

The Cheerful Giver.

Our gifts are valuable to God, not in proportion to the amount of dollars and cents which they may contain, but according to the depth of love which they express and the amount of self-sacrifice which they manifest. Weighed by this rule the widow's mite out-weighed all else in the treasury. This generation have almost lost sight of the principle of action which David manifested when Araunah offered to give him the threshing floor instruments and oxen to offer to God. "Nay, but I will surely buy it of thee at that price; neither will I offer burnt offerings unto the Lord my God of that which dost cost me nothing." There is a growing disposition on the part of the church to induce the world to assist in bearing its financial burdens.

The Lord loveth a cheerful giver; not one that gives grudgingly or of necessity, but willingly and abundantly. Not the lame, the halt, the blind, the clothes so poor you couldn't possibly wear them yourself; not the money that chances to be left after full provision made for personal needs and wants. There is money enough in Christendom to spread the Gospel through the entire world within a twelve month. There are enough able-bodied men and women to accomplish the task in a very small space of time, and if some should fall in martyrdom, or a prey to the diseases of a foreign clime, there would be plenty of others to fill their places, if only the spirit of self-giving to God were prominent.

Even those who claim that a proclamation of the Gospel of the kingdom to all the world must precede its establishment, are loth to make much real sacrifice for the accomplishment of the work. Missionaries of this class are comparatively few in number, and in general very poorly supported. A few noble souls there are who would suffer even death itself to rescue the perishing, but the masses walk after the lust of the eyes and the flesh. They never get enough to eat, drink, chew, smoke and wear, and consequently seldom can spare anything for religious or benevolent purposes. We know of a man who, though able, refused to give anything for missionary purposes lest he should hasten on the great catastrophe (the end of the world), for he knew that Christ had said when the Gospel was preached in all the world the end should come.

We apprehend there are not many overanxious for this event. Dr. W. P. Mackay preaching to some British officers and soldiers one day, inquired, "If Queen Victoria should issue a proclamation, and placing it in the hands of her army and navy should say, 'I wish you to go into all the world and proclaim it to every creature,' how long do you suppose it would take to do it? Do you think it would require 1800 years?" Those men, accustomed to obeying orders even at the peril of life, smiled at the question; and after he had concluded one of the officers said to him, "I think we could manage it in about eighteen months."

Let us give the Gospel to the perishing. Give sermons, exhortations, prayers, books, papers and tracts. Give bread to the hungry, clothes to the naked, and give all to Christ.—*Ec.*

Unsurpassable.

L. B. PHETTEPLACE.

We have a matchless Savior. There is none like he who hung upon the cross, was buried and rose again. One who invented a new religion for the acceptance of the people, complained of the slow progress of the same, whereupon he was told it would be vastly helpful to his cause if he would allow himself to be crucified, buried, and then should rise from the dead. Language is not adequate to the task of portraying the power, work and character of the Son of God. In blank amazement we listen to his words and mark their mighty power, yet can only exclaim, "What manner of man is this?" Discase and death shrink abashed at his presence, devils leave their heart-abodes, tears give place to smiles upon faces upturned to him for help and consolation.

Many false Christs have arisen, but their works and power have been naught, and their names even are only known to the careful student. But a knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ hath spread from pole to pole. The most horribly profane are as familiar with it as with the alphabet.

The word of God, the revelation he hath made to man, contains all the excellency of knowledge. The thoughts of the all-wise God are as far above the mind of man as the heaven is above the earth. The book of Mormon, the works of Mahommed, Darwin's theory or Robert Ingersoll's religion of reason,

are of no account whatever. Their ideas are of too late origin to be the religion of the race. The benefit received from any or all of them is not equal to the shelter of Jonah's gourd. They spring up in a night and are withered in a day, and afford no abiding comfort to the traveler oppressed with noon-day's scorching heat. But the word of God endureth throughout all generations. It hath existed in our world six thousand years, and will abide forever, and they who believe its teachings will enjoy rest and life after the voices of the contentious shall be stilled in death.

When David was fleeing from the wrath of King Saul he came to Abimelech the priest, desiring him to give him a sword. The priest replied that he had none save that of Goliath, with which David had cut off the giant's head. David replied, "There is none like that, give it me." With that sword in his hand he would constantly keep in mind the victory which God had given him over Israel's foe, and thus he would be kept courageous and trustful and able to accomplish wondrous victories.

But the warfare of the people of God with carnal weapons is ended, and a spiritual equipment is needful for the conflict in which we engage, and for this nothing is so efficient as the "sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God." Goliath's sword in his own hand accomplished naught, but in David's possession it was powerful; even so the Word in the hand of scoffers and infidels seems bereft of its power; but when noble men like the apostles wield it, in demonstration of the Spirit of God, the effect is marvelous and great.

The rest and peace which Jesus gives are invaluable possessions in quality and quantity, far superior to any of earthy origin. Not as the world giveth does he give unto us, but freely, abundantly, without money or price. The clear waters that burst from underneath the cross satisfy the thirsting, aching, restless heart, as nothing else can do.

"For burdened ones a resting place
Beside that cross I see,
I here cast off my weariness—
No rest like this for me."

The mansions prepared by Christ no architect can excel. The beauty of the city, its streets, rivers, fruits and flowers surpass in loveliness and grandeur the Eden of the past. The glory of the throne in the midst thereof is far too bright to be

viewed by mortal eyes, and the veil of blue shuts out its beams until immortality shall fit us for the revelation.

We here sojourn in tents, pilgrims to the better land, but each night we pitch a day's march nearer home; and when we reach the city fair how striking will be the contrast between the New Jerusalem and the cities whose builders were but men. Beautiful for situation and the joy of the whole earth shall be that whose Builder and Maker is God.

Are we anxious for the possession of the unsurpassable treasure? Shall we, like David, say, "Give it me?" In other matters we are anxious to obtain the superior article, if it be but the food we eat or the clothes we wear. Shall the best knowledge, the best rest and joy, the most beautiful and only eternal home, the only Savior be ours? God extends them to us in his own loving hand, even urging their acceptance upon us. May we lay hold of and hold fast the precious treasure.—*Ec.*

The Christian Life a Conflict.

The peace which the Bible offers is peace in war. When through the atonement we are reconciled to God, his enemies become ours. By our very act of submission we are consciously enlisted on his side to fight under Christ's banner against all forms of evil in the world, the flesh, and the devil, and are thereby pledged to a life-long struggle with the powers of darkness. The past is indeed forgotten and blotted out from the book of God's remembrance; but our natural corruption remains. Both our own hearts and the society in which we move are now the scenes of never ending conflict with sin. The Christian is therefore of necessity a wrestler, a runner, a soldier; and the church of Christ is an army militant here on earth, marching under the great Captain of our salvation, and contending, as he contended, "against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places." Eph. vi. 12. Accordingly, for this purpose we are exhorted to put on the armor of God. The graces which compose the perfection of the believer's character are thus fitly compared to the panoply that secures him from the fiery assaults of evil and the evil one. This armor we must, by prayer and the use of all appointed means, put on; and never put it off until every foe be vanquished and Christ be Lord indeed.—*Monthly Tract.*