

OBEEDIENCE THROUGH FAITH II.

F. H. P.

The happiest state of the heart, and one that will always bring more abundant peace than it can ever take away, is one of true and real resignation, and that is to be at one with God; no less in one thing than another in great as well as small.

There are few trials that we are called upon to go through in this life, more severe and searching to the human heart than that of losing those who are dearest to us; and it does seem that if the heart is really whole and sweet, and at peace, this is the time when it will all appear.

For in so great a mystery as death we seem plunged in a vast abyss; if our faith only lights it up for us with the colors of trustfulness and love, we may be altogether happy even then, and think of those dear ones as having gone to the better land only a little while before us; otherwise this is a very dark abyss full of gloom and sorrow. It is only this lack of trust in God that clothes dissolution with such dread.

Yet how can we conceive of a state in which a spirit that is resigned is really less so, than that in this just described, literally we cannot; yet some persons suffer their feelings merely to relapse into a morbid and sullen condition, as if God might be a tyrant as well as a father, and say they are willing that He should do exactly as He chooses; not simply because like little children they LOVE Him, but because they think they are quite in His power, and so feel the folly of making complaint. There is just such a resignation as this in the world. But it is a falsehood the whole of it!

We should be grateful for everything. We should consider nothing as sorrow; there are no sorrows; they exist only in the diseased imagination, and spring out of selfishness, impatience, and puny ambition. If we would only cast behind us this AMBITION, put it entirely beneath our feet, mock at it, despise it as not at all worthy to associate with our lofty capacities; if we would but DO THIS, and let our ambition become a noble and a spiritual aspiration, how different the result to all of us!

But we trust ourselves, before we will trust any one else; we are choked up with our prejudices, so blinded by our passions, so satiated up with selfishness and avarice, that it seems almost a miracle how grace abounds as it does.

It seems to me to be the corner stone of all true faith, that man should first be brought to form the right conception of God's character. If this is not, we worship blindly, and are but little better off spiritually than if we fell down before our own idols.

How true that is! Idols indeed! There is where we are still at fault. The world is just as full of idols to-day as it ever was during its long history. They may not be of wood, or of brass, or of hay or stubble; yet there are idols enthroned within the secret temple of almost every heart, and few lives that can deny it.

The whole object of our Father's care and kindness, of His providence and discipline, is to draw us away from the follies with which we are surrounded, to the true worship of Him. In that worship is happiness. It is the only thing that can satisfy for one moment the cravings of the unquiet spirit, and it is abundant to satisfy those inward desires for ever. Then how necessary it is for us to get a true conception of the character of our Father from the first; such thoughts of Him as will throw our spirits, so to speak, into an attitude of worship, of gratitude and thanksgiving, the instant our consciousness takes hold upon Him! Unless we understand what we are to believe how can true and joyful believers ever be expected to abound!

The first important step in our spiritual culture is to learn that "GOD IS LOVE." This it is that draws us to Him; that feeds our poor faith so constantly; that lets into our souls every day we live such views as cannot be spoken by lips, nor written for the eyes; that raises emotion within such as no description can hope to answer to, and no other soul can understand except by its own jubilant experience. If the world will only believe this! Then what would take the place of murmurs and complaints but joy and thanksgiving? What would abound, where distrust and selfishness and fear now so much abound, but obedience and trust and a perfect faith?

The obedience that comes by fear I cannot conceive to be obedience. The true obedience, and that which brings a resigned state of feeling under all circumstances and on all occasions, in life or death, in sunshine or cloud, among friends or among fearful perils, in riches, or in poverty, with kind hearts all about us, or in the midst of malicious and designing enemies—that kind of obedience can only come by faith. By a faith that keeps itself alive by feeding on the very substance hoped for, yet now in our sense, unseen; not a faith that drives one to the ends of the created universe, with fear, but that draws continually nearer and nearer by the strong cord of love; the perfect-love that casteth out fear; the love that swells in our hearts because we know that "He first loved us!"

Such is the faith that seems to me to work obedience, and works besides all its manifold and blessed fruits. It grows greater by the steady contemplation of the God who has given it to us to enjoy. It takes in all conditions, all classes, all circumstances. It enfolds the soul in a garment of its own, so that it walks through the world spotless and holy. It makes us children and full of humility; and at the same time it enlarges us, expands us, and prompts us all the time to aspire, till we learn that ONLY by obedience, ONLY by a perfect and willing resignation, can we find the true centre of our being. What a beautiful world this would be if such feelings were general; if fear was driven out, and only love and trust reigned; it would be the reign of "Jesus" indeed. That would be the Kingdom already come.

Hasten it on then! hasten it on!—let us all work and pray—work and pray continually.

There is a mysterious craving, within us that will not be satisfied with the things around us. There is something in our hearts that bids us everlastingly aspire. It we may only subject our souls to the most perfect filial obedience, and thus subject sin in its turn to the perpetual reign of holiness, then this day of blessedness has already dawned. It may not dawn in our day, yet we must have no less faith to believe that the hour is surely approaching. Christ must set up His Kingdom on the earth. It will not be such a kingdom as the unbelieving Jews expected, but one founded in truth, and love and peace. The lion and the lamb shall lie down together—a beautiful symbol of the universal victory of Jesus! We may not be in the body then, but I do believe that this heavenly vision will gladden our spirit eyes.

SELLING INTOXICANTS TO MINORS.

It is with no slight degree of pleasure that we note the signal failure of the recent attempt, in the Legislature, to repeal the law, prohibiting the sale of intoxicating liquors to minors. During the past two years quite a number of whisky sellers have come to grief, either through carelessness or wanton viciousness, for violations of this law, hence the effort in favor of its repeal.

Under the present tendency of boys of all ages to ape the reckless and dissipated habits of older persons, too much cannot be said in favor of the law as it stands. Whisky sellers know that for every boy who acquires even the slightest taste for strong drink, another victim is added to their lists, the chances of securing which are increased immeasurably above those that would exist were that boy compelled to abstain from their beverages until manhood lent him mature judgment and good habits. Of course saloon keepers are not all anxious to inveigle youngsters. Be it said to their credit, many of them would scorn such base conduct. But the law, as it stands, provides for the safety of all, and the protection of parents who otherwise might be unable to prevent their children from being hurried on the downward grade which commences in the saloon.

Telegraphic Summary.

CHICAGO, Oct. 26.—The Woman's Temperance Union convened this morning with large representatives of prominent ladies from all parts of the country. Miss Frances Millard delivered the opening address, which was replete with Scriptural suggestions, and produced a marked impression on the assemblage. Mrs. Allen Wiltermeyer, of New York, President of the National Association, responded.

LONDON, Oct. 24.—Gen. Grant and party left Charing Cross this morning en route to Paris.

The 'Tribune' says Morton's recovery is seriously doubted, and it is admitted he constantly suffered great pain and seldom sleeps without the aid of powerful opiates.

A Bucharest correspondent says: After a tour of inspection of the Czarowitch's position he is convinced that the winter's campaign is impossible with existing transport facilities. Already fodder sometimes fails for days.

Kars has been bombarded and part of the city is on fire. The place is provisioned for four months.

The Times' London special of the 26th says: A Bucharest correspondent says the Turkish army is every where on the defensive. The way is now open for the investment of Rustchuk, which will probably be done at once, as the Russians have sufficient force to mask Rustschuk and move against the central Turkish position at Rasgrad. The Russian intention seems to be to mask Rustchuk, to menace Rasgrad, hold Raouf in check and then put every available man and gun to the work of capturing Plevna. The retreat of Suleiman reveals the unexpected weakness of the eastern Turkish army, so that reinforcements are being sent to Plevna from the army of the Czarowitch. It is the evident intention of the Russians to fight nowhere in Bulgaria except Plevna, which position more than all else bars the road to Constantinople. The investment of Plevna is not completed although the accumulation of Russian cavalry is making the Turkish communications every day more difficult. Despite all the rosy accounts for Pera, it is believed that Osman is not well supplied and the capture or evacuation of the place is not distant.

COMMUNICATED.

"NON CONSHIRE SIRI."
(Conscious of no fault.)

EDITOR ARGUS: SIR:—As an editorial published in your issue of the 19th ult., tends to create a wrong impression in reference to the undersigned, I permit myself, in justice, the following remarks:

I am not, nor do I know, the author of the communication signed "Tax Payers", but beyond a statement therein—reflecting somewhat and perhaps unjustly upon the management of the ARGUS—I see nothing but an honest effort on the part of "Tax Payer" towards securing for the city the use of its own streets, or rather in this town—unquestionably the property of the public.

In the article published by you, signed "Veritas," there was nothing to be "ashamed of." It was an endeavor to show forth a great public wrong which, if persisted in and submitted to by careless citizens, must result in the loss to this town of several of its most central and important streets.

I am not of those who imagine that a fair and impartial statement of this matter need not be expected through the ARGUS, and your assertion that the paper will make common cause with the people establishing their right to the public streets, I cannot for a moment doubt. Simple justice only, is asked, and a local journal undertaking to uphold private parties in their efforts to appropriate the public thoroughfares, would be unworthy of public patronage.

The idea of prejudice and of private malice put forth very adroitly by an individual who has appropriated a portion of Quincy street is simply ridiculous. Can it be supposed that all the signers of the petition to open this street, among whom will be found the names of numbers of our best citizens; the owners of real estate along the line of said street without exception; the city trustees themselves, and many others, are all enemies of Doctor Minor, or of County Commissioner Gerrish, or of Collector Webster, each of whom, regardless of public right, has appropriated such portion of the streets of this town as suited him best. I think not.

I reference to the cases before Justice Learned and the District Court, referred to by you, it has been publicly alleged (with what justice I know not) that one of the attorneys employed by the city, had accepted a retaining fee from an opposing party. If this is true it may have had something to do with the fatal errors in the answer and pleadings, and accounts for the decision rendered.

With many apologies for this lengthy communication which the importance of the subject will alone excuse, I subscribe myself,

Respectfully,
FRANCIS W. JAMES.
Port Townsend, Oct. 22, 1877

In acknowledging the receipt of another box of fruit this week from Col. May, of Orcas Island, it remains only for us to say that the specimens of apples and pears are certainly among the finest we have ever seen. In point of size and flavor they are first class.

The "Dispatch" says that Mr. D. Burroughs, late of Seattle, has bought out the stock of notions in the store of Mr. A. Moses, at New Tacoma, and will continue business in the same place, also keeping fruit and tobacco.

Jas. Jones will receive by every steamer from San Francisco and up Sound all kinds of small fruit.

SECRET SOCIETIES.

PORT TOWNSEND, Lodge F. & A. M., meets Wednesday evening on or before full moon.

STRICT OBSERVANCE Lodge F. & A. M., meets 23 Tuesday evening of each month.

MT. BAKER Lodge I. O. O. F., meets every Saturday evening.

A. H. TUCKER, N. G.

JEFFERSON Lodge I. O. G. T., meets every Friday evening.

N. D. HILL, W. C.

CHESAPEAKE, Tribe of Red Men, meets every Wednesday evening.

GEO. BARTHOLOP, Sachem.

CHAMPIONS OF THE RED CROSS, meets every Monday evening.

A. BRIGGS, Com.

JAMES C. SWAN,
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