SAVING FAITH.

"If I only had more faith," said a young and widowed mother, as she patted and caressed the child in her arms.

"What do you understand by faith?" was asked.

"A certain confidence in my own spiritual condition—a surety such as I hear others speak of," was quickly answered.

"Your child has the faith that you need," was the reply.

"How so," asked the mother.

"Your child trusts you, loves you, obeys you."

"O, yes; pet clings to me; I'm all she has; you know," and a shower of kisses rained over the little's face.

"That's it," exclaimed the aged Christian, "that is the faith that gives assurance. This trusting, clinging faith in Christ. He must be all to love, to trust, and to cling to."

Reader, have you this clinging faith?

EXPRESSING AN OPINION.

We all have our opinions, or we ought to have them, but as regards the advisability of expressing them on all occasions much might be said. There are people, good people too, who pride themselves on doing this, but it must be owned that they are not often popular. "Must we then conceal our true views, dissimulate for the sake of popularity?" asks some one. By no means, good friend, but reserve need not be untruthfulness. We are not called upon to tell just what we think when by so doing we would only irritate without aiding any one.

These outspoken folks are seldom aware of the pain they inflict or the vexation they cause. Long after you have forgotten your own words they are rankling in the mind of the recipient. "I can't help that," perhaps they would add if you could make them see this result. "I must express my opinions frankly, you know, and people ought not to be offended at the truth." But when the truth is as unnecessary as it is unpalatable, what then? And then, too, it does not always follow that truth-telling people relish a like plainness of speech from their victims. On the contrary, they often resent what they practice, with most illogical warmth.

To be always ready to give an opinion *when it is needed* is a very different thing, and indeed there are cases wherein one cannot be too positive or too plain. But gentleness, consideration and tact—above all, Christian charity—should shape our course for us always. Give your opinion by all means, when by so doing you can help or strengthen or warn others, but don't give it when the only effect will be the annoyance of your hearer. Why should you tell Jane that her brother John is so bashful that it makes him awkward, or that her sister Mary has no taste? It can do no good, and it only wounds poor Jane, who will think of you thereafter as a very disagreeable person.

SHARP EYES.

The habit of observation is the habit of clear and decisive gazing; not by a first casual glance, but by a steady deliberate aim of the eye are the rare and characteristic things discovered. You must look intently and hold your eye firmly to the spot, to see more than do the rank and file of mankind. The sharp-shooter picks out his man and knows him with fatal certainty from a stump, or a rock, or a cap on a pole. The phrenologists do well to locate not only form, color, weight, etc., in the region of the eye, but a faculty which they call individuality—that which separates, discriminates, and sees in every object its essential character. This is just as necessary to the naturalist as the artist or the poet. The sharp eye notes specific points and differences—it seizes upon and preserves the individuality of the thing.

Persons frequently describe to me some bird they have seen or heard and ask me to name it; but in most cases the bird might be any one of a dozen, or else it is totally unlike any bird found in this continent. They have either seen falsely or else vaguely. Not so the farm youth who wrote me one winter day that he had seen a single pair of strange birds, which he described as follows: "They were about the size of the 'chippe,' the tops of their heads were red, and the breast of the male was of the same color; while that of the female was much lighter; their rumps were also faintly tinted with red. If I have described them so that you would know them, please write me their names." There can be little doubt but the young observer had seen a pair of red-polls,—a bird related to the gold-finch, and that occasionally comes down to us in the winter from the far north. Another time, the same youth wrote that he had seen a strange bird, the color of a sparrow, that alighted on fences and buildings as well as upon the ground and that it walked. This last fact showed the youth's discriminating eye and settled the case. I knew it to be a species of lark, and from the time, size, color, etc., tit-lark. But how many persons would have observed that the bird walked instead of hopped.—*Scribner.*

The "Farmer" or "Grange" candidates (although Democratic) were defeated in several counties of the State for the Legislature. If *class* candidates are to be run hereafter, preparations will be made by opposition classes to defeat them. Our readers know that we have always opposed *class combinations*, especially *secret* class combinations. The sooner good men in the South discountenance any sort of *class* societies or combinations, the better it will be for them. The time may come when *secret class* combinations cannot be controlled by men; and that is the reason we have always opposed them.—*Charlotte Democrat.*

ENTHUSIASM.

It is an honor worth striving and suffering for to be an enthusiastic winner of souls! In the time of the Crusades, a company of Scotch soldiers proceeded to Palestine with the intention of depositing in the Holy Sepulchre the heart of Bruce, which the chieftain carried with him in a casket. One day, when attacked by the Moslems and in danger of being worsted, the chieftain sprang forward and flung the casket containing the heart of the great Scottish Patriot in the midst of the enemy, exclaiming: "Where the heart of Bruce goes, there let the Scot follow!" This rallied his soldiers; they fought with renewed vigor and came off victorious. So the heart of Jesus has gone forth into the broad world, swung forward by the hand of Omnipotent Love—for "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son." Where the heart of Jesus has gone, there let His people follow and fight the good fight of faith: fight bravely, skillfully, enthusiastically.—*Selected.*

A SHORT HISTORY OF PETROLEUM.

The *Lumberman's Gazette* gives the following short history of petroleum: The production of petroleum as an article of trade dates from the 28th of August, 1859, when Colonel Drake, in a well 69½ feet deep, "struck oil," and coined a phrase that will last as long as the English language. From that beginning it has increased to an annual production of $14,590,000 barrels of crude oil. The first export was in 1861, of 27,000 barrels, valued at $1,000,000, and the export of petroleum in the year 1877 was in round numbers $62,000,000. The annual product of petroleum to-day—crude and refined—is greater in value than the entire production of iron, and is more than double that of the anthracite coal of the State of Pennsylvania, and exceeds the gold and silver product of the whole country. As an article of export it is fourth, and contests closely for the third rank. Our leading exports are relatively as follows: Cotton annually from $175,000,000 to $227,000,000; flour from $69,000,000 to $139,000,000; pork and its products (bacon, ham and lard) from $57,000,000 to $-?,000,000; and petroleum from $48,000,000 to $62,000,000. The total export of petroleum from 1861 to and including 1877 (16 years) has been $442,698,968, custom house valuation. From the best sources of information there are at this time 10,000 oil wells, producing and drilling; which, at a cost of $5,000 per well, would make an investment of $50,000,000 in this branch of the business. Tankage now existing of a capacity of 6,000,000 barrels cost $2,000,000, and $8,000,000 has been invested in about 2,000 miles of pipe lines connected with the wells. The entire investment for the existing oil production, including purchase money of territory, is something over $100,000,000 which amount cannot be lessened much, if any, for as wells cease to produce new ones have been constantly drilled to take their place.

Wonderful.—A new process for curing fruit at a cost no exceeding one or two cents per bushel has been discovered, and is now being introduced in this section. From what we have seen of it, we believe it will do all claimed for it. The idea of putting fruit up for winter use at a cost of only one cent per bushel, is indeed wonderful, but we have tried the process and belive it a success. We have roasting ears kept from last year's growth.—*Buffalo Blade.*

The following is the official vote of the Gubernatorial and Congressional election in the 7th District, for 1876:

	Robbins	*Dula*	*Vance*	*Settle*
Alexander,	807	337	808	352
Alleghany,	516	138	513	154
Ashe,	1053	811	1067	875
Davie,	1018	697	1011	708
Forsyth,	1490	1486	1454	1540
Iredell,	2354	1207	2356	1239
Rowan,	2169	1201	2163	1250
Surry,	1360	979	1286	1042
Watauga,	699	236	676	301
Wilkes,	1328	1484	1284	1499
Yadkill,	900	1079	849	1112
Robbins,	13724	9649	13467	10072
Vance,	13467			
Robbins' maj:	257			

All the postmasters in the country have been ordered to send to Washington whatever three-cent pieces they may receive, in order that these coins may be withdraw from circulation.

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