SHALL WE KNOW AND MEET THEM THERE?

Here on earth the question rises,  
And the thought comes to my mind:  
When we get to yonder heaven,  
Meeting there with all mankind,  
Shall we know our dear companions  
Who have crossed the stream before,  
And are waiting now to greet us  
On that happy, blissful shore?  
Shall we know our dearest mothers  
Who have watched our cradle bed?  
And when slumber had overcome us,  
She a tear of care would shed;  
When the cries within our childhood  
And when slumber had o’ermade us,  
Shall we know our dearest mothers  
Or will we up there with Lazarus  
Yes, we’ll clasp their hands in ours,  
Shall we meet our dear young sisters,  
Shall we know our dear old lathers  
Where no storms of sorrow trouble,  
Shall we meet with all our brothers  
Freed from all our cares and sorrows,  
When your thoughts in prayer are gath­  
Let us follow Christ our leader  
And have fought like faithful soldiers,  
Sharing all the richest blessing  
Shall we there with Christ our Saviour  
Shall we stand among the jewels,  
That we may both there together  
Meeting there with all mankind,  
Who have crossed the stream before,  
And are waiting now to greet us  
On that happy, blissful shore?  
Had been caused by grief or pain,  
Who have watched our cradle bed?  
And the older ones all as well?  
We were hushed to rest again.  
Shall we meet our dear young sisters,  
And the older ones all as well?  
Or will we up there with Lazarus  
Give them all a sad farewell?  
Yes, we’ll clasp their hands in ours,  
And from this sad earthly shore,  
Freed from all our cares and sorrows,  
We shall meet to part no more.  
Shall we meet with all our brothers  
In that home beyond the skies,  
Where no storms of sorrow trouble,  
And no darts of Satan fly?  
Shall we there with Christ our Saviour  
Round his throne forever stand,  
Sharing all the richest blessing  
Handed down from God’s right hand?  
Shall we know our dear old fathers  
Who have braved the stormy blast  
And have fought like faithful soldiers,  
Anchored safely home at last?  
Shall we stand among the jewels,  
When He comes to call His own,  
And be one of that great company  
In that everlasting home?  
Shall I meet you there, dear reader?  
You with me just think a while;  
Let us follow Christ our leader  
And by sin be unfilled.  
When your thoughts in prayer are gather­  
Oh, in earnest, pray for me,  
That we may both there together  
Spend the long eternity.  
Jonathan Lyons.

FAITH IN GOD IS MIGHTY.

VOLUME III.
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For the Evangelical Visitor.

As this is the busy time for those living on farms, I thought I might spend a little more time in writing for the Visitor. I have already asked the Lord to direct me to pare and dictate for me so that I might write just the right words which may fall on good ground. I have had such decided answers to my prayers that I know the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous and his ears are open unto their prayers.

In the 3rd chapter of Ecc., Solomon says, “to everything there is a season and a time to every purpose under the heaven.” There is a time to plant and a time to pluck up that which is planted. “A time to weep and a time to laugh. A time to keep silent and a time to speak.” He also says there is a time to die, and in the 12th chapter, 8th and 14th verses, he concludes in saying, “Vanity of vanities, saith the preacher; all is vanity. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good or whether it be evil.

We all need an abundant supply of wisdom from God to know just how to make the right use of this time, so that we do not laugh when we should be weeping, and know just when we should speak or keep silent, because we are going to be brought into judgment on account of this time. Solomon says He hath made everything beautiful in his time. The Lord has arranged the times and seasons very beautifully indeed. He knew we were not able to take care of a great deal of time at once, so he only gave us only one day at a time. How carefully then we ought to live; with what religious fear we should spend it, knowing that we have no promise for tomorrow. We sometimes forget that we have only one day at a time, and we anticipate troubles and trials and think perhaps tomorrow will be a hard day. But as our day so shall our strength be. We need not wonder whether we will have grace enough for tomorrow. If we ask we shall receive enough for today. If the Lord would give us grace enough today to last us a week or a month, we might forget to pray; but we need a new supply every day, and God’s storehouse is full of everything his children have need of. He is only waiting for us to ask for it.

When I think I may have a hard day, I do not leave my room until I have the promise of grace enough for every trial through the whole day, and then when the expected trials come it is easy to overcome them and I can sing, “O wondrous bliss, O joy sublime, I’ve Jesus with me all the time.”

We speak about this being the busy season. We hear our farming brethren are very busy gathering in the bountiful blessings of the Lord. Truly the Lord is very gracious. He knew we would have a great deal to take care of, so He gave us the longest days when we most needed them. But we should be careful that we do not use for our temporal work the time which the Lord intended for us to devote to Him. There is a time to every purpose; a time to do temporal and a time to do spiritual work; and since the Lord has given us these long days, we should not take the advantage of him and rob Him of His time. “Will a man rob God? Yet we have robbed me. But ye say,

Faith in God is mighty.

Faith in God is mighty.
were, they were as jems in his sight; no matter how small they and offering’s into His storehouse we that it was by bringing our tithes in heaven. But the Lord will tell we had deposited such great riches that we will be lost in wonder, love and praise.

Anna M. Dick.

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Satan — A Deceiver.

In addition to other names applied to him, he is sometimes called “Arch deceiver,” which implies chief or principal among deceivers.

To deceive means to beguile—that is, to lead into error, either by untrue words, or by false actions; and it becomes a question whether actions that are intended to deceive are any better than words of an untrue character whether spoken or written.

The Savior in speaking of the devil says, “He is a liar, and the father of it.” From this we understand that he told the first lie that ever was uttered. As to what lie that was, we are not informed, but likely it was one spoken to his angels before his expulsion from heaven, and had reference to the great glory himself and his followers should attain to, in case of the success of their rebellion against the Most High.

But, however, that may be, we do know that Satan, speaking through the serpent to mother Eve, told the first lie of which we have any account. “Ye shall not surely die” were his words by which he flatly contradicted the declaration of the great I AM, and by holding forth other misleading inducements, succeeded in deceiving the woman and in gaining his point.

“In the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die,” was the edict given, and now that Adam and Eve had fallen under it, how was it that Adam still survived that period more than nine hundred years? Some will explain it by saying that Adam and Eve did that very day die a spiritual death, in this that they lost their close union with God and fell from their state of innocence into a state of sinful depravity. Others hold, that whereas it is declared in Holy Writ, that with the Lord, one day is as thousand years, and a thousand years as one day—that Adam did die before the close of one of the Lord’s days. But the most plausible way of harmonizing this Scripture seems to be this: That the original, which was written in Hebrew, if properly translated, would read thus: “In the day that thou eatest thereof, dying thou shalt die.” This rendering more clearly expressed would say, “In the day that thou eatest thereof, thou shalt begin to die.”

But we turn to a few remarks on the deceptions practiced by Satan: He deceived Eve by holding out the inducement, that the forbidden tree would make them wise knowing good from evil. That God knew this to be so, and only intended to keep them in blissful ignorance. No doubt mother Eve thought, that in the possession of such knowledge they would experience a much higher state of enjoyment than that in which they had been living. True their eyes were opened to some extent. They saw they were naked, but that knowledge added nothing to their happiness. It gave them the trouble of looking for something to cover their nakedness. The best thing they could see was fig leaves and it took a number of these to make a covering. Needles and thread were not for sale in that country, and they must needs construct something to meet the emergency of sewing these fig leaves together. We can imagine their perplexity, and that instead of greater enjoyment, they were already in misery. Soon, too, they were upbraided by their Maker, on account of disobedience and were put out of the garden of Eden to till the ground and eat bread by the sweat of their face. And when to this was added the many aches and pains that dying men experience in this life, we may well imagine their great disappointment and that they realized the fact that they were sadly deceived.

We might refer to, and paraphrase on many other passages in the Bi-
ble, where satan has since that time
acted the part of a deceiver, but we
will briefly look at a few of the de-
ceptions he successfully plies in our
time. With the child of five or six
years old, he begins by telling him
to do things that the father or
mother has forbidden, holding forth
the idea that it will not be found
out. But, ah yes, little boy, your
father or mother may not find it
out, but the great God and Father
in heaven sees it all, and will call
you to account for it, and you will
sometime have to repent of it or
suffer untold misery. Therefore, let
not satan deceive you. He is al-
ways trying to get little boys into
trouble, and not only little boys,
but girls as well.

To the larger boy or young man,
the deceiver will come this way,
saying, you are now a young man
of good sense and good judgment,
and ought to be free from parental
restraint—you are now able to take
care of yourself, and you can mingle
with, and enjoy any kind of compa-
ny you may desire. You may play
a game at cards, smoke a cigar now
and then, chew a little tobacco or
drink a glass of beer when in com-
pany. Any one, or all of these things
you can do, the deceiver will tell you,
you can just quit when you please.
You are completely "mas-
ter of the situation" he will further
urge; therefore go it while you a.re
plea.se. You are completely "mas-
"satan is the instigator, and that if
you follow his allurements you will
be deceived. It is evident that he
intends to deceive you and you
know it. Therefore, do not dally
with him. He is too much of an ex-
pert in the business to be outwitted
in his own game.

Satan tried to deceive Jesus by
holding forth worldly honor and
great glory, but instead of looking
at these, the Savior repulsed him
every time by a suitable quotation
from the Scriptures. May the Lord
help us all to use the same weapon
whenever tempted to deviate from
the path of rectitude.

C. STONER.

Polo, Ill.

HEAVENLY TREASURES.

"Lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven,
where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt
and where thieves do not break through nor
steal." Matt. vi. 20.

The word treasure contains much
and is found more than twenty-five
times in the Bible. This verse often
comes to my mind when at my daily
work. I feel thankful this morning
that the word says to every person,
lay up for yourselves treasures in
heaven. I know what we lay up in

heaven will never be taken from us;
to have this treasure in heaven we
cannot do or have our own will, for
the Savior said, I came not to do my
will, but the will of him that sent
me.

For fifteen years I have been pray-
ing, not my will but thine O Lord
done, and today I must do the same,
for often I am not so willing to do
what the Lord requires of me, a
weak one. His word teaches me to
do to others as I would they should
do to me, and to love the soul of my
neighbor as myself. I need often go
in secret prayer and ask God to en-
able me and all who profess to be
followers of the meek and lowly
Lamb of God to overcome the many
evils and temptations which sur-
round us, that we may walk as
strangers and pilgrims while here.

By the help and grace of God I want
to keep my treasure in heaven.

I love to read the Visser. May
the Lord bless the editor and all
who are laboring for the cause of
Christ. Remember me at a throne
of grace.

"Tis not the skill of human art,
Which gives me power my God to know ;
The sacred lessons of the heart,
Came not from instruments below.
Love is my teacher; he can tell
The wonders that he learnt above;
No other master knows so well,
'Tis love alone can tell of love.
Love is my master, when it breaks
The morning light with rising may,
To thee O God my spirit wakes,
And love instructs it all the day.
And when the gleams of day retire
And midnight spreads its dark control,
Their holy lessons in the soul.
Came not from instruments below.

C. 470.

For the Evangelical Visitor.


M. A. STERN.

A man lives by believing some-
thing, not by debating and arguing
about things.—Carlyle.

Be of good cheer about death, and
know this of a truth—that no evil
can happen to a good man, either
in life or after death.—Socrates, B.
C. 470.
Thus the clouds of heavne and the fowls of heaven fly. Job xxxv, 11. The Scriptures: The atmosphere, where the fowls of heaven fly. Job xxxv, 11. Thus the clouds of heavne and the winds of heaven, signify the clouds and the winds of the air. Ps. cxlvii, 8; Dan. vii, 2. 2nd. The region of the moon and the stars which David contemplated with pious feelings. Ps. viii, 3, 4. 3rd. The heaven of heavens, where the Lord hath prepared His throne, and where He reigns in glory and majesty. Ps. ciii, 19. To that heaven, called the third heaven, the apostle Paul was caught up. Our Lord ascended in the presence of his disciple to the world of glory. He came down from that world at His incarnation, and he returned to it when He had finished His work on earth. In allusion to this He said to His disciples, I came forth from the Father and am come into the world again. I leave the world and go to the Father. John xvi, 28. Thus after His resurrection from the dead He ascended to heaven, and holy angels accompanied Him to His Father's house. The spirits of departed saints are now with Him in that house, and when He comes again to judge the world, He will bring them with Him, Thess. iv, 14. And we are assured He will come again in great glory, with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God. Verse 16. We read of thrones, dominions, principalities and powers in the invisible world, but they are all subordinate to the eternal, all-wise and all-powerful King of kings and Lord of lords. That world, in the highest sense of the phrase, is the kingdom of God, all its inhabitants are under His immediate control, all are under His immediate protection and all are completely happy under His rule and authority. Earthly kingdoms, of the highest order are of short duration, but the heavenly kingdom remains the same, for it is an everlasting kingdom and a dominion without end. The kingdom of grace on earth is the way to the kingdom of glory in heaven, and that we may attain the kingdom. Let us have grace whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear. Heb. xii, 28. The work of grace in the soul, from its commencement to its highest state of perfection, is a preparation for the mansions of glory, and what an encouraging thought it is, that our glorious mansion in the sky, prepared by Jesus, shall evermore endure.

Geo. Eyyster.

For the Evangelical Visitor.

HEAVEN.

The more of the Divine attributes or principle of the Creator, the created contained, the more good it contained and the more worthy to be so esteemed. After the creation and organization of the solar system, which took place in that period termed 'the fourth day,' it is reasonable to believe that the succession of day and night followed in the same order as at present. Though it is asserted by some that those periods, called days, were graduated. The day gradually becoming shorter until the present system was established. We, however, behold in all this the wisdom and goodness and providence of God. He first created and brought into order the inorganic part of the earth and its substance which occupied the four above mentioned periods.

During this time the earth was being prepared to bring forth "grass and the herb and the fruit tree," etc. Making ample provision for the organic or dependent part of the creation. "Wherein there is life." Which was yet to follow. Then the lights were "set in the firmament of the heavens." "For signs and for seasons and for days and years." All things are now in readiness for the reception and existence of animal life. Hence the great work still progresses. "In the creation of the lower order of animals," such as were brought forth in the water. The fishes in the sea and the "fowl that may fly above the earth." "And God created great whales." We are credibly informed that the whale feeds upon smaller fish and as animal life cannot be sustained without food, so the Creator also provided for the "great whales," before He placed them into the waters.

In the sixth day the higher order of animals were created. Those especially living on dry land and lastly, but not least, the creation of man, which was the crown work of the whole creation. Inasmuch as he contained the highest order of perfection. And God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our
LIKENESS," "And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life: and man became a LIVING SOUL."

The great work is now completed and we behold the Creator taking a close observation of all that He had made, "and God saw everything that He had made, and behold, it was very GOOD." When we take a close observation of the great work accomplished in the creation and behold the perfection of that work, which was pronounced by the Creator to be "GOOD," and "VERY GOOD," we must come to the conclusion, that the whole system of evolution—in a physiological sense—as advocated by many of the scientists of the present day, is wholly unfounded. The facts gathered from nature teach us, according to professor Dana, that species have not been made out of species by any process of growth or development," but that each species was distinct as it came from the Creator's hand. 

"That the evolution or plan of progress was by successive creations of species in their full perfection." How beautifully this accords with the teachings of the Bible. That God is perfect and that His work is also perfect, even in the minutest detail of the creation. The tiniest insect "that creepeth," no less than the great whale and everything "after their kind."

What a monstrous idea those students of the Darwinian theory must entertain of their original progenitor. Wasting their time and talent in trying to prove "that man is but the lineal descendant of the ape," a degree to which he attained, only, after he had passed through a multitude of changes. That by "natural selection," and "reserving of the fittest" he gradually developed until he became possessed of a well formed body and endured with an active mind and strong intellectual power. What an idea they must entertain of God, their Maker. Unto what is He like? "Oh that men would praise the Lord for His goodness and for His wonderful works to the children of men." Oh that men would strive to seek after God, as He is revealed unto us in the Bible. Science can never fathom, "The depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God. How unsearchable are His judgments, and His ways past finding out. For who hath known the mind of the Lord or who hath been His counsellor?" For of Him, and through Him, and to Him are all things: to whom be glory forever." Amen.

D. H. EISEN.

Clarence Centre, N. Y.

For the Evangelical Visitor.

"Oh, that men would praise the Lord for His goodness and for His wonderful works to the children of men." Ps. cxi. 1.

Many wonders has God done among the children of man and is still willing to do wonders. The children of Israel were commanded to teach them diligently unto their children, and shall talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way and when thou liest down and when thou risest up. Christ said, "I am not come to destroy the law, but to fulfil it." If so commanded under the old dispensation, how much should the glory of the new exceed that of the old? It is, therefore, our duty to speak of the wonderful work that the Lord is doing among the children of men. He is the same yesterday, today and forever. I fear that many duties of this kind are neglected by many that could testify of a time that the Lord has done wonders for them and others. We have a striking example of this kind of a zealous king of Judah, Hezekiah by name, who was instrumental in the hand of God to bring about a great reformation in Judah and Israel when obeying His word and Spirit, so that the Lord also wrought wonderful work to them. The angel of the Lord went forth and smote in the camp of the Assyrians a hundred, fourscore and five thousand men; also when Hezekiah was sick gave him as a sign, the sun returned ten degrees, by which degrees it was gone down. After he had recovered from his sickness the king of Babylon sent a present to the king, also to inquire of the wonder that was done in the camp. Perhaps the destruction of the Assyrian army included, to ascertain and know for himself, as the queen of the south came to Solomon.

It appears that the light of Israel reflected on other nations that some were willing to go and see and hear for themselves so that they have it not only from hearsay. But Hezekiah in place of telling them what the Lord has done for him, showed them all his treasures forgetting the wonderful works of God, bringing therewith the displeasure of God over himself and posterity. Should not this be a warning to us that are called with a high calling to watch and pray that we are not led astray by the deceiver and our own lusts, so that we may have a religion like Daniel who served His God continually, not forsaking his devotions for men's sake? Perhaps when visitors come of esteem by the world we deviate from our worship and are not willing to praise the Lord and tell the princes of Babylon, and so we loose ground and the Lord cannot do His wonderful works on account of our disobedience and unbelief; being ashamed of Jesus, that dear friend, yet profess that He at one time washed us with His blood. Also that we have a desire that others may be gathered into the fold of Christ and pray that His kingdom come on earth and mission work prosper. Let us observe home missions, tell the prince of Babylon the queen of the south, the visitors, the tramp, the vagabond, the prodigal, the sinner, the Lord has done wonderful works in the past, also for us when we felt as His chief of sinners—He washed us with His blood and is willing to wash others, and is willing to wash you though you feel yourself forsaken and cast away of God and man. Resolve with an Ester of old, if I perish, I perish, or with the poet,

I can but perish if I go,
I am resolved to try,
For if I stay away I know
I must forever die.

A BROTHER.
For the Evangelical Visitor.

THE SEPARATION.

Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean things; and I will receive you.
2 Cor. vi, 17.

The above passage was spoken by the inspired apostle Paul, who was addressing the children of God at that time. Although these words were uttered in 1833 years ago, they apply to the followers of Christ of today as much as when they were uttered.

The apostle here admonishes the Corinthians to flee from the society and pollutions of Idolatry, as being as injurious now as they did to the Corinthians brethren 1833 years ago, they abhor. Then as now, these teachings were spoken to the Corinthian brethren and were received.

Since we know and have experienced that the adversary has laid many snares and traps whereby to entangle us again into sin, it is necessary that we do as the apostle says, "Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong." 1 Cor. xvi, 13. In order that we fulfill the apostle's advice, it is necessary that we become more fully consecrated to God and His cause.

I have experienced in my short Christian life that the more obedient I am to the teachings of the Spirit of God, the more joy and peace I realize in Christ and the stronger I become in the Lord. And we find by close observance of the New Testament Scriptures that at the time of the apostles, the adversary, of our salvation, was working among the children of God as well as today.

The apostle Paul, after his conversion, was one of those characters who was not ashamed to do the will of his heavenly Father, or to reproach those that sought to kill him, for he says, "I am not ashamed of the gospel of Jesus Christ, for it is the power of God unto salvation." Since the Corinthians were settled in a very rich and fertile country and everything flourished and grew in abundance, there was a fair and no need of the flesh, which cannot enter into the kingdom of heaven. Therefore the apostle saw proper to warn them of the danger they were in and he says, "Come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord." But sometimes it requires self-sacrifice and then we are not always as willing to come down and humble ourselves as we should be. May we become more willing from day to day, and learn more of His way.

The apostle when speaking to the Romans in the 12 chapter and 2 verse says, "And be not conformed to this world, but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect will of God. After the Spirit of God has moved upon the heart, and the individual becomes penitent, and a thorough conversion takes place, the old man will be put off with his deeds which are corrupt, and the new man which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness will be put on. Here, then, is where the separation comes in. The world will know us. But let us bear what the apostle Peter says on this subject: "As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves after your former lusts in your ignorance." 1 Pet. i, 14.

After we have been born of the Spirit of God, we are to be living epistles known and read of all men. Therefore how can the world know us and read us, if we walk and talk like the world; and above all, put on all the pride and fashion the heart can contrive. Is this being a light to the world and a salt to the earth? God forbid that we as brethren and sisters should wander so far away from God, and get out into the world that we cannot be known from the world.

I felt to rejoice that God spared me, that I was permitted to spend an other 4th of July, not as the world spent that day, but in such a way that it may be for my good, and to the honor and glory of God. Also that I could think back over the many happy seasons I had spent in the service of the Lord, then again of the many trials and temptations, and dark seasons I had to pass through in the past year.

But I have great reason to praise God, for His goodness and tender mercies shown towards me, in that He has saved me from so many evils in the world. For truly it is like the wise man Solomon says: "I have seen all the works that are done under the sun; and, behold, all is vanity and vexation of spirit." My prayer is, that God may ever keep me in the narrow way, and give me grace to overcome the gain-saying world with all its allurements, that at the end of my pilgrimage on earth, I may reap everlasting life.

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HINDERING.

In every religious community are to be found those who, by their words and actions, hinder, to a greater or less extent, the gospel of Jesus Christ. Satan stands in opposition to Christ, and he will do all in his power to hinder the spread of Christ's gospel and the growth of Christ's church. Thus while Christ and His servants are trying to build up a temple unto the living God, Satan with his servants is trying to tear it down. It matters little to him how or through whom this work of hindering is done. Often does he accomplish his purpose through those who are the profess-
Sometimes men in the church become too worldly. They tread aside from the narrow way that the Lord ordained we should walk in. They become proud and selfish, and will not allow themselves to be told. By their conforming to the world they make void the words of Paul; “Be not conformed to this world.” By their mingling in the political world and taking part in every secular agitation they deny that the children of God are to be a separated people; and by their unwillingness to be told and corrected when at fault, they show contempt for the very words of our Savior. Matt. xviii. Such men are a burden to the church and are instruments in line of work for the Master which he feel it would be very sinful for them into the other extreme and demand gospel work.

How much better would it be if such persons would keep their places in the church and help build the Lord’s temple instead of tearing down. It is satan’s aim to hinder the work of the Lord as much as possible, and so long as he can find men, whether in or out of the church, who will make it their business to magnify the little failings of the brethren and bring false accusations against them which will lead sinners to doubt as to the sincerity of their profession, then he is well satisfied.

True Christians, who know whom they serve and what they are to do, will, however, not stop to answer every petty, false accusation thrust into their face by these hinderers. They will go right ahead and do the work the Lord wants them to do.

It is necessary for the proper growth of the church that the members be united in every effort, and it is also necessary that they help bear one another’s burdens. It is very discouraging when one is trying to serve the Lord to the best of his knowledge and another is constantly picking at his faults and parading them around before the world. Yet this is so often the case. Why do we not bear with one another and help each other along?

We notice that whenever there arises a difficulty between brother and brother, it becomes the all-absorbing topic of the whole church. Whenever members get together it is about the first thing to be talked about. Some say the fault lies here while others say it lies there, and thus the strife is kept up, sometimes for years. The Spirit loses its influence, the members grow cold, sinners become hardened, and the work of the Lord is hindered beyond repair.

Could we but learn the lessons of love and forbearance more fully it would be with us far better. If we find a brother at fault it is not the part of wisdom to condemn. Christ did not come to condemn. We should plead with him and thus lead him to acknowledge his error.

We sometimes fear that those dear brethren who speak in such strong and condemning terms against certain things which they think are wrong, are hindering instead of helping. It is right, of course, to reprove sin, but let us be careful that we call not that wrong which is right.

Can we not, dear fellow Christians, by our united efforts, work a little more in harmony than we have in the past? Those who are up too high might come down a step and fall in line, whilst those who now stand in opposition to evangelistic endeavors might use a little forbearance; perhaps if they would hold still and study the matter a little they might conclude that they were a little too lights and that the work being done was a necessary work. They too would then fall in line and thus our force would be centralized and we could fight the enemy far more effectively. There are enough to hinder us when we are solidly united; what then, but utter defeat, can we expect when we amongst ourselves are divided.

J. G. C.

Skippack, Pa.

ORDINATION.

On the 10th of August, the brethren held a large tent meeting at the home of brother Noah Engle. The several sessions of the meeting were well attended and were fraught with great blessing to all, we trust. The special event of the occasion was the ordination of brother Noah Engle to the ministry. Brother Engle is well advanced in years, but he enjoys the good will and confidence of the church to an unusual degree. That the rest of his life may prove useful in winning precious souls for the kingdom and in building up Zion, is the earnest hope and prayer of the brotherhood here. J. H. E.
The world cannot receive because it seeth him not neither knoweth him; but ye knoweth him, for he dwelleth with you and shall be in you.

Now no person that is dishonest can lay any claim to be in possession of the Holy Ghost. His office is to lead into truth and to give light. When Ananias and Sapphira conspired to defraud, Peter said unto Ananias that Satan had filled his heart to lie unto the Holy Ghost and the result was that sudden death followed to both him and his wife. When Simon the sorcerer saw that the Holy Ghost accompanied the laying on of hands of the apostle, he offered money, supposing that the gift could be purchased with money. But Peter said, "Thy money perish with thee, for thy heart is not right in the sight of God." Many other passages of scripture might be produced to show that the office and the work of the Holy Ghost was by some even in the apostles' times not fully understood, even by those who professed to be the followers of the Lord Jesus Christ. If there was danger then, the danger today is even greater. We are lead to believe that the standard of Christianity today is not so pure as it was in the apostles' times. That there are so many things classed with Christianity that do not belong there; that the dividing line between the church and the world is not distinct enough; that there are too many who claim to be the children of God that are even hardly moral—and well may we ask, have ye received the Holy Ghost? The reply no doubt from such would be, we have not so much as heard that there be any Holy Ghost.

Raise the standard of Christianity higher; seek for a purer morality; cleanse the heart from sin; do away with those things that have a tendency to pollute the pure stream that flows from the throne of God, and the office of the Holy Ghost will be better understood and appreciated.
place as we probably could find.

We do not, of course, know whether there would be any suitable lands there now that could be had for that purpose, but a few years ago there was, we learned then, such property to be had. Bro. Jesse Engle with others, had then secured some property there in anticipation of such a want and we believe the property was held for several years, subject to such an arrangement, but how it is now we do not know. The probability is that it could not be had; but if not, there might be other property in the north or south part of the county of Dickinson that could be obtained; or if not there, then somewhere else. We do not write this article that we want to urge the matter upon the church but merely as a matter of consideration so that we might choose the best.

HONESTY.

Sometimes we receive articles for the Visiort put up in a way that seems to be intended to pass through the mails for less than regular letter postage. While we do not believe that it is intended to avoid the payment of regular and full postage, yet it may be thought by some that such is the case, and we would advise all who mail anything for the Visiort that is written, sealed or put up in a way that no question could arise as to the duty of paying full postage. To defraud the post office is not only dishonest but is attended with a heavy penalty. “Avoid every appearance of evil.”

WHICH SHALL IT BE?

We remember of hearing many years ago an aged minister of our church relate in a discourse he delivered, how mysteriously he was brought to choose or accept Christ. When quite a young man living at home with his parents, he was led to make choice of the plan of salvation or to make a decision which led him to Christ.

It was quite a common practice among the young people of the neighborhood, where his parents lived, to spend the long autumn and winter evenings together in dancing or some other sinful amusement that had a tendency to lead the youth away from God. One evening there was such a gathering not far from his father’s house and there was also preaching in the school house near them. Some strangers traveling through the country had sent an appointment for that evening. His parents wanted him to attend preaching but his heart was set on the dance and he felt that he could not forego the pleasure as he supposed.

He dressed himself for the dance, and while doing so the spirit of God was at work. After he was ready to go he went out on the porch ostensibly to go but his mind was not at rest and while standing there undecided yet desiring to go to the place of sin, his whole future came before him. If he went to places of sin the result would be farther from God, more hardened in sin and probably eternal death. If he chooses the way of life it would be salvation to his soul, peace with God and eternal life. After debating the question in his mind he decided to go to the meeting that night. The preaching was especially applied through the spirit to the heart of this young man. Conviction seized upon his soul, he repented of his sins, turned to God and was saved. Not many years after he was put to the ministry and became a useful man; yes a power in the ministry. He raised a large family, six sons and three daughters and they all in the course of time enlisted under the banner of Christ and so far as our knowledge goes lead exemplary lives.

The father, mother and two of the children have gone to the eternal world and we believe were prepared to go.

Now what conclusion may we draw from this? Is it not that there is a time in the life of every person in which a choice is or can be made that generally governs our future. God has placed in our hands our own destiny and we are permitted to choose. The door stands open to us and we can enter upon the road that leads to the celestial home, or we can refuse and make our choice with the wicked and go down the precipice of sin to eternal ruin. Sinner which shall it be? You can choose for yourself and be useful in doing good to others. Probably God wants to make use of you to bring others to Christ.

It is evident that he has work for you to do and you may be standing now on the precipice.

“Be wise today, ’tis madness to defer.”

BENEVOLENT FUND.

From a Sister, Garrett, Ind., $5.00
A brother, Ashland, Ohio, 2.00

It should not be expected that we could remember, and it would be attended with too much additional labor for us, if we should make a memorandum of all the special requests made to us with regard to the various circumstances connected with the subscriptions to the Visiort, as to those who wish to have them continued or discontinued; and for this reason we have published that we do not discontinue any names unless ordered to do so at the time the subscription expires. We sometimes receive letters accompanied with money to pay for subscriptions, and the letter states, “when the time is up for which I have paid, then discontinue the Visiort until you receive money for its continuation.” Now if the writers would only think of the amount of additional labor this would make us, to make a minute of that request or to file all the letters we receive they would not ask it; and for us to discontinue all our subscribers because some make such a request would certainly not be fair. Nearly all desire us to continue the Visiort after the time is expired for which it is paid, and we cheerfully do so, believing that they will pay

(Concluded on page 288.)
VISIT TO OAKLAND.

According to appointment I boarded the train at White Pigeon, Mich., Wednesday morning, Aug. 20, and started for Carland, Shiawassee co., Mich., and arrived at Burton on the D. G. & M. R. R. at about one o'clock, where I was met by Bro. Baker and conveyed to his house where I had the pleasure of meeting Bro. A. M. Engle, of Dayton, O., and Bro. Joseph Free, of Clark co., O., who had arrived the night before. We spent the afternoon together, and in the evening had our first appointment for preaching in the schoolhouse. The arrangement was to have the meeting in a grove near there and part of the time we had it there, as we could not get the school house all the time. But the weather was unfavorable much of the time for outdoor service on account of rain and cold, but when we could meet either in the school house or in the grove, we had very good meetings. The Lord's presence was visibly manifested. In all we had seven appointments. On Saturday night and Sabbath the attendance in the grove was large and the interest was good, and Sabbath evening in the school house the attention was good. On Sabbath afternoon Bro. A. M. Engle addressed the Sabbath school. His illustrations were very good and the school seemed to appreciate the address. The meeting closed on Sabbath night and I think it can truly be said that it was not in vain that we met. Our meeting in the grove on Friday morning was truly an enjoyable time to the few that were privileged to be there. On Monday we left for our homes; found all well. May the Lord prosper the work in the Carland mission.

H. D.

The Harvest meeting in the Montgomery church, Franklin co., Pa., was held on the 16th of Aug., and the regular service was on the Sabbath following. They had quite an interesting meeting.

Bro. A. C. Wengert and Bro. Isaac Shank were there. Our informant also states that the only child of Bro. C. Leslie of that district is to be baptized at the next regular meeting. The applicant is quite young yet, but we trust the step taken by him will enable him to avoid many a snare that the unregenerated youth falls into. May the Lord be his helper.

We learn also that several members residing in the vicinity of the Montgomery church are in very feeble health, and among them our aged brother and co-laborer, Benja. Myers, whose health is such that he is not able to do much labor in the Master's vineyard. May God sustain him in his declining years.

CHICAGO MISSION.

Brother Isaac Trump, of Polla, came to us, held two meetings at West Hinsdale, eighteen miles west of the city, with good attendance and interest. One family who has been receiving the Evangelical Visitor from the Mission Board, invited Bro. Trump to their house and expressed themselves as being very sorry to have him leave so soon, and are inquiring when he will return, thus we can see the benefit of the church paper as ambassador and the good which it is accomplishing cannot be computed.

Bro. Trump has made many friends and we trust opened up the way for much good to be done in this field.

B. A. HARDWELL.

122 S. Market St., Chicago, Ill.

CORRESPONDENCE.

For the Evangelical Visitor.

In this Christian country, or at least among the more Christian part of it, I will try and write of a few of those dispositions which most remarkably distinguished our blessed Savior. He was remarkable for His condescension and humility. He sought not honor of men, never aim-ed at earthly superiority. No high-minded thoughts were harbored in his breast. Our Savior was also endued with the greatest meekness and patience. No harshness of spirit, nor rash anger was found in Him. He gave his back to the smiters, hid not His face from shame and spitting. When He was treated unkindly He reviled not, but was always kind and forgiving.

Do we bear the evils of life as Christ did without murmuring? How stands the likeness in these our duties to be fathers to the fatherless, visitors to the sick and a comfort to the poor and afflicted? Again when crosses or troubles come upon us, do we bear them with resignation, considering them to be sent by God, or are we impatient till they are removed? Let the same mind be in us as was also in Christ. He has set us an example. If you think proper to ask any questions of me, I will try and answer you.

FROM A WEAK SISTER.

Lawrence, Kan.

Dear brother and editor, by the grace of God and His strength I will
try to express a few thoughts and feelings, if I may, in the columns of the Evangelical Visitor for the dear readers, and especially to those who so kindly remembered me in sending the Visitor in my sick room with many other tokens of sympathy and cheer during my long and severe afflictions. I hope the good Lord will reward each one according to His promise, and I tender many thanks to each one and often feel to praise the Lord for his goodness to me, in showing His love towards me in so many different ways. I often feel myself too unworthy to receive them. Yes many blessings have I had during the seventeen last years in my helpless and nervous condition, mingled with many sad, long and lonely hours of pain and suffering. It seems wonderful to know that I am yet numbered among the living. Certainly the Lord has an object in it all. We may see it or not, and I think I can see it in a measure. We are to be tried, or rather our faith in God; and had it not been for the trust in God which I have had since I become willing to serve and obey Him, satan would have devoured me long before this; but thanks to His name. He has kept me through many dark seasons and is still my helper in trials and tribulations which were many.

Since it pleased the dear Lord to take my dear old parents from my side, and leave me a lonely traveler here, it is my desire to press forward, and try to live so that I may be so happy as to meet them over yonder with all the brethren and sisters, where pain and sorrow is no more. I see no pleasure in this world, and time is gliding rapidly by. Soon we may be at our journey's end.

I did not think I would write so much, but I beg the readers to bear with me, and would say, if this should meet any who would be interested in my welfare. Let them speak a few words through the medium of the pen, I will, to the best of my ability answer if strength allows me. I will now bid the readers farewell, hoping they will all remember me at a throne of grace, that I may hold out faithful to the end.

S. S. LENHART.

Let that therefore abide in you which ye have heard from the beginning. If that which ye have heard from the beginning shall remain in you, ye also shall continue in the Son and in the Father.

Twenty-three years ago I found myself a lost sinner. Many and many a time I was convicted of my wicked life before I was willing to go to them; but I did not yield to that spirit until then. I then made a start to mend my ways. I began to pray to God to have mercy on me a poor and needy sinner. The more I prayed, the more I would see my sins and lost condition. I was honest with my God. I prayed to Him to reveal all what I had done. I did not want half of my sins pardoned, O, no, I wanted them all pardoned, and in this way I continued until I found that peace which I shall not forget. I was not willing at all times to yield to God's Spirit. I would at sometimes think this or that will be just as good, but this would not do for me. I had to give up my will to God's will and every time I would obey I was blessed. My hardest trial was to go to my parents and ask them to forgive me all, whatsoever I have done amiss in their sight. I think it was two or three months before I was willing to go to them. Satan would tell me you don't need to do that, they will do it without you going to them and ask from them; but I got no pardon until I obeyed. I pleaded God to let a heavy thunder arise and I felt that if I did not yield I would be killed. I then obeyed.

I had lots of work to do before I was pleasing in the sight of God. I saw and felt everything that I had to do. This is my daily work now to abide in this. I cannot take liberty in this or that when it is not according to what I seen or felt in my beginning. And I do believe from my heart, if we would all abide in what we see in our beginning we would not deviate so much from that good old way which leads to glory. I know what I saw and felt in my commencement. If I abide in this I will gain heaven. O pray for me so that I may hold fast to that which God showed me when I found peace and pardon. O such a happy time I had then, no tongue can ever express. It was all glory shone round. Perhaps some will think it strange that I have this Scripture at the heading, but it is so much in my mind, I could not help but put it there. I must abide by this or I will go astray. May God help me to do His will.

F. K.

TO THE UNSAVED.

I have felt impressed to write a few lines for the Visitor, but felt myself so weak and unworthy. I thought if I could write like this or that one I would, but the Lord did not let me rest until I was willing to write. Then came the thought, what subject shall I write on? The answer came: write to those that are yet out of the ark of safety. May the good Lord give me grace, and guide my pen that I may not write anything that would be out of place.

I have such a love for the unsaved, I pity them. If it were in my power I would bring them all to God, for I know how much better we can have it if we give our hearts to Jesus. It does not cost us anything only self-will must be denied, but it cost this lovely Jesus much. It cost His precious blood. O, dear sinner, stop and think of how much that lovely Jesus has done for you. How can you grieve him so long? Many a time He has called you, and you did not yet give up. Just for one moment think what He has done for you. How can you put it off any longer? We read in the Bible God does not always strive with man. Now take good care that you do not quarrel that good Spirit; for O how sad if even one of you should put it off till it is too late. We can not spare one, no not one. How
The Bible is to me the book of all books, because it teaches me and guides me on my way to heaven. It is a lamp to our feet and a light to our pathway. Thus I find if I am true and obedient to the instructions that are given in the Bible it will lead us to everlasting joy and happiness. Though this Book has been to me, as well as to all others in an unconverted condition, an uninteresting book, but when God in His infinite mercy takes possession in the heart and our hearts are filled with the love of God toward His infinite mercy takes possession, then also by possessing the Bible it will lead us to everlasting joy and happiness. Though this Book has been to me, as well as to all others in an unconverted condition, an uninteresting book, but when God in His infinite mercy takes possession in the heart and our hearts are filled with the love of God toward His infinite mercy takes possession, then also by possessing the Bible it will lead us to everlasting joy and happiness.

Let us stop for a moment and view the contrast of time that is spent in concerning worldly welfare which are perishable compared with the time that is spent in either secret or public devotion what a vast difference. If we love the Bible we will love to follow the instructions therein. Then also by possessing this love toward the Bible we will also be willing to labor in the vineyard of the Lord for the salvation of souls; neither will this glorious work be a burden to us, but much more a delight and pleasure, for we are laboring for a good Master that will not leave us unrewarded. Thus the advice would be to both young and old, love God with all your heart, soul, might and strength. Work willingly and cheerfully in God's service that you may add stars to your crown which the Lord has prepared for those who are faithful.

May God help us then to be true and faithful in His great work; for His work is honorable and glorious. And as for us Christians our daily conduct and conversation ought to be a witness for our profession and the fruit of the spirit may be manifested thereby. Also by this effect souls may be won for the Master. The question may be asked what is the fruit of the Spirit? We will take the apostle Paul's statement as is given in Gal. v, 22, 23:

The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, meekness, temperance, etc., for against such there is no law. Those qualities can only be produced by those who possess the Spirit and love of God. And in order to obtain the great blessing of spiritual life, we must humble ourselves before God in deep contrition, feeling our unworthiness, then He will accept of us then we will become desirous to study the Word of God devotedly and the Lord will enlighten us, and we will increase in His love and loving His word, and this will be a wonderful help to us in our spiritual life. Nothing can be more valuable to us than to be thoroughly acquainted with the Bible, that when trials and conflicts of life rest heavily upon us we have the great consolation of God's promise to guide our erring feet in the path of safety.

David understood the value of God's word and oft refers to it in the Psalms. For instance, "I have refrained my feet from every evil way that I might keep thy word." Oh I love God's Word is my meditation all the day long.

BETHA SCHNIDER.

Clarence Centre, N. Y.

FAITH AND WORKS.

"Even so faith if it hath not works is dead, being alone."

That is impressive when we think over it. Have we been faithful in His work? For it is through His tender mercy we are spared to work for Him. We all are created for good works. We may work for Jesus in various ways. It may be in the mode manifested by speaking, praying, singing for him. We oft times hear it said, I am not so well gifted as that sister or brother, but I believe by coming to Jesus with faith He will help us, for He says in His Word: "Let him ask in faith, nothing wavering, for he that waver­eth is like a wave of the sea, driven and tossed with the wind, for let not that man think that he shall receive anything of the Lord."

It is true we are not all gifted with the same talents, but whatever talent we have, make use of it. Let us be obedient to our talent, let it be one, two or as many as we may have.

Let us also examine ourselves daily. We cannot do too much for our heavenly Father; but I know we can do too little for Him. Let us look up to Him in faith and love and lift our hearts up to Him with a willingness to work for Him. My desire is to be a worker for Jesus. May we all work for Him is my wish and prayer.

S. ESTHLEMAN.

For the Evangelical Visitor.

FROM A YOUNG SISTER.

I will try by the help and grace of God to write a few lines for the columns of the Vis­tor, as I have felt it my duty to do this long time, but I would put it off from time to time, I felt myself too weak and unworthy to write, but on this pleasant Sab­ath morning I will try to do my duty and I do hope the Lord will direct my pen.

I have been in this way now a year this spring. I can say I have had many happy seasons in this time. I have found out that it is a much better life to live than sin. When I was ten years of age, I felt I ought to live a better life. That was the time my mother died, and I thought now she has gone to heaven and I wanted to live so that I could go
and meet her again. But I put it off until I was fourteen. Then when I made a start it was not in revival meeting, but an awful dream I had. I thought the world was coming to an end and was going to be destroyed by fire, as we know it will be some day. I thought I was going to be lost. When I got awake I laid there and thought how I would be some day. I thought the world was coming to

And how glad I am that I am in this way. I have never been sorry, but I have been sorry that I did not make a start long before I did. I often think I was foolish that I did not. I mean to go on and make

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I must yet say this is not the first time that the Lord called me to give in my testimonial. I made an attempt to write about three years ago, but as it was I hid it under a bushel or buried it in the ground and therefore I was not blessed. I would yet say, dear brothers and sisters who are strong in the Lord, pray for your weak unworthy sister.

When loved ones are taken from us, how that thought comes up before us! How we wonder if we will ever see them again, and where and when it will be! Then it is that we turn to this blessed Book; for there is no other book in all the world that can give us the slightest comfort, no other book that can tell us where the loved ones have gone.

Not long ago I met an old friend, and as I took him by the hand and asked after his family, the tears came trickling down his cheeks as he said, "I haven't any now."

"What!" I said, "is your wife dead?"

"Yes, sir."

"And all your children, too?"

"Yes, all gone," he said, "and I am left here desolate and alone."

Would any one take from that man the hope that he will meet his dear ones again? Would any one persuade him that there is not a future where the lost will be found? No, we need not forget our dear loved ones; but we may cling forever to the enduring hope that there will be a time when we can meet unfettered, and be blest in that land of everlasting suns, where the soul drinks from the living streams of love that roll by God's high throne.

FRANCIS HEIREY.

I HAVE ANY NOW.

It seems perfectly reasonable that God should have given us a glimpse of the future; for we are constantly losing some of our friends by death, and the first thought that comes to us is, "where have they gone?"

Present pain and endless bell,
Come, and all may yet be well!"

I remain your weak sister in Christ.

BERNAH CLIMENHAGA.

Bethesda, Ont.

Dear brethren and sisters in the Lord, I feel so deeply impressed to lay aside my many cares and obey the convictions of the Lord, for it is by obeying we are blessed and to obey is better than sacrifice. I feel thankful to the Lord that he ever called me unto repentance. My heart is filled with the love of God toward all mankind, and the nearer I live to God the more I can rejoice. I feel my weakness very much and of myself I can do nothing, but I know his grace is sufficient for me. My very heart's desire is as the poet says:

"Oh for a heart to praise my God.
A heart from sin set free.
I have many happy seasons. This year has been the happiest time of my life. I was much encouraged since our dear sister McTaggert who was afflicted, was by faith restored, and also another dear sister. It made my heart rejoice in the God of my salvation. My soul does ever praise the Lord. The way is growing brighter day by day as I look to Jesus who is able to help in time of need.

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-Moody.
For the Evangelical Visitor.

MY EXPERIENCE.

I love to read the Visitor. It is meat for the hungry, and comfort for the weary. With the help of my heavenly Maker, I will drop in my mite. I was over thirteen years old when the Lord called me to give my heart to serve Him. I looked around me as I thought I was rather young, I might have some pleasure in this world. There were only one single brother and two single sisters in our district at the time. It appeared to me as if there was no real enjoyment in religion. While I paused, there seemed a voice say, if you don't give yourself up now, you will be forever lost, and how to improve my few days to his service was soon revealed to me. It caused me to humble myself down to the foot of Jesus when my sins were before me. I became willing to be lost, if it was the Lord's will, but if he would pardon my sins, I would forever serve Him.

One day I went in secret prayer and gave myself, like a lump of clay into the potter's hands. There and then the Lord spoke peace to my soul. I felt so happy I thought I was rather young, so I commenced by reading portions of Scripture daily. I also thought I would like to unite with some church but could not make up my mind to do so because I saw so much pride and vanity in the different churches that I had been attending. This continued for some time. Then I went to work at a brother's house and commenced attending their meetings. I enjoyed them very much, and did not wish to miss one meeting; yet I did not seem to know what was required of me. One morning when alone I sat down by an open window and wished I knew what I ought to do. I thought I could do any thing if I only knew what. There appeared before me, a woman dressed in plain clothes like the sisters. But I thought, how can I be so plain as that? How can I go out in company if I dress like that? Here I was disobedient and lost ground, and so it went until the Lord called me to give my life; and the Lord heard my cries and pardoned my sins and I felt happy in the Lord.

It is now over forty years since I have been trying, in a weak way to follow our dear Savior, who has done so much for us all. I feel as thankful this day as ever that my kind Savior called me when in my young years, and that he gave me will to take up my cross and follow Him. How many happy seasons I have enjoyed since I have been traveling upward to Zion, that beautiful city above.

Dear brethren and sisters, let us be more in earnest in the good work and discharge our duty. If we see a great work going on at home or at our neighbors in worldly things and a number join together and assist each other, it causes enjoyment and consolation. So let us not be weary in well doing. May the good Lord bless the editor of this paper.

All who seek an interest at the throne of grace, remember me in your prayers.

FANNIE WILLIAMS.

Gormly, Ont.

I will try by the grace of God to write a few lines for the Visitor. Of late I have felt so deeply impressed to write for it that it seemed as if a voice was saying to me, you must write, and in obedience to that I will try to tell how the Lord led me. I often had very warm feelings when quite young, but did not get much encouragement. I grew up, these feelings left me and I became hardened and careless. It pleased the Lord to call me again. I saw that I should live a different life so I commenced by reading portions of Scripture daily. I also thought I would like to unite with some church but could not make up my mind to do so because I saw so much pride and vanity in the different churches that I had been attending. This continued for some time. Then I went to work at a brother's house and commenced attending their meetings. I enjoyed them very much, and did not wish to miss one meeting; yet I did not seem to know what was required of me. One morning when alone I sat down by an open window and wished I knew what I ought to do. I thought I could do any thing if I only knew what. There appeared before me, a woman dressed in plain clothes like the sisters. But I thought, how can I be so plain as that? How can I go out in company if I dress like that? Here I was disobedient and lost ground, and so it went until the Lord called me to give my life; and the Lord heard my cries and pardoned my sins and I felt happy in the Lord.

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EVANGELICAL VISITOR.

Sep. 15, 1890.

Dear brethren and sisters and readers of the Visitor: By the grace and help of God I will try to write a few lines for the Visitor. I know I can do nothing without the help of God and I pray Him to guide my pen. I was called in my young years, even before I knew what it meant. I often felt very lonely, but I did not know it was the good Spirit that was calling me. I always had a desire to go to heaven when I would leave this world. Then in my eighteenth year it seemed to me that my time was near at hand that I would not live long. It was the Spirit of God calling me. I began to call on the Lord for His mercy and forgiveness and to prepare me for dying and heaven; and the Lord heard my cries and pardoned my sins and I felt happy in the Lord.

But I was laid upon a bed of affliction, and did not think I would recover. It pleased the Lord, however, to raise me again. While in my affliction, I told my mother that after I was gone, they should sing this hymn:

"Farewell dear friends, I must be gone,
I'll take my staff and travel on,
Till I arrive where Jesus is."

Then she asked me if I thought I would not get well? I said, no I do not think I will. She asked me whether I was prepared to die in peace? I said, I thought I was and did not want to get well. She was very glad to hear that I had made my peace with God. I was converted sometime before I was confined to my bed, but did not tell any one till after I was sick; but I was very glad and could rejoice that I had made my peace with God before I became sick. I did not fear death. It seemed to me I was willing to leave this
world. But the Lord’s ways are not our ways, neither is the Lord’s thoughts our thoughts. I believe the Lord took this way to make me willing to follow Him in His own appointed ways. I thought then my work was nearly done in this world, but the Lord had work for me and my wish was to do the Lord’s will, for it seemed to me I was near my home. Then I thought I would try to serve Him all my life, I did not think then that I would have the work to do that I have done, and the trials and temptations with that I have; but with all I feel to praise the Lord for His goodness and mercy towards me, a poor mortal, I am still willing to go on in the service of my Lord and try and make heaven my home. I wish to do the will of the Lord and discharge my duty towards my God, my family and all around me.

I remember yet the day I was baptized. How willing I was while walking to the water. These thoughts came to me: I will follow the Savior with whom I found favor, my day to His glory I am bound to obey. Then when I was in the water to be baptized I received such a great blessing. I felt so happy. I thought then I would never do anything contrary to the will of the Lord, but I must confess I have often come short through weakness.

My desire is to do the will of the Lord. I always found by obeying the Lord that I received a blessing. It was such a cross for me to begin writing for the Visitor, but yet I felt it my duty to do so, and I am glad the Lord has helped me.

It is now twenty-six years since I am on this way, and it seems to me we all have a work to do while in this world. My desire is to do the work the Lord has for me to do. I often think, perhaps, my time is not very long, and I wish to be prepared to hear this welcome approbation, “Come hither ye blest inherit eternal life.”

I have read so many good articles in the Visitor and it encouraged me so much that I thought I would make the attempt to write some too. Pray for me that I may prove faithful. I wish you all the blessings of God.

F. Stoner.
Marthasburg, Pa.

For the Evangelical Visitor.

BACKSLIDING.

I always feel to sympathize with backsliders; for when I vowed myself to the Lord, I promised to ever be kind unto such, and to speak words of consolation to those who are cast down on account of their errors.

I also confess, that, at one time, I had erred from the truth, as it is in Jesus. I was then disowned by the brethren. There could no charge be brought against me, excepting that I had become proud, and I did not “hear the church.” Where I then lived the brethren were few in number, but in regard to this they perfectly lived out the doctrine of the Savior, as we can read in Math. xlviii chap. And had they not been strict towards me, I fear I would not have come to repentance; for I still loved the brotherhood, and claimed them as my people.

During the time I was outside of the church, I received many sharp reproofs; but I had then been so hardened in self-righteousness that no word would avail. But the seed that was sown by faithful sisters at last began to grow, and I inquired of the Lord if indeed I had gone astray.

When I saw this sinfulness in being an offence to the church, I could repent with much weeping. I then received much love toward the Savior and his humble followers. Dear brethren and sisters in the Lord, let us not fear the Savior, as though he was an hard master. If we can come unto Him in humbleness, the Holy Spirit will reveal (Luke ii, 26) unto us the peculiar loveliness of the Savior; even as the poet saw Him when he expressed these lines:

“Majestic sweetness, sits enthroned,
Upon the Savior’s brow.”

I can testify that I have an acquaintance with the Savior, which ever remains. I was blessed about eight months ago, with a glorious vision. It was in day time, and the Savior appeared unto me. I asked Him concerning my trouble, and He spoke to me two different sentences; the scene was one of great brightness. Oh! when we feel such a burning love toward the Savior, we would rather say, let us drink of the cup that he drank of; lead us through Gethsamene. If we could feel the weight as He did, we might live to love as he loves.

EMMA C. LONG.

Spurgeon says: “Most men are what their mothers made them.” If this be so, we are forced to think, as we look about us at the men of this day, what a miserable failure must mothers of the past generation have made! The question naturally arises, in what respect has their discipline been faulty? It is not belief in the too commonly accepted saying, “boys will be boys,” and the disrespect, wildness and selfishness of your boy is overlooked on that plea? There is no more excuse for self-will, disobedience and selfishness in your son than in your daughter. See to it, mothers, that you begin with the first signs of any of the seeds of anger, lawlessness and self-indulgence, to uproot them, that they spring not to bear fruit. Begin early, when, it may be, your child is but six months old, to let him know that his will must give way to yours. So shall he learn, from infancy, to hold all his passions in subservience to his understanding and the laws of God.

Nothing is more pitiful than a life spent in thinking of nothing but self; yes, even in thinking of nothing but one’s own soul.—F. W. Farrar.

God is immutable in all things; and it is among his immutabilities that he will always, in dealing with men, have regard to their desires, humbly and trustfully presented before him.—Hallam.
in a short time. But when any desire to discontinue their paper the best way for them to do, and the least trouble to us, would be to notify us at the time that their subscription expires that they want it discontinued, and this they can know for themselves by examining the tag or address which is on the paper. When we are not notified at that time we take it for granted that you want it continued and we expect the pay within three months and that we will consider “paid in advance” as all subscriptions should be. We would earnestly appeal to all in arrears to try and pay their subscriptions now. We do so much need the money and we do not want to send out bills, neither do we need the money and we do not want to send out collectors, but we will be necessitated to do both unless we receive the amount due us. Should there be any cases of distress or persons too poor to pay we hope you will inform us of the fact and state your case and we will respect your statement and do all we can to supply you with the Visorion free. We do not want to refer to this matter so often, and, to the large majority of our subscribers it is not necessary that we should, as they are very prompt to pay. But we need all the money to meet our obligations. Our expenses must be met and the subscription is our only source of income.

"Behold how great a fire a little matter kindleth."

How true this inspired language of the apostle James is, and yet how often is it forgotten or overlooked. The church of Jesus Christ here on earth is made up of true believers who have united together as a body for mutual benefit, for greater spiritual enjoyment, and for to further the ends of the Christian work in which they feel prompted by the Holy Spirit to be engaged. And yet how easily can the benefits of that gospel arrangement be at least partially frustrated by a wrong or seeming wrong act or word spoken by some one who no doubt without reflection has expressed himself unguardedly, probably at a time when the greatest care was necessary.

We would naturally think that those who love God never would utter a word that would give offense to their fellow-Christians. Then, too, we think that the Christian would not take offense at anything that might be said, but it does seem as though such was not the case always. We are human with human weakness, and although our object and aim may be right, yet we fail often in our best efforts. But what is to be done? Shall we let these mistakes of ours keep us from the enjoyment of the great blessings God has in store for us? Will we feed on the husks when there is the richest of food in the store house of the Lord for us if we will only put ourselves in the way to obtain it?

Self-will is very poor food for the soul. It is to be feared that many souls who have for many years been an example of Christian consistency and have enjoyed much of God’s love have grown poor, simply by giving way to temptation when they are probably near their journey’s end; near the waited-for prize. Well, what is to be done? Shall we continue on in our mistaken duty? No! No! May the Lord forbid. To the praise of God it can be said there is a remedy, there is a better way, let us choose it. These mistakes of ours and these temptations that we may have to feel are only intended to teach us our own weakness and the necessity of depending on God for help. But it requires a willingness to retrace our steps, to undo our mistakes or to confess our wrongs, and to forgive the mistakes of others, and to get back into our first love. How sweet is the consciousness of peace with God and peace with each other. Oh, may God ever be our guide to lead us back into the path of duty and forbearance and into the full possession of that love which emanates from Him who is Love.