opposite of being saved is lost, and the opposite of being lost is saved.

" I AM A SINNER BUT THERE IS THE
PRECIOUS BLOOD.

A CHRISTIAN farmer had arranged the kitchen of his house for gospel preaching.

One evening the hearers were astonished to see among them a woman whom no one would have expected to see there. She was notorious through her wicked life, and more than one person said: "What could have brought her here?" Ah! They little thought of Him who came to seek and to save that which was lost, and who had that night drawn thither a poor wandering sheep that she might hear the words of life.

However, Caroline came regularly to the gospel meetings, while no one knew what was passing in her soul.

A little later it was noticed that she had ceased coming. "She soon got enough of it," some thought, while others said: "The word was too clear for the conscience of one so bad."

Some time passed, when the farmer received a message saying that Caroline was very ill, and wanted to see him. He went at once to her and found her dying. They told the poor woman that M. D. was there. Opening her eyes, she said:

"I am very thankful that you have come. I have wanted to see you. I am going away home."

“Going away! where are you going?” asked M.D.

“To heaven,” she replied.

“But how can such a sinner as you, be in such a holy place as heaven?” asked the farmer.

She turned towards him a dying look, and said; “*I am a sinner; but there is the precious blood,*” and she passed away from this world to be with Him who receiveth sinners.

Simple and precious testimony, expressing repentance towards God, and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ! Like David, long before, this sinner confessed: “I have sinned;” and the grace of God responded as it did to him: “The Lord also hath put away thy sin.”

Reader, listen to the word of God: “*For there is no difference: for all have sinned,* and come short of the glory of God.”

“*For there is no difference . . . for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon Him.*” (Rom. iii. 22. 23; x. 12.)

God of all grace!. I gladly own
What in His death thy Christ has done:

What *He* is there upon thy throne,
What Christ is *now*, and Christ alone,
Is all my joyful plea;

He's all *my* trust! *He's* all my boast!

For, since He died to save the *lost*,
I'm sure He died for *me*.