

Day of wrath, that day shall pass away;
When heaven and earth shall pass away;
What power shall be the sinners stay?
How shall he meet that dreadful day?
When, shriveling like a parched scroll,
The flaming heavens together roll;
When, like a man who has no friend,
Swallow the high trumpet that wakes the dead;
On that day that death abiding,
When man to judgment wakes from clay,
Thou the trembling sinners stay,
Though heaven and earth shall pass away.

RELIGIOUS READING.

[Under supervision of the Young Men's Christian Association of Charlotte.]

Missions Pay.

In asking and pleading, as we do, for the means of carrying on foreign missionary operations, we are seeking the surest and most effectual reformation and well being of all among whom these missionary labors are performed and the word of God is brought in any way to operate.

A very striking illustration is just given in the Honolulu Friend, a paper published in the Sandwich Islands.

For many years before 1855 the Islands of Micronesia, in the Southern Ocean, were terribly proverbed for the degradation and savagery character of their inhabitants.

Time and again the unfortunate crews of ships that fell into their hands were massacred, and every thing showed how heartily all the dark places of the earth are of the habitations of cruelty.

But a change has taken place. In 1855 the Microbian Mission, as it was termed, was undertaken.

Devoted Christians from the Sandwich Islands and elsewhere,

bore the Bible to those Islands and began faithful and earnest Christian work.

This has passed on, and now, in the twenty years that have elapsed, never has single case of the merciless, bloodshed and cruelty that had marked the long past occurred on any of those Islands, with the single exception of one in the Malian group, where no missionary has ever yet come, and where the Bible and the Holy Spirit accompanying it, have never been sent.

What a call there is in a fact like this to have the Gospel sent abroad and read and taught and preached as the true Reformer of the world and as the great means of elevating and making happy the race. Will not Christian men, lovers of their fellow-men, all who wish the real well-being of mankind, give them prayers and their means for the missionary cause, that has this great object so largely in view.

—Christian Teacher.

TRUTH.—It will be acknowledged, even by those who practise it not, that clear and round dealing is the honor of man's nature, and that mixture of falsehood is like alloy in coin of gold and silver, which may make the metal work "the better, but it embases it.

For these winding and crooked courses are the goings of the serpent; which goeth basely upon the belly, and not upon the feet. There is no vice that doth so cover a man with shame, as to be found false, and perfidious; and therefore Montaigne saith prettily, when he inquired the reason why the word of the lie should be such a disgrace, and such an odious charge; saith he, "if it be well weighed, to say that a man lieth, is as much as to say that he is brave towards God and a coward towards men." For he faces God, and shrinks from man.

Bacon.

HOGAN CONFESSION.

A real genuine bona fide confession is about the rarest utterance one ever hears. We know some excellent people who never in their lives have gone frankly to the public, the church, or their most intimate friends, and said, "There was a lie I am sorry to forgive me."

There is plenty of hogan confession; but of real honest confessing very little. There is the confession commendatory, "I tell you," says Mr. A., "I have got an awful temper, I am as mighty quick as don't live; but it's not while I'm up, I often say things that I am sorry for afterwards, but it's me and it's got to come out." He thinks he has made a confession; not afraid. He has been punishing himself; but the peacock is not proud of its tail, then this man is not his pet passion.

There is the confession general. The man catches up the general confession of public sins and repeats it over in prayer, in his family, at his ways and to his own soul, and the confession of a congregation, or of a general term; but the confession of an individual to his own conscience and his God ought to be particular.

There is the confession theological; this is the declaration of an article of belief; it is, in effect an orthodox syllogism, thus, "all men are sinners; I am a man, therefore I am a sinner." Sometimes it is put in a less orthodox way, thus, "Oh, yes, I suppose I am a sinner, all men are sinners, and I do not pretend to be any better than my neighbor."

There are occasions when a man has nothing to do with his neighbors; when he dies, and when he stands before God's judgment seat; and he had better forget his neighbors when he stands before his own conscience to be judged. Correct views concerning the general sinfulness of the race are important, but they are unimportant compared with correct views concerning our individual selves. We have known men as proud as Lucifer, who were unimpeachably orthodox concerning principles and general depravity; and we have known men who held views a great deal more charitable than correct respecting human nature in general, who keenly felt their own sins and shortcomings, and their own need of a personal Saviour.

It is very easy to pray off sins or to roll off by rate, formal confession of sins or to incorporate in one's creed a general recognition of the general sinfulness of mankind. But these are all hogan confessions. To go to God and say, "In that business transaction I was mean; in that one I lied; in that word to my wife I was cruel and barbarous. I might better have struck her a blow with my hand than with my tongue; I have been selfish, proud, mean, false; that may be a simple matter, but it is the hardest thing any man is called on to do."

No penance imposed by pope or priest, no pilgrimage by Mohammedan devotee, would be easier to avert general depravity.

And it is only this sort of confession that means anything.

Illustrated Christian Weekly.

Mr. Solomon Hegg, an old and much esteemed citizen of Davidson, dropped dead of heart disease while on his way to Salem one day last week.



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