

THE SOWER.

COME!

SINNER, wilt thou come to Jesus!
He is calling now.
Others find in Him forgiveness;
Why not thou?

Sinner, wilt thou come to Jesus?
Shall I tell thee why?
'Twas for *thee* this precious Saviour
Came to die.

'Twas for thee the Well-Beloved
Left his Father's throne;
For He loves thee, and would make thee
All His own.

Jesus bore the Father's anger—
Bore it all for *thee* :
See that cross whereon He suffered—
Come and see!

Thine the sins that nailed the Saviour
To the accursed tree;
Here is full forgiveness for thee,
And for me!

Sinner, *wilt* thou come to Jesus?
Canst thou still delay?
Listen to Him calling, pleading—
Come to-day."

THE GALVESTON DISASTER.

GALVESTON Island is one of a series of low-lying islands that extend along the entire coast of the Gulf of Mexico, and is in the direct path of hurricanes from the West Indies. These storms are very severe and often disastrous. The entire island is only five feet above the sea level, and has had severe storms sweep over it before, in past years, but has had no great disaster until September 8th, 1900. Galveston, the city, is situated on the western end of this island. In 1857 it was buried for several hours under ten feet of water. In 1867 it was almost submerged, and for six times in eight years since then has had repeated narrow escapes from total destruction by storm and flood. The last one of these in 1875 was so violent that it destroyed one end, a waste part, of Galveston Island altogether.

It is estimated that 20,000 persons have been killed and much valuable property has been destroyed, within the century, on the Texas Islands along the coast of the Gulf of Mexico. Galveston, in spite of these warnings, felt secure. Scientific men had repeatedly warned them to move over to the mainland, and make the island merely a port, with only a few persons there in the daytime and none at all at night, but they indignantly refused to listen to such a proposition. It was pointed out to them that although

the city had no great disaster from hurricanes and storms, the total destruction of the city and island by storm, or by flood, was by no means an impossibility but a grave probability liable to occur at any time, because of being in the direct path of the great West India hurricanes, and being almost on a level with the waters of the Gulf backed up by the powerful ocean-tides. But the people fancied themselves secure and heeded not these timely warnings. They were warned again on September 7th by the United States Weather Bureau that a West India hurricane of unusual severity was developing, and the towns and cities of the Gulf coast were directly in its path. They were told to prepare for it, but the people had heard this before and paid no attention to it, but went on as usual with their business and their pursuit of pleasures and pastimes. At 12 o'clock at noon of September 8th the predicted hurricane came. The United States weather observer in Galveston sent out warnings that a storm of unusual severity was indicated. It grew in intensity every hour until at 4 p.m. the wind gauge in the Weather Observatory was smashed. Realizing now that a terrific hurricane was approaching the weather observer ran out through the southern part of the city, imploring people to leave their homes and flee to the centre of the city for safety. But, strange to record it, only a few accepted his words and consequently many

perished. He telegraphed far and wide that Galveston was doomed. That night the prediction of the scientific men came to pass, the hurricane in all its fury burst upon the city and island, and rich, favored and commercially powerful Galveston was a wreck and a vast ruin. The waters of the Gulf had flooded Galveston, the mighty hurricane tore down buildings, destroyed manufactories and docks, warehouses and grain elevators. In one night 5,000 persons at least, it is estimated, were killed in that awful storm of wind and flood.

God is speaking through this Galveston disaster, dear unsaved friend, in deeply significant terms. Does it not come forcibly to you or will it go by unheeded? God is speaking to the whole world. Will the unsaved listen? This world, since the resurrection and ascension of Jesus into heaven, has been told over and over again of Him. Told "that Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust that He might bring us to God" (1 Peter iii. 18.) Told that this same Jesus, who was crucified on Calvary's cross 1900 years ago, and on the third day rose from among the dead, is *now* seated on the right hand of God (Mark xvi. 19.) Told that His blood was "shed for many for the remission of sins" (Matthew xxvi. 28), and "that through this Man is preached unto you the forgiveness of sins; and by Him all that believe are justified from all things, from which

ye could not be justified by the law of Moses" (Acts xiii. 39.) This world has been repeatedly warned that God "hath appointed a day, in the which *He will judge* the world in righteousness by *that Man* whom He hath ordained; whereof He hath given assurance unto all men, in that He hath raised Him from the dead" (Acts xvii. 31.) The day is appointed. The judgment of this world has been set. *The Judge* has been ordained; *He is Jesus*. Judgment is His strange work, but it will come upon this world. "*The great day of the Lord is near, and hasteth greatly, even the voice of the day of the Lord; the mighty man shall cry bitterly. That day is a day of wrath, a day of trouble and distress; a day of darkness and gloominess; a day of clouds and thick darkness; a day of the trumpet and alarm against the fenced cities, and against the high towers. And I will bring distress upon men, that they shall walk like blind men, because they have sinned against the Lord, and their blood shall be poured out as dust, and their flesh as the dung. Neither their silver nor their gold shall be able to deliver them in the day of the Lord's wrath*" (Zephaniah i. 16-18.) *Be warned*. Believe the solemn statements of God's word. Flee from the wrath to come. The Lord Jesus Christ is the only refuge, "a refuge from the storm" (Isaiah xxv. 4.)

His judgments are not yet carried out upon a sinful and Christ rejecting world. Like at

Galveston many believe not the repeated warnings given because it has not yet come. But *it will come*, and when the terrible day comes *christendom's doom is forever sealed*. God in His long suffering mercy has held in abeyance His judgments, because He is "not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" (2 Peter iii. 9.) First, before His judgments are poured out upon this world, He will take all those who are His, all those who believe in Him, out of the world to Himself above (1 Thessalonians iv. 18). When He does come for His church all those who have *not believed* in the Lord Jesus Christ as their only Saviour, will be left behind to go through these awful judgments of that terrible, awful time spoken of in Zephaniah i. 14-18; it will *then* be *too late* for those who have heard the gospel and believed it not. It has been announced in the word of God that "the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, in flaming fire, taking vengeance on them *that know not God*, and that *obey not the gospel* of our Lord Jesus Christ: who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of His power" (11 Thessalonians i. 8-10.) Oh! heed the warning, unsaved friend. Believe that Jesus died for your sins upon the cross, and that He rose again from the dead according to the scriptures, and you will be eternally saved to the glory of God.

THE HEART AND THE HEAD.

SOME time since I received a visit from a gentleman formerly well known in the Roman Catholic church under the name of the Abbe F——.

“We meet,” said he, “as children of God, as believers in the same Saviour.”

I knew him for I had heard him speak at the gospel meeting the previous evening.

“How is it,” I asked, “that you are no longer a priest, nor a Roman Catholic?”

This was his explanation.

“I was a priest for sixteen years, but I can hardly say that I was a Roman Catholic, for up to that time I was an atheist although a priest so many years. It was, for me, simply a profession. When I spoke with other priests as to my convictions and told them that there was no truth in christianity and that I did not believe that there is a God, they replied, that we were not asked to believe anything, only to fulfil the church service, and I was told that I need not have any scruples as to my convictions. Wicked as I was I had been brought up with a sense of honor and it was this that gave me to feel that I could not continue a course which was a lie. I then went to see the bishop and told him that I was an unbeliever and that I could no longer continue to do and say things to deceive. He replied that he could not consider me a good

Catholic but that he hoped I would return to better sentiments. I told him I had no intention of changing my mind and that henceforth I did not wish to be known as a christian but as an atheist. I thereupon severed my connection with the church of Rome.

A short time after a Protestant pastor of Paris heard of me and invited me to come to his house and read the bible with him. I was willing to learn what the Protestants had to say and so I accepted his invitation. I found him a man of ability, well instructed, and I could not reply to his arguments. Nevertheless the effect of his explanations was to convince me more than ever that there is no God. I hardly know why I continued to visit him, but I did so for several months.

One day, in one of the streets of Paris, a poor man, in shabby clothes with a bundle on his back met me and said: "Sir, do you know that you are a sinner and that Jesus is the Saviour of sinners? Go straight to Him and He will save you?"

Taken by surprise I did not answer a word, but returned directly home. I shut myself up in my room, I cast myself on my knees and I turned to Christ. At that moment I knew He was there and that He loved me with an inexpressible love. There He saved me. I was full of gratitude and happiness, and I could not but praise God.

When I came to myself, I said: How is this? An hour ago I did not believe in the existence of God and now I know Him, and I am conscious that He loves me. I did not need to be convinced, for He was there Himself.

The next day I found the pastor and said to him: Jesus has saved me. He looked at me with astonishment and then said: 'At last you are convinced!' No, I replied, I did not need to be convinced. He has saved me Himself, I see it all now. He has opened my eyes, He has pardoned my sins and given me eternal life. I then recounted my meeting with the poor man. To my great surprise he looked up at me with a strange expression of displeasure, and said: 'You have refused to believe what I have said to you, and now you believe what a poor shabby man has said whom you have met in the street!'

I beg your pardon, sir, I said, it was not the poor man whom I believed, but God. If God has been pleased to speak by the mouth of a poor man, He can do so, it is God who has spoken to me. You see the pastor, well intentioned as he was, had spent several months in trying to convince my *mind* but he had failed to see that my *heart* was miserable. The words uttered by the poor man had gone straight to my heart, and my heart was turned to Christ. The Lord has received me and has filled me with His love and peace. And now for ten years I have been preaching the precious gospel."

"Have you ever again seen the poor man?"

"Yes, one day, to my great joy I met him. I learned that he was a colporteur and sold bibles. Ah! I said, you have never done a better day's work than when you stopped me in the street and told me to go straight to Jesus. I have often seen him since and I regard him as my best friend. I have seen many, many more led to Christ by the same message, for there are many hearts as wretched as mine was, and Christ is the Saviour of all the wretched and of all the lost who come to Him."

"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved." Despise not His long suffering mercy. (Romans ii. 5.)

"COME UNTO ME."

C alling to souls in the "far off land,"
O pening hearts with a pierced hand,
M ingling wine with the water of life,
E agerly snatching from sin and strife.

U pon the perishing sons of clay
N ow Jesus pours love's glorious ray,
T ell me, oh! heart of sin and pain,
O h! tell me, shall it be in vain?

M ercy and love still twine for thee
E ternal wreaths. "Come unto Me."

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IS YOUR NAME WRITTEN IN THE BOOK
OF LIFE?

A WOMAN eighty-four years of age gave us one day the following history:

“When I was nineteen years of age one of my young friends persuaded me to go with her to hear a preacher who was well known in those days. He took for his text: *“Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven”* (Luke x. 20.) The preacher in his discourse set forth the blessings and the precious privileges of those who, by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, have become children of God. Alas! I knew well that was not my case, I had neither rest of heart nor peace of conscience, still I greatly desired to possess these blessings of which I heard him speak. “Ah,” I sighed “if only my name was written in heaven.”

Just at this moment the preacher cried out:

“Perhaps there is some one here, a sinner, who would like to have an assurance of the name being written in heaven.” And then, with accents full of love and sympathy he addressed all who up to that moment had lived without a desire to receive Jesus as their Saviour, and who, on that account, had neither peace nor joy.

These words were just what I needed, they described exactly my case, but I was not yet wholly broken down. It was not that I did not accept the fact that I was powerless for good. But God did not abandon me. He made the light of the truth to shine into my soul, and little by little I came to realize my state of guiltiness, and how deserving of condemnation I was in the presence of a just and holy God.

Then Satan, that great enemy of souls sought to frighten me by suggesting that I was too bad, that never a sinner as wicked as I was had received from God salvation and peace. Thus for several months he succeeded in retaining me in his fetters.

At length I could hold out no longer, I was unhappy and distressed on account of my sins, and I cast myself down before the Lord and implored His compassion. Then I found peace and consolation by faith in the sacrifice of Christ, offered for me upon the cross, and accepted by God for me. Thus I obtained deliverance and by the word of the Spirit of God I acquired in my heart the assurance that God had received me as His child. Oh! what joy filled my soul. Now I knew without any doubt that my name also was written in heaven, inscribed in the book of life. My conscience was purified from all sin by the precious blood of Christ, which I knew had been shed for me,

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Sixty-five years have passed away since that happy moment, and by the power and the mercy of God I have been kept in the straight path of faith. All is pure grace, and it is always precious for me to be able to bear witness for the Lord and to His love before all whom He gives me to meet in my path, for, for such there could be nothing happier than to learn what the Saviour God has done for them in order that their names also might be written in heaven."

And now my dear reader allow me to address the same pressing question to you. Is your name written in heaven? Can you rejoice in the consciousness of it? If you cannot answer in the affirmative, have you a desire for it? It can only be through Christ Himself. If you come to Him as a repentant sinner; if by faith you lay hold of the efficacy of His sacrifice to take away your sins from before God, then you are one of those blessed ones whose names are written in heaven. The word to the overcomer is: "I will not blot out his name out of the book of life," but on the other side weigh this:

"And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened; and another book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works * * * and whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire (Rev. xx. 12-15.)

THE SPY.

EVERY one has heard of the civil war, which, in the days of Lincoln, for several years desolated the United States and which had for its results the abolition of slavery in that country. During this war a man in the southern army was chosen and sent by the general as a spy into the northern army. Spies as a class are not treated with much consideration when they are discovered. This man was taken, the court martial summarily passed sentence on him, he was to be shot. He was placed temporarily in the guard-house, but whenever anyone entered his cell to bring him his rations he vomited forth a broadside of curses against President Lincoln. The soldiers were indignant, some spoke of shooting him on the spot, others of stopping his food to let him die of hunger. Shortly after he was transferred to another prison. The time for his execution had arrived when an officer of the northern army entered his cell. The spy, always furious, believed that his last hour had come. "CALM YOURSELF," said the officer, "I BRING YOU A PARDON. PRESIDENT LINCOLN HAS ACCORDED IT TO YOU, YOU MAY RETURN TO YOUR FAMILY."

The prisoner, theretofore full of rage and bitterness calmed himself suddenly, and said: "LINCOLN HAS PARDONED ME? WHY IS THAT? I HAVE NEVER SPOKEN A WORD OF GOOD OF HIM."

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"IF YOU WERE PUNISHED AS YOU DESERVE," said the officer, "YOU WOULD BE SHOT AS YOU DESERVE, BUT SOMEONE HAS PLEADED YOUR CAUSE AT WASHINGTON AND OBTAINED YOUR PARDON, YOU ARE FREE?"

This act of kindness broke the heart of the spy, his hatred and anger suddenly ceased, and one who knew him and recounts the incident, said many years after: "No one may say in his presence a single word against President Lincoln. No person in the United States is more attached to him."

This spy had not *deserved* pardon, on his side there was only hatred and revolt, but there was compassion in the heart of the chief of state, and that was why grace was accorded him. It is the same with the grace of God; it is mercy *unmerited*. God does not wait until we have done certain things before pardoning us. He pardons us freely without demanding anything for it. Pardon is obtained through Jesus Christ. "Without shedding of blood there is no remission" (Heb. x. 22); but Christ has shed His blood as a sacrifice for the whole world, and the gospel is nothing else than a proclamation of free salvation to a wicked and rebellious world. This is the means God uses to touch the hearts of His enemies. When the Lord sent the apostle Paul to the Gentiles it was with this message: "To open their eyes, and to turn

them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins" (Acts xxvi. 18), and Paul, faithful to his mission, went from city to city saying that we are "justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus" (Rom. iii. 24.) Peter also (Acts x. 43) says, "whosoever believeth in Him shall receive remission of sins." You then may know this faith in Jesus Christ if you have realized your condition and desire the forgiveness of your sins.

IF a person is a believer in Christ, what does he gain? He gains the pardon of all his sins.

What more does he gain? He gains acceptance with God.

Anything more? Yes, the Holy Spirit to sanctify him.

Anything more? Yes, all things become blessings. The curse is turned into a blessing.

Anything more? Yes, all the strength he needs by the way, and then an entrance into paradise.

Anything more? Yes, the resurrection of the body, made like unto Christ's glorious body.

Anything more? Yes, to sit with Christ on His throne—to reign with Him.

Anything more? I will tell you at the end of eternity.