

## Sunday Reading.

### CONFIDENCE IN THE CAPTAIN.

A few years ago, a fine ship set out on her voyage across the Atlantic ocean.—The first day after leaving port was exceedingly pleasant. A gentle breeze which invited the spreading of all the ship's canvas, wafted her smoothly on her course. The passengers remained on deck till near midnight; when they retired to their state rooms with pleasant anticipations of a quiet and prosperous voyage.

Before morning they were awakened from sleep by the violent motion of the vessel, and the tramping of feet on the deck, and the roar of the wind through the rigging.—A violent squall had struck the vessel with her sails all set, and it was some little time before they could be taken in so as to bring the ship under control. The fears of some of the passengers were greatly excited; but the decided clear tones of the captain's voice heard above the howlings of the winds as he gave his orders, quickly inspired confidence. When the sails were taken in, the ship resumed her upright position, and became obedient to her helm.

During the succeeding day, there was a succession of squalls, which to the inexperienced eye brought danger with them, but the composed and energetic manner, in which the captain gave his orders and saw them executed, gave a feeling of security, even to the most timid.

This could see in the captain was not misplaced. He was a man of great native talent and energy, and was one of the most skillful seamen living.

We are all voyagers upon an ocean more tempestuous and dangerous than the Atlantic ocean. But we are under the guidance of a captain far more worthy of confidence than the most accomplished seaman. To knowledge and skill he adds the possession of Almighty power. The storms of life's ocean are all under his control. He never slumbers. No sudden danger can overtake those whom he has in charge.

We ought therefore to exercise perfect confidence in the captain of our salvation. We cannot be in danger while under his protection. The winds of adversity may blow, but he holds them in his fist, and will not let them harm us. The waves of sorrow may rise and roll, but he will not let them overwhelm us.

We cannot want while under his guidance. No good thing will be withheld from them that walk uprightly. He will freely give us all things.

We can never be lost while under his protection. He is able to keep that which is committed to him. No soul committed to his hand was ever lost.

Let us lay aside then, all indifference, and all fear. Let us have confidence in the captain of our salvation. Let us honor him, and secure a stable peace to our souls, by an unfading trust in him.

Nothing is more dispassing to him than a want of confidence in him. Have faith in God.—[S. S. Union.]

### PRESENT YOURSELVES "FREELY."

You are to offer yourselves freely, you are to offer yourselves daily. "I beseech you," says the apostle, "that ye present yourselves. Do not wait to be obliged to come to God's altar, but come of your own accord, and lay yourselves upon it—present yourselves. Now, the principle of all this is that of love. If you love God as you should, you will present yourselves to God. Oh, when will you see it? He wants you to give yourselves freely to Him, freely to do it. Do you not understand the difference between giving freely and giving grudgingly? Suppose you have a friend who is poor, and that friend comes to you to ask for a small sum of money, and you have the means of giving it. If you love your money better than you love your friend, and act upon that feeling, you will keep your money and let your friend want. If you love your money as much as you love your friend, you will most likely, half and have doubtfully for a while, and if at last you give the money you will give it grudgingly. But, if you love your friend better than you love it, and act under the influence of that love, you will give the money freely—you will neither refuse nor grudge the gift. Now, we beseech you, by the name of God, that ye neither refuse to give yourselves to God, but give yourselves freely in the fulness of affection to the Lord, to be laid as sacrifices upon His altar. You remember how the apostle says elsewhere, "Yield yourselves to God as those that are alive from the dead and your members are instruments of righteousness unto God."—And you remember too, how the Lord Jesus rejoined to give up His body, His soul, His will, and His life to the Father, saying, "I delight to do Thy will, O God." My dear friends, all you want to enable you to do this, is to have the love of God shed abroad in your hearts by the Holy Spirit, which is freely given to all believers. It was Christ's love, His love that passes knowledge, which made Him delight to do God's will in this and in all things. And only love makes you willing to follow His example.

Love makes you willing foot  
In such undivided love;  
And now suppose each hour we meet,  
While passing on to God.

### "SAY JESUS."

As the late Professor Hope, of Princeton, was lying on his dying bed, and just before he breathed his last, after saying, "My work is done. The pins of the tabernacle are taken out," he began to repeat the lines, "A guilty, weak, unrepentant soul,

when his power of utterance seemed to fail. His sorrow-stricken wife, who was by his bedside, finished the stanza thus:

"He then my strength and righteousness,  
My Saviour and my all."

"Say Jesus," said her dying husband, and then breathed his last.

## Agricultural.



From the N. C. Planter.

**BETTER FARMERS**—There has been a great deal written about the Improvement of Land. Some writers say there is an abundance of material on every man's land to improve his Farm. I say the man that makes such an assertion is mistaken—he is unacquainted with pine woods land where there is not a pond, branch, creek or any thing of the kind to get the material to make manure: his only chance is pine straw, and the only good it does, is to hold the droppings of the stock together. As a general thing, the clay on sandy land is two or three feet deep, and the manure that we make on such land does not improve it, for it is not the kind that it needs. Putting strong stable manure on sandy land, is like giving warm water with a hot fever. We need clay, or muck out of the low grounds of a creek or river to put on our land.—Then we could improve it and make fine crops every year on the same land.

Now, the question is, what must we do, or how must we do, to keep up our land? My answer is, we must have open land enough to till it one year and rest it two; and by so doing our land will stand drought a great deal better, and improve every year if well managed; because the vegetation that is on the land keeps the summer's sun from penetrating so deep into the ground and drying up the moisture.

I will now give you my plan of culture.

In the spring when I get ready to go to such a field, (the one I intend planting first,) and go one right after the other around the fence runs, and finish in the middle;

by so doing I leave no water furrows to make gullies; and if you want a heap of plowing done in a little time, put the fast horses behind, and tell those before to keep out of the way. When I get ready to plant corn, I have my rows laid off four-and-a-half feet, and I have a grown hand following behind, dropping in the same furrow, every time the right foot makes a step; the corn is dropped at the toe, and the corn is about five feet that way. I care not how small the hoe is that the corn is covered with, nor how lazy the hand is that covers it, so the corn is covered deep enough to prevent the birds from seeing it for the most part; and I have a great many satisfaction.

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E. R. STOKES, January 17, 1858.

Two hours above French Bank, in New Building rear of W. & Stanley's China Hall, COLUMBIA, S. C.

The above Establishment is now in full operation, having still received a full supply of the best BLANK PAPER and BINDERS' MATERIALS. I am at times ready to fill all orders in my house, and at the same time receive a share of patronage. My present situation will allow me to give you what I may be favored.

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