

The Winning of Margaret.

(CONTINUED FROM LAST WEEK.)

"WE are very glad to welcome you to our home," said Mrs. Donaldson, after she had introduced the missionaries to the family, and all were comfortably seated. "My old mother is especially interested in the subject of the coming of the Lord."

"I am indeed glad to see the servants of the King," said grandma. "I hope you ha' a message to bear us in regard to Christ's second coming. I see you ha' brought your Bible with you. Please tell us, do you think there will be a millennium before the coming of the Lord?"

The missionary said: "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, truce breakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors, heady, high minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof; from such turn away. This certainly does not look as if the millennium precedes the coming of Jesus."

"But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noe entered into the ark, and knew not until the flood came and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be," read the missionary. "These are words of our Lord Himself as to the conditions of society."

"Oh, but you can prove anything by the Bible, by taking isolated passages!" said Mr. McClaren. "Pray, sir, does not the Bible plainly state that this Gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world before the coming of Christ?"

"Please turn to the passage in Matt. xxiv, 14, and read it, Mr. McClaren."

"This Gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come," read Mr. McClaren.

"It is to be preached for a witness; but that is not the same as saying that all the world will be converted. The world will be left without an excuse, because God will give to every kindred, nation and tongue the opportunity to make sure of eternal life. There will be people gathered from all nations to swell the Savior's praises throughout eternity."

"But your views of the millennium are certainly out of harmony

with the teachings of the great religionists of the age. Does not the word of God say: 'Ask of Me and I will give Thee the heathen for Thine inheritance and the uttermost parts of the earth for Thy possession?'"

"Yes, Mr. McClaren, and it tells in the next verse that they are given for sure destruction. Turn to the second psalm. You have quoted the eighth verse; and I will ask you to read the ninth."

"Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; Thou shalt dash them to pieces like a potter's vessel," read Mr. McClaren. "Yes, but there are other passages that throw a different light upon this subject. There is a statement in Micah that plainly says that the whole world is to be brought into a state of peace and righteousness."

"Let us turn to the passage," said the missionary. "It is found in the fourth chapter. Mr. McClaren, will you read from the first to the fourth verse?"

"But in the last days it shall come to pass that the mountain of the house of the Lord shall be established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hill; and people shall flow into it. And many nations shall come and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord and to the house of the God of Jacob; and He will teach us of His ways, and we will walk in His paths; for the law shall go forth of Zion and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. And He shall judge among many people and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more."

"There, didn't I tell you that the nations were going to settle their difficulties by arbitration, and that Tennyson's dream was coming true? The nations are not to learn war any more," said Bertha. "Now, Ralph, what have you to say to that?"

"Let us hear what the missionary has to say to that. He is the controversialist on this occasion."

"Not so," said the missionary. The controversy is between the opinions and traditions of men and the Word of God."

"Let us hear the plain Word of God," said Mrs. Donaldson.

"Let us study this prophecy a little more carefully. I would ask you to answer this question: Who is responsible for the saying that the nations will not learn war any more, God or the people? Please read the beginning of the second verse."

Ralph looked over Mr. McClaren's Bible and read: 'And many nations shall come and say.' It is the people who say these things," said Ralph.

"Yes, you have the Word of God for that. The prophet hears what the nations will be saying in the last days. I would like to ask you if you have heard anything of this import? Is not the very fact that men are proclaiming that there will be a thousand years of peace, that the difficulties between nations will be settled by arbitration, that we will beat these murderous war weapons into implements of industry, a proof that Micah heard aright the sayings of men in the last days?" asked the missionary.

"It looks very clear," said Ralph. "But this is new light to me."

"To those who will hear his messenger of peace, a messenger of peace is sent," said the servant of the Lord; "but to those who will not hear, his judgments come. When the judgments of the Lord are in the land, the wicked learn righteousness."

"Will the dear Lord himself come, or is his coming spiritual, as I have heard some argue?" asked Mrs. Donaldson.

"It is himself, his own dear self, who will appear. Please read John xiv. 1-3."

"Let not your heart be troubled; ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also."

"Oh, how precious is that scripture to me," said grandma. "To think that he has gone to prepare a place for me. I shall never feel in the way, for he will prepare for me a place."

"To further answer the question as to the personal advent of our Lord, let us read 2 Thess. iv. 16, 17. 'The Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the arch-angel, and with the trump of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first; then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air; and so shall we ever be with the Lord.'"

"My husband and father and our beloved dead will be with the company who will be caught up to meet the Lord in the air," said Mrs. Donaldson.

"Yes; those whom our enemy, death, has severed from us, will be united to us in the eternal union there is in Christ Jesus. It will then be proved that love can not lose its own. What a day that will be of heavenly joy and earthly anguish! Then the hymn will be proved true—

We shall sleep, but not forever,
There will be a glorious dawn;
We shall wake to weep, no, never,
On the resurrection morn."

Then will be brought to pass the

saying that is written, 'O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?'"

"Praise the Lord!" exclaimed grandma.

"And will every one see the coming of the Lord?"

"Every eye shall see him," says John."

"I wonder how it will look," said Margaret.

"Jesus says, 'For as the lightning comes out of the east, and shineth even unto the west, so shall also the coming of the son of man be.' And no wonder his coming will be thus glorious; for then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory, and all his holy angels will be with him."

"How many angels do you suppose there are?" asked Bertha.

"John, who saw them in holy vision, says that there are ten thousand thousands of thousands. The whole firmament will be bright with angelic forms, and the earth will be dumb before that spectacle of heavenly majesty. The sign of the son of man will be unspeakably bright. What a sight will the coming of the Lord present! The dead will be called forth from land and sea, and will stand upon their feet, an exceeding great army. The living and the dead will be changed and glorified. The faces we have seen in the pallor of death will bloom with immortal beauty, and we which are alive and remain will reflect the image of Jesus, and be caught up in angels' arms to share the glory which Christ had with the father before the worlds were made.

"O that wondrous, unknown journey,
Past the blazing worlds on high!
We shall greet the happy planets
As our train goes sweeping by.
All the worlds through space will know it
When, no longer sad and lone,
We shall sing with harping angels,
And the Lord reclaims his own."

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

The Incentive to Prayer.

Georgia—Do you folks ever have family prayers before breakfast?

Albert.—No; we only have prayers before we go to bed. We ain't afraid in the daytime.

He Should Have Been.

Mama.—Well, Edie, what did you see at church?

Edie.—A man came in with his nightgown on, and was so 'shamed he hid his face in his hands 'fore he could say a word.

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