

ZION'S LANDMARKS.

DEVOTED TO THE DEFENSE OF THE PRIMITIVE BAPTISTS.

"TO THE LAW AND TO THE TESTIMONY."

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POETRY.

Music.

I love sweet sounds, they soothe my heart,
When torn by sore affliction's smart:
In wildest dreams I hear them oft,
Delicious, melodious, soft.

I love the warbling of the bird
Whose song so oft in spring is heard,
'Tis ever music to my ear,
'Tis sent to strengthen and to cheer.

I love it in the morning bright,
When hearts are free and glad and light,
It sends a thrill of joyous glee
To think its songs are meant for me.

'Tis God who gives it strength to sing,
To make the woods with music ring;
'Tis He who makes us love to hear
The r' glad some notes so pure and clear.

Where'er it be my lot to dwell
On highland rock, in mossy dell:
In cottage poor or palace fair,
May music be my pleasure there.

I sorrow for that sickly mind,
Who ne'er in music ought can find
A charm to drive dull care afar,
When troubles dark their pleasures mar.

Oh music good of every kind
Is ever suited to my mind,
No matter if its sad or gay
A solemn chant or merry lay.

Music softens, music refines,
Music enchants, may it be mine,
E'er to feel its soothing power
E'en in death's dark and trying hour.

But music here can never be
So sweet as that above to me;
In that bright land of perfect love
Where saints in endless numbers move.

M. A. THOMPSON.

COMMUNICATED.

NOVEMBER 9th, 1872.

DEAR BROTHER GOLD:—Having had the privilege of reading a few numbers of the "Landmarks" I am well pleased with the doctrine it contains; I have enclosed two dollars in this letter for your paper one year. Dear brother as I am writing for your paper I will tell you a little about my experience of grace in early childhood from the age of about eight years old to about twelve I had very serious meditations on eternity at times and desired to be a good child and when alone I would try to pray for the same, but from the age above mentioned I fell in love with the ways of the world and was hardened in sinful practices so that I became an enemy to religion and pursued after my own way.—I had a great habit of swearing and cursing, so that I seldom uttered a sentence without an oath of some sort;

during this time I learned to play the fiddle and I became one of the chief among the young people in their parties and dances, and in this form of life I gloried, I had forgotten all my former prayers and promises I had made in my childhood and gone after my own way which I then enjoyed. I seldom went to preaching of any kind and if any spoke to me of such, or rebuked me it would stir my wrath against them. As for the Bible I had no use for it and did not read it, no more than if there had been no such thing in the world. Oh! miserable condition that I was in. I do at times reason with myself in this way, asking what was in me to cause the Lord to love me, surely there was nothing, but if I was loved it was in Christ, for if I am one that was chosen in him to be conformed to him it was according to his purpose to come to pass and not according to our works, either of righteousness or wickedness: all the Father gave me shall come to me and him that cometh unto me I will in nowise cast out: all that hath heard and hath learned of my Father cometh unto me: we have to learn the filthiness of our wickedness and righteousness before we can or will come to Christ. I believe I have been experimentally taught the filthiness of both. I find no ground to build a hope on either. I have told you a little of my love to sin. Now I will inform you of the way the Lord has led me out and killed me to the love of sin, if indeed he has: about the age of nineteen I was awakened and I saw I was a sinner against God and in his sight I saw also that I was passing from time to eternity and I would have to go to judgment with all my sins, if I remained in the condition I was in I should be lost, but at this time I was not affected with much fear and the reason was I had a way in my view by which I thought I could escape the wrath of God: and sin, being very sweet to my flesh, I would say it is time enough yet to reform; thus I continued a short time, but the impressions

did increase in my mind, and I began to promise I would leave off sinning and do right, and the Lord would love me and pardon me for what I had done, but my convictions would ease off my mind and I would do the things I had promised not to do, after making and breaking many promises. I saw I was getting worse instead of getting better and in order to bind myself I would take an oath to the Lord I would not do those things again but that proved of no more strength than the other; now thought I, it will not do to go on in this way for in the place of doing good I am doing worse, so I concluded to leave off trying to do good for it is no use, for I can't do right. About this time I dreamed and saw a cloud rise in the west about the size of a man, and in a minute or two it spread over the heavens and became exceedingly dark and the lightning flashed from it and came in the house I was in, and lighted on me and I drank it; this increased my troubles for it appeared if I did not turn I would have to drink the fire of hell forever. Thus I promised again and tried to pray to the Lord to have mercy on me and enable me to keep the promise, but I broke it: now cried I, what shall I do, for I am sinning both ways, if I go back I sin there, if I try to do right I sin there for I lie to the Lord, which appeared to be as great a sin as I ever committed. I can't go back for I shall die there; I can't go forward, I have tried and I sin by trying to do right, thus I stood looking this way and that way crying: Oh! what shall I do to be saved, at this time it came in my mind to read the scriptures. So I read them, the law was the first part I read, which seemed very severe to me but I thought I must keep it; about this time I got rid of my outward sinful practices and I lived for a while as upright as I well could and I rested here, thinking I was doing my duty: the next I saw was my sinful heart.

I discovered that evil thoughts would work in my mind and the law, saying the thought of foolishness is

sin and the soul that sins shall die, when they would assail my mind I would try to banish them out, but I could not; now my troubles began to increase again and my burden was now greater than before I had reformed I had lived upright but my heart was evil and evil thoughts would flow in me in spite of all I could do to resist them; when I would pray they would work in the very prayer, here I was cut loose from all hope and I sank down in the lowest depth of grief; I could do nothing but cry, God be merciful to me a sinner, in this condition and through all my travel, I would desire to be alone for I was ashamed to let any one know I was in distress, thus I would retire to some secret place night and day to pray; in this mourning condition I would wonder about alone for nothing was any enjoyment to me, for it seemed my life was soon to be ended and I should be plunged into torment, I could now view God holy and his law holy and pure and good and I such a sinner I could not see how the Lord could have mercy on me, but the very breathings of my soul were, God be merciful to me a sinner: while in this state of grief and sorrow, I dreamed I climbed up a high hill and I had gotten to the top of it, I went on to the further side which was up and down, so much so, I saw no way to go down but I thought I must go down and as I stepped off the edge there was a pillar under my feet that let me down, and as I was going down a light shone on me and I felt light and good and the hill vanished away and I was in a straight narrow street; from that time my burden was gone and all the works of nature looked glorious and beautiful; I was filled with love to the Lord and his people and those I loved were the Old Baptists, though I knew nothing about them, I had never spoken to one of them on a religious subject, neither had I heard them preach but a few times and that was when I cared nothing about them. I visited the first quarterly meeting after my deliver-