

were unable to do anything. In many respects our trip was a pleasant one, and in others not so pleasant. The one thought of being away so long from a young family that need the constant care of a father, was a weight upon our mind by day and by night. In our journeyings we saw some of the selfish and rough side of life.

These with our ill health detracted somewhat from the pleasure to be derived from such a tour. But our lot in this world, no matter how dark it may be, has its bright side, and so had ours in this case. We

found many kind friends, who stood by us in our trials and proved themselves to be friends indeed; and on more than one occasion when our illness rendered us nearly helpless they came to our relief with more than good words. Their deeds will not soon be forgotten.

We reached home on Lord's day, just as the people were returning from the house of God. Our family looked for us somewhat on Saturday evening; but as we failed to reach home that evening they had given us up until Monday; so in the end we had the satisfaction of taking them by surprise; and our readers can imagine what kind of a surprise it was. We found Mrs. M. and our four children all well, and able to be at church and Sunday-school. We have always made it a point to take our children to the house of God, when they were able to go, and this duty was not neglected by their devoted mother in our absence. And while they are under our control, we believe as parents, it is our duty to see that they are thus brought under the influence of the gospel of Christ.

The last part of our journey was much pleasanter than the first, owing to the fact that we did not have so many "roughs" in our car. The weather during the entire trip was all that we could desire. We encountered no storm, the weather being clear nearly the entire journey, and much milder than we anticipated. We expected, coming out of the mild climate as we did of the Willamette valley, to suffer considerably with the cold; but we really enjoyed the cold part of it. About the deepest snow we encountered on the entire route was in Idaho, and we judged from what we could see along in the woods from the car window that it was not more than a foot deep. All

along the Yellow Stone valley there was scarcely any, and along in Dakota there was enough to make good sleighing. We were much pleased with the vast prairies of Dakota. It certainly is capable of becoming a great State. We spent one day in St. Paul and Minniapolis. We had never been there before, and from what we had

heard of them, expected to find fine cities, and we can assure our readers that we were not disappointed. We know of no place that we feel we would rather make our home in than in Minniapolis. It is destined to be a great city. It is true that it is in a cold climate; but we have less prejudice against cold climates than some of our Oregon friends, for instance. We have lived the greater part of our life in very cold countries, and we do not see that people suffer much more from cold in them than those do who live in milder climates.

While in Minniapolis we hunted up Enos Campbell, pastor of the Christian church there, and spent a most pleasant and profitable hour in his company. We had before met him. He is a brother of J. C. Campbell, of Junction city, and one of our best and purest men. It is indeed a feast to be in the society of such an intelligent and godly man. He reports the little church in Minniapolis as being in a good condition. They are now taking steps to build a much more commodious house than the one they now have. One man outside of the State has offered to give them ten thousand dollars for that purpose, if they will add ten thousand more to it; and from what Bro. Campbell told me I have but little doubt but that they will in the near future possess a house worth thirty thousand dollars.

M.

Selections and Comments.

NOT ASHAMED.—It is greatly to the credit of the new Governor of Massachusetts that on the Sunday following his inauguration he was at his post as superintendent of his Sabbath-school. This is an example worthy of being copied by others, when they are promoted to positions of trust and responsibility in the State or nation. Such promotion should not lead them to abandon their Christian work and engagements. A man is a better politician for being a Christian, and the higher he ascends as a statesman, as his influence widens, and his civil responsibilities in-

crease, the more does he need the help of the strength-giving principles of the Christian religion, and the more does that religion need him. We go further and say that no Christian should embark in a business or accept a position, if it is to cost him the sacrifice of his religion—if the Church must seriously suffer and Christ be a heavy loser by the operation. The example of the Massachusetts governor in sticking to his Sunday-school notwithstanding his elevation to the highest position of honor and trust in the gift of the State, we heartily commend.

So says the *Christian at Work*, and we accept it as sound doctrine.

That religion which does not go with a man in his business relations with the world and cause him to conduct all his business on Christian principles, is not the religion of Jesus Christ. Christianity and business are so related that they must always go together in order to please the Father.

A REMARKABLE STATEMENT.—We heard a gentleman the other day offer £5 as a reward for a well authenticated case of any prominent preacher in the United Kingdom, preaching on Acts 2:38, within the last 10 years. He even went so far as to say that he did not believe that such a case could be produced during the lifetime of the "oldest inhabitant." Now this set us to thinking. We asked if this gentleman could possibly be right? Could it be true that, in some respects, the most important passage of Scripture in the New Testament had practically dropped out of the preaching of the present time, for we could not remember to have heard the passage even quoted by any well-known minister for a number of years? And yet there it stands in the first sermon ever preached after the gospel in its fullness was ready for the world. Jerusalem was the place at which the Apostles were to tarry until they were "endued with power from on high;" Pentecost was the time when they received that power; and Peter, who was the person Divinely appointed to open the new reign, being "filled with the Holy Spirit," preached the gospel as it never had been preached before, and gave the answer for the first time, under the Great Commission which he had received, to inquiring souls seeking the way of pardon and peace. Now, if there ever was an important sermon delivered, that was one; and if there ever was an inspired answer given, that was one. And yet

the men, who are called the great preachers of our day, not only do not preach upon the text referred to, but they do not even quote it in their preaching. So far as they are concerned, it might just as well be left out of the Bible. But, perhaps, there may be a mistake about this widespread neglect. Has any person heard of a well authenticated case, which contradicts the statement made by the gentleman above mentioned?—*Christian Commonwealth*.

DIFFUSIVE PREACHING.—The weakness of the pulpit in the present day is largely to be attributed to diffusive preaching. It covers more than is included in the Word. It shows a want of appreciation of the work and earnestness. Dives was not diffusive. Abraham was not diffusive in his replies. They understood each other, and felt the weight of each other's communication. There is much preaching that sprawls all about at the close. The sun-glass is needed here for concentration and heat. Another kind of preaching is all introduction, while the close, as we heard a farmer describe it, "is the switch end of the tree." It not only fails in force and fervor, but not enough falls in any one spot to do any good. It suggests to us a modern contrivance to water lawns by spray—it dampens everything, but soaks nothing, and the gardener has to go about with his water-pot and pour water down at the roots and open the soil as well, or his choice growths will wither under the spray, even when continued for hours.—*The Presbyterian*.

LIVING EPISTLE.—The friend whose letter follows suggests a thought which comes home to each of us. Are we so devoted to Christ that the fragrance of his love is diffused wherever we go? Do we commune with him so constantly that it is easy and natural to speak of him to those whom we meet? Above all, is our living so consistent that it offers no contrast to our words, and is in accord with our creed?

As we go about the world we often meet charming people, amiable, beautiful, winning in every way, who are satisfied to live for this world only. Their highest standard is a moral one. They go to church because most respectable persons do so. They speak the truth, pay their debts, and are kind