



HITHERTO

When our soul is much discouraged
 By the roughness of the way;
 And the cross we have to carry,
 Seems the heavier day by day;
 When some cloud that overshadows,
 Hides our Father's face from view,
 Oh, 'tis well then to remember,
 He has blessed us hitherto.
 Looking back the long years over,
 What a varied path! And yet
 All the way his hand has led us,
 Placed each hindrance we have met;
 Given to us the pleasant places,
 Cleared us all the journey through,
 Passing through the deepest waters,
 He has blessed us hitherto.
 Surely then our souls should trust him,
 Though the clouds be dark o'erhead;
 We've a Friend that draweth closer
 When all other friends have fled.
 When our pilgrimage is over,
 And the gates we're sweeping through,
 We shall see with clearer vision
 How he's blessed us hitherto.

—Frances R. Havergal.

PREACHING WITH A HOT HEART

A story is told of a Chinese convert, who once remarked in a conversation with a missionary, "We want men with hot hearts to tell us of the love of Christ." Here is a principle that might be more elegantly expressed; but the secret of successful work, especially in the presentation of Scripture truth, is here revealed. Most assuredly the heart of the preacher should always be in sympathy with his message, and should be kindled by it. If your theme, my brother, is the "Coming of Christ," your heart will glow with it. It will be a hot heart. There will be a warmth of spiritual atmosphere surrounding you which others must feel and recognize. Your heart

will burn with zeal that will lead you to beseech men "earnestly with tears" to prepare for the solemn hour which is just before us!

Argument, method, rhetoric, gesture, all have their place; but it is the hot heart that makes these effective. Instruction in sound doctrine gives the fuel for your fire of truth, but the heart kindles it, turns it into words that burn. My dear brethren, let me beseech you to enter not upon the work of the gospel ministry as the men of the world make a choice of the various professions in this life. It is true that a large share of the preaching in the world to-day has degenerated into a mere profession; but if your heart burns hot with a message of mercy to give to the world, you will soon recognize the fact preaching cannot be picked up as a man chooses one of the professions in the world.

Men who have met Jesus somewhere along the road in this life, and who have received from him a message of truth, soon find that message sinking to the very depths of their soul, and creating there a real passion or travail for soul-winning.

If you, my brother, have no passion for souls, if your heart does not yearn greatly to see men everywhere brought to a saving knowledge of the third angel's message, then don't assume the role of a preacher. A minister of the gospel whose heart is filled with the Holy Spirit, and who is zealous for souls, who set all else aside as vain and profitless, will always be found active in every good Christian work, and will labor continually with every art and skill and resource at his command to win souls into the kingdom of Christ. It is the travail for souls which Christ has, See Isa. 58: 11. And nothing short of this zeal for souls will make our preaching a success from a heavenly viewpoint.

M. C. S.

If I am building a mountain, and stop before the last basketful of earth is placed on the summit, I have failed.—Confucius.

"The bee that gets the honey doesn't loaf around the hive."

OUR TALENTS.

Besides the talents which are received through and embraced in the gift of the Holy Spirit there are various natural talents or endowments of which all possess more or less. According to the parable everything with which God entrusts us to be used for the advancement of His cause and the benefit of our fellowmen is a talent. Our talents may vary largely in different individuals. One may not be greatly blessed with the spiritual gifts of the Holy Spirit but all have more or less of the natural gifts of man. These natural endowments and blessings we should cultivate and train in order to make them perfect in the highest degree,—to make them manifest to the world the character of God and the life of Christ. Every organ of the body and quality of mind must be trained toward the highest standard of perfection.

All these natural or inherent talents are given us of God, but we will be accountable for the way in which they are trained and developed and to properly do this we need the special help and blessing of God. In so doing we shall have many a severe struggle with self against inherited tendencies to do wrong. All depends on our decision. If we will to overcome and attain perfection, we may be assured of success. If we become discouraged and give up the struggle God can not help us.

God has endowed us with mind and mental faculties which He expects to be properly trained for His service. By reading His own word, our spiritual guide, we shall be able to develop this talent, as well as by the study of the good Christian literature which God has graciously given us as a people. All should seek to obtain the higher education through a training of the mental faculties.

To every one God has given the gift of speech. Few have been denied this gift. Are we using our power of speech for the advancement of our Master's Kingdom? Do we love to talk of His soon coming to others who know it not? We should endeavor to train and cultivate the voice so as to read or speak in the most effective way possible that souls may be won for Christ. Never should the marvelous gift of speech be used to express corrupt or debasing thoughts but always the high and holy, the pure and noble.

Whether we realize it or not all do have an influence. This must be the one talent. Either for good or evil all have this endowment. This is a great responsibility. We must live so that our influence shall speak silently yet forcibly for Christ.

Through our words, our acts, our dress, our behavior, the expression of the countenance we exercise this gift unconsciously. Let us pray for divine wisdom that it may be exercised aright.

Every one also has the gift of time. All have some time they can call their own. How is this talent improved? Is it used in idleness and thrown away or hidden in the ground. Our time should be occupied in study or active service for the Master in pointing souls to Christ. Christ's life was filled with earnest activity not to please Himself but to win souls for God's Kingdom, and He is our example.

Another talent which all unfortunately do not possess is that blessing of which few who possess it appreciate the full value. Much, however, depends on this blessing of health. We who possess it should realize the responsibility which rests on us to guard carefully to our health and remember that we owe a duty to God in the care of our own bodies which belong God. I Cor. 6; 20.

Many possess physical strength and we are to serve God with all our strength. The man who engages in physical work—manual labor—the tradesman, the mechanic, should so perform the duties of his calling that the world may see and know that he is serving God in his daily avocation. "Whether we eat or drink or whatsoever we do, do all to the glory of to God."

To some God has entrusted that talent of money. Money itself is not the root of all evil but it is the, "love of money" which Timothy says is the root of all evil. Those who possess means should remember that they are God's stewards and are responsible to Him for the right use of their means. Money properly used is a power to accomplish much good.

It should not be hoarded but given to help advance God's suffering cause.

Kindly impulses, affection, generosity etc., and other characteristics which might be mentioned are possessed more or less by all. One who has none of these is surely most depraved. These talents should be used not merely for our friends and immediate family but for all whom we can help and thus we shall assist in advancing the kingdom of God on the earth.

All our talents are increased and multiplied by use and lost by disuse and God will hold us accountable for our use of these talents. *B. B. Aldrich.*

Elder R. C. Porter and W. S. Hyatt recently visited Basutoland, where H. E. Emerson and H. C. Olmstead are carrying forward a good work. At Kolo a herd of splendid cows has been added to the equipment to make the mission largely self-supporting. In North Basutoland fruit and vegetable growing has been made the principle industry. Brother Porter says: "We visited the big chief Jonathon (in North Basutoland) and were made very welcome in his home, and he seemed very friendly toward our work. So far as we can see he is doing all he can for us."

NOW IS THE TIME.

There are times in the History of the work of God when certain fields demand *immediate attention and prompt working.*

I am fully convinced, as I read the messages that have come to us in the last fifteen years, that this is true of the work for the colored people of this country.

The reasons given for this are because "elements are at work that will close the field to this message."

It would be pleasing to the enemy if he could prevent us from realizing the importance of the situation until he has had time to entirely close the work. The Lord calls upon us to take hold with renewed earnestness without delay.

Here are some quotations from Test. Vol. 9. "The powers of hell are working with all their ingenuity to prevent the proclamation of the last message of mercy among the colored people."

"The Spirit of God is being withdrawn from the world; and in many places it is impossible now to do that work which could have been done for the colored people in past years."

"For many years I have borne a heavy burden in behalf of the negro race. My heart has ached as I have seen the feeling against this race growing stronger and still stronger, and I have seen that many Seventh-day Adventists are apparently unable to understand the necessity for an earnest work being done quickly. Years are passing into eternity with apparently little done to help those who were recently a race of slaves."

"Most decided efforts should be made to educate and train colored men and women to labor as missionaries in the Southern States of America. Christian colored students should be preparing to give the truth to their own race."

"There is the greatest need for all kind of missionary work in the South. Without delay workers must be prepared for this. Our people should provide a fund for the education of men and women in the Southern States, who, being accustomed to the climate, can work there without endangering their health."

"Promising young men and women should be educated to become teachers. They should have the very best advantages. School-houses and meeting-houses should be built in different places, and teachers employed."

"Our churches in the North, as well as in the South, should do what they can to help support the school should be faithfully maintained. The establishment of new schools will require additional funds. Let all

our brethren and sisters do their part whole-heartedly to place these schools on vantage ground."

Now is the time to take courage and hope, and redouble our efforts to finish the work. God is blessing the efforts put forth. Over three hundred accepted the truth last year. Our workers are of good courage and pressing forward to do a greater work this year.

We need the moral and financial help of all of our people.

A. J. Haysmer.

61 Lindsley Ave,
Nashville, Tenn.

EVIL THOUGHTS

"We shall not be hanged for our thoughts" cries one. I wish that such idle talkers would remember that they will be damned for their thoughts; and that instead of evil thoughts being less sinful than evil acts, it may sometimes happen that the man may be worse in thought than in deed. He may not be able to carry out all the mischief that lurks within his designs, and yet in forming the design he may incur all the guilt. Thoughts are the eggs of words and actions; and within the thoughts lie, compact and condensed, all the villianly of actual transgression. If men would more carefully watch their thoughts, they would not so readily fall into evil habits; but men first indulge thoughts of evil, and then the imagination of evil; nor is the process stayed there. Picturing it before their mind's eye, they excite their own desires after it; these grow into a thirst, and kindle into a passion. Then the deed is speedily forth coming; it was long in hatching, but in a moment it comes forth to curse a whole lifetime.

Instead of fancying that evil thoughts are mere trifles, let us regard them as the root of bitterness—the still in which the poisonous spirit is manufactured. Our Saviour puts evil thoughts first in the catalogue of evil things; and he well knew their nature. If we would be lost, we have only to indulge these thoughts. If we would be saved, we must conquer them. Let us make a conscience of our thoughts; he that does not do so will not long make a conscience of his words or deeds.—Rev. C. H. Spurgeon.

"On a recent Sabbath I told them that I would go there to-day myself. 'But there is no road' insisted a leading teacher. 'We must find one then' was my reply. Great was my surprise, after a walk of an hour and half only, to find a group of fine native huts inhabited by some thirty people, some of whom had never seen a white man nor heard the preaching of God's Word. Then we told them the simple story of the Christ for the first time. How many like places are yet in the world?"

GENERAL MEETINGS

The General meetings to be held at Syracuse, Schenectady, and Adams Center will be important gatherings. Subjects will be discussed that will be of interest to each and every Church throughout the Conference. These will not only be of interest to the Church Elders but to every individual who can plan to be present. While they are called Church Elders meetings, we would not have anyone get the idea that these meetings are planned to seclude the rest of the laity. We would be pleased to see a large gathering from each and every Church surrounding these three central places.

We are promised help from the Atlantic Union Conference, and there will be several of the Conference laborers present at each of these meetings.

All who are planning to attend the Syracuse meeting should write Mr. Wm. Clayton, 607 Avery Ave., Syracuse, N. Y. Those planning to attend the Schenectady meeting should write to Henry Shatley, 1 Altamont Ave., Schenectady, N. Y. Those attending the Adams Center meeting should write to L. H. Gardner, Adams Center, N. Y.

We desire to impress upon the minds of all our people that we have reached the time in the history of this work when we should study plans and methods relative to the advancement of the Third Angel's Message in our large cities. To do this we must be organized for service. Come and let us study these principles together, that God may give us wisdom and much of His Spirit to carry them into effect.

Remember this invitation is extended to each and every one. I desire to ask those coming to bring a well filled basket, so that they can take lunch at the Church, Sabbath and Sunday. By this means we will not have to go home for our dinner. Don't forget this part of the program.

J. W. Lair.

A FACT NEVER DISPUTED

The Old Testament was written by Jews in the Hebrew language. This fact has never been disputed, by any one, unbiased on the subject. None have ever claimed these writings as their production, but the ancient prophets. The language shows that it could not have been written later than 500 B. C. as the Hebrew language ceased to be the living language of the Jews soon after the Babylonian captivity, and the Jewish productions after that time were either in Chaldaic or Greek. About the year 281 B. C. the Old Testament was translated from the Hebrew into the Greek language.—Selected.

ITEMS OF INTEREST

Brother and Sister H. F. Taylor are conducting meetings in Hudson Falls. There seems to be a good interest.

Sister Wittmeyer of Schenectady recently fell breaking two ribs and receiving a nervous shock. We trust she will speedily recover.

We regret to learn that on January 19th Brother D. D. Town of Watertown was thrown from a load of hay, breaking his leg between the hip and knee. We are glad to know that he is doing well and is of good courage in the Lord.

The Rome Church have organized A Missionary Society and are planning for aggressive work here in the city. The young people have also organized and held their first meeting Sabbath afternoon. The service was well attended.

We fear some of our good brethren will think we are slow in answering their letters, but we have been hindered by the repairs that are being made in the office. All matters will be attended to and we will soon be better equipped to do all business connected with our Conference Work.

Elder E. L. Cardery arrived in Rome Friday noon. He preached in the Rome church Sabbath. His earnest words were timely. We welcome him to our Conference and believe his work will be a blessing here. He went on to Albany Sunday.

A discouraged person thinks no one has so hard a time as himself. You remember the story of the superior being who commanded all who had burdens to bring them to one place, and pick out other burdens which suited them better. And all people came running and pitched their burdens into the pile, caught up some other burden, and were off with it. Not long after they all came back looking for their own burdens,—they knew how to bear them; the new burdens they did not know how to bear. In case of discouragement there are two sides,—you, and the discouragement. It is a question of which is the stronger, which is going to win. The Spirit of prophecy says that the "Lord Jesus Christ refused to be discouraged." He went through the world misunderstood, unappreciated, and persecuted; but He lived His life and accomplished His purpose successfully.

"Fearest sometimes that the Father hath forgot?
Though the clouds about thee gather, doubt him not;

Always hath the daylight broken,
Always hath he comfort spoken;
Better hath he been for years than thy tears."