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THE OBJECT OF LIFE.

One of the most manifest weaknesses of the human mind is the inclination to esteem things of minor importance too highly, and to lightly esteem things of great importance. This is the greatest evidence of the death which came upon man when he transgressed the law of his Creator, and the first step in redeeming him from this curse is to teach him to esteem things according to their value. Man's love for the rewards he is to receive induces him to engage his services to some master, and his Creator with an all-wise purpose, has constituted him that he cannot serve two masters; that, when he gives his services to one, he does so to the exclusion of all others.

We spend our lives in pursuit of many things to the attainment of which we devote our whole time and attention; and our aim is to investigate some of the objects for which men live, and to endeavor to find for what they should live. We find, by investigation, that the greatest object most men have in view is the acquirement of wealth; and they consider all time lost which is not spent in this way; they estimate the value of every article by the amount of gold or silver to which it is equal. All the powers of the mind are turned in this direction. The folly of this class of people is apparent to every one; and yet in view of the fact that "a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of things he possesseth," we are continually judging men by the weight of their purses rather than by their character as men. Not only does the love of money engage men's time and talents; but it also causes them to cheat, lie, steal, swindle, and to invent all kinds of infernal plans to possess it.

Probably there is nothing which engage man's imagination so much, and so takes possession of him, as the desire for honor. There are not many who ever get beyond its influence; our actions are continually governed by the thought of what people will think of us. Politicians worship for the most part at this shrine and we sometimes find men who scoff at the idea of the existence of the God of the Bible, bowing in the dust to mortal tyrants and serving them in every respect, or in many respects serving popular opinion, than which nothing is more fickle or uncertain.

It may be claimed by some that people do not spend their time in acquiring wealth or honor for near wealth or honor's sake; but have in view the pleasure which they suppose these will give. For instance, when one spends all his time in the acquisition of wealth, he looks forward to a time when he shall enjoy it, when he shall say unto his soul, "Eat, drink and be merry, and delight thyself in fatness." Or, when pursuing honor, he merely has his own

pleasure in view; imagining that honor attained will bring him that pleasure. We admit that this may be the case, and also, that their own selfish pleasure and enjoyment are the only things most men have in view. This pursuit of pleasure and amusement has assumed various forms in the different ages and nations of the world according to the character of the people.

The Greeks were the founders of national games, of which there were a great many, in honor of the different gods they worshiped. The theatre at Athens had seats hewn out of solid rock with the capacity of thirty thousand. The Grecian games were degraded in the days of Rome. Running, wrestling, and chariot-racing were too tame affairs for the Romans. Wild-beast fights took their place; then men fought beasts and with one another. So popular did these games become, that none could hope to be elected to any position unless he gave public exhibition of wild beast and gladiatorial combats. Immense fortunes were spent in this way. Amphitheatres were built in every town. The greatest of these, the Colosseum, was built at Rome by Vespasian and Titus after the destruction of Jerusalem. It enclosed five acres of land and had a capacity of eighty thousand. Its dedication lasted one hundred days, during which time five thousand animals were thrown into the arena. It continued to be used for four hundred years. Certain animals were so difficult to obtain that it was considered a crime to kill them. It was a capital offense for a gladiator to kill a petulian lion, even in order to save his own life. So honorable did these battles become that divine honors were rendered to one Emperor who fought seven hundred and thirty-five times as a common gladiator; and so much did the popular amusement depend on those shows that every family had its gladiators, and sons in high life paid honors to a deceased father by gladiatorial combats in which from twenty-five to seventy-five gladiators took part, the contest often lasting for days.

In Mediæval times, the tournament took the place of the national games of Greece and Rome. These were contests between Knights for honor. Almost always there were many borne dead or dying from the arena, and in one German tournament sixty knights were killed.

From the establishment of the Black Friars theatre, in the time of Shakespeare, to the present, theatres and theatre going has grown in popular favor until now it is one of the greatest sources of pleasure.

Time would fail if we were to attempt to enumerate all the plans men invent to promote the enjoyment of their fellow creatures, as a means of increasing their own wealth, or of all the ways so-

ciety in general find for killing time or passing it pleasantly.

Now the question arises, what should be the object of life? for what was life given us? Everything in Nature serves an important purpose is a means to an end, and is designed to sustain life. For what is life itself designed? Biologists tell us of a law in Nature, which they call evolution; by which plants or animals, if they use the organs they possess for the sustenance of life, gradually become more complex in their organisms and enter a higher grade of plant or animal life. On the contrary, if they cease from any cause, to use the organs given them, they gradually lose them and are degraded in the scale of life. Instances of these are cited in the case of parasitic plants and animals and also of animals shut up in dark caverns for ages which have lost their sight. Now man's Creator has given him certain faculties, and it is from a right use of those faculties that he derives all his pleasure; and it is by right use that he develops them.

The most important of these should engage his attention first; and the study of nature only gives us a clue as to which are the most important or in whose service he is to engage them. We know that, although the body is a wonderful piece of mechanism and possesses wonderful faculties, it is not the most important part of man; that it was only designed as a dwelling place for the mind or true man; that the brain, though it is exceedingly wonderful in its operations, is only the instrument with which the mind carries on its work.

We can learn this much from the study of nature, but what the principle we call is, or what is its importance, we cannot find from the study of nature alone. It is reasonable to suppose that man's Creator would give him a knowledge of his character and how it should be developed; what faculties he should cultivate, especially, and what he should restrain and keep in subjection the uses for which they were designed.

We find that such a revelation has been given him, and it thoroughly teaches him what he is, how he became so, and the manner in which he is to be redeemed and his faculties developed. This Book of books, dictated by the spirit of God teaches us that the wages of neglecting the highest faculties, those faculties which were created in the likeness of our Creator Himself, and of giving loose rein to our carnal appetites which ally us to the brute creation, is death to the soul or true man; and that the gift of God, if man will only receive it, is a regeneration of the dead faculties of the soul by which it will live forever. It teaches us that our first object should be to seek God and His righteousness, and that in so doing we may be

assured that all the temporal blessings will be added unto us day by day as we need them. It also teaches us that we should not be conformed to this world, but should be transformed, by the renewing of our minds, that we may prove and thereby know, what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God. It teaches us that if men love the world and the things of the world, they do not love God; that the love of the world and the love of God do not exist together. If we only give the matter proper thought we will find that these teachings are eminently scientific. A study of nature acquaints us with the laws of progress and development from the simplest one-celled animal to the exceedingly complex organs of the human body and faculties of the mind, but we can go no farther by the study of nature. The Bible removes the barriers to our knowledge and teaches us how man, by right use of his faculties, may enter a higher kingdom in which there will be an eternal progression toward the infinitely great, good, and glorious perfection of his Creator. Therefore we do not hesitate to conclude that this is the object for which we should live; to attain which we should devote all the powers of body, mind and soul.

Mr. D. Wiley, ex-postmaster, Black Creek, N. Y., was so badly afflicted with rheumatism that he was only able to hobble around with canes, and even then it caused him great pain. After using Chamberlain's Pain Balm he was so much improved that he threw away his canes. He says this liniment did him more good than all other medicines and treatment put together. For sale at 50 cents per bottle by W. L. Bryan.

The professor was lecturing on some of the habits and custom of the Ancient Greeks to his class. "The ancient Greeks built no roofs over their theatres," said the professor.

"What did the ancient Greeks do when it rained?" asked Johnny.

The professor took off his spectacles, polished them with his handkerchief, and replied, calmly, "They got wet, I suppose."

It Did the Business.

Rev. J. H. Cobb, publisher of the 'Mirror,' at Brocton, N. Y., says: "For nearly two years the 'Mirror' has been publishing the advertisements of Chamberlain's Remedies. A few days ago the writer was suffering from a bowel trouble and resorted to an old remedy which did not prove efficacious; finally he tried Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy and two doses did the business, checking it completely. For sale by W. L. Bryan.

The Supreme Court has decided that Ewart is entitled to the Judgeship of the Criminal Court of the Western district. He was elected by the Legislature when no quorum was present. But the Supreme Court supplied the quorum.—Chronicle.

Children Cry for Pitcher's Castoria.

The mortgage, or assignment act, which set the State by the ears a few weeks ago will not do down—it keeps coming up. It was, as everybody remembers, tabled in the House but was never in the Senate, but through fraud it was enrolled and is now a law. The fusionists, in order to clear their own skirts, have charged that its enrollment was secured by Democrats interested in getting it passed. There never was any reason to believe this, and there is none now. Miss Daisy Branson, of Raleigh, a young lady employed in the office of the enrolling clerk during the session of the Legislature has made affidavit that she copied the bill for enrollment and that it was given her to copy by Enrolling Clerk Brown or one of his clerks. The burden of the proof is now on Browne a fusionist and an employe of the fusion Legislature to show why he had the bill copied and enrolled when it had been tabled in the House and never passed the Senate.—Statesville Landmark.

Pretty Good Snake Tale.

Our neighbor and fellow citizen, William Smith, Esq., late government official and truthful man, has recently purchased land up on what is known as "Hog Elk." Last week he went up and fixed a bean patch and he tells us that sometimes "endurance" of the fixing of the patch he had to kill four good sized boa constrictor snakes, and at another time there he killed thirty-five rattle snakes and one black one. He said he would have spared the black snake if he had not found him in bad company. Will is said to be a truthful boy.—Wilkesboro Chronicle.

"If we know God, he can say a great deal to us through a dew drop or the petal of a flower."

BIG BID FOR SOME OF YOUR CASH.

We have a full line of General Merchandise, and are receiving new goods every few days, which we propose to sell at prices never before heard of, for cash. We invite your attention to a few of our prices named below: All wool cassimer 30 inches wide at 15 cts., French cassimers 30c., cottonades 10c. and up, heavy domestic 5 1/2c. by the bolt, plaids 5 1/2c. standard prints at 6c. and up, cassimers and henrettas at all the latest styles, cheap. Crepoline, the latest fad in dress goods, in the very latest spring shades at 10c.

We are just receiving a large stock of Shoes and Hats, of all kinds at the very lowest prices. Also a nice line of notions cheap. Men's good half hose at 5c., fast black 20c.

HARDWARE

Of all kinds. Farmers, listen to our prices on hoes: Heavy 6 1/2 inch planter's hoe for 29c. medium cotton hoe 4 for \$1. boy's hoes 20 cts. each. You can get anything in tinware at prices that will astonish you. Try our XX tinware.

GROCERIES.

Under this head we are prepared to offer you some special inducements. Good green coffee 5 lbs for \$1, 4 lbs. Arbuckles \$1, 18 lbs. white extra C sugar \$1, 6 lbs soda 25c. Oysters, canned peaches rolled oats, soaps, etc. In fact almost anything kept in a country store, at prices that defy competition.

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Try a glass of our great summer drink only 5c. Call and get our prices before buying elsewhere. Resp.

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FINE CALF & KID LEATHER
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For putting a horse in a fine healthy condition try Dr. Cady's Condition Powder. They tone up the system, aid digestion, cure loss of appetite, relieve constipation, correct kidney disorders and destroy worms, giving new life to an old or over worked horse. 25 cents per package. For sale by druggists.
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Indigestion, and Stomach Disorders, take BROWN'S LIQUID. It is a certain cure. All dealers keep it, \$1 per bottle. Genuine has trade-mark and cannot be put up on wrapper.

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