

THE HIGHER LIFE

Selects Gems of Thought from Pious and Holy Men of All Ages.

Christ's Message to Us.

The words of Christ are alive. They contain a living message for living men. They are words of life. Like seeds, wherever they take root they grow up and bring forth a harvest. Christ was the divine sower. His words are good seeds sown in the field of the world. Wherever His teachings are received a new and better life springs up and develops into beauty and power.—Rev. M. Clark, Unitarian.

Beware of Selfishness.

Beware of the beginnings of selfishness. And if, perchance, you have become callous and dead, and no longer revolt from these sins, and remain unmoved under the divinest exhortations, then beware, a thousand times beware! Perhaps mortal death is creeping close to the heart to lay a slab on the forehead of the soul itself. Remember that God's best gift is the gift of conscience and of moral sensibility.—Rev. Frank Crane

Life Among Orientals.

Life among Orientals has always been characterized considerably by ambition, deceit and cruelty. It was so in the time of the Psalmist. His enemies were plotting against him, and on any day they might succeed. As Chayne says, "Life seemed to him a succession of half-breath escapes." In his anxiety he turned to God and rended himself that his time was in the hand of the Almighty. So he found hope and courage.—Rev. Chas. Aked, Baptist.

The Gift of Conscience.

A thousand times more wonderful than all other gifts whatsoever, is the gift of conscience. Conscience is the King that climbs into the throne and stretches the sceptre over you. It is conscience that pronounces the judgment and sends you to the hell. Listen, therefore, to the whisper of God in man's soul. Set your moral hinges, not by the drifting clouds of pleasure and expediency, but by the eternal star and the abiding sun of Jesus Christ!—Rev. W. Smith, Episcopal.

Judging Ourselves.

Oh, all ye young hearts; speak truth in the inner parts, and be severe with yourselves. Do not go drifting across the years, rioting through life, unless you expect an outraged soul at length to turn upon you, and laugh at the calamities of old age. Do not live for the appetites and the passions, for ambition and place. But seek only to do the will of God. Above all things also keep your hearts and souls, your bodies and souls, your gifts unto your heavenly Father.—Rev. W. B. Berry, Methodist.

Believing God.

God is love. This is expressly and repeatedly stated in the Word. If it is not so, then there is something diviner than God. But God is love, and when once we know His nature as such, it is very easy to understand what His attitude toward us must be. In the best place, God's nature being one of holy love, craves sympathy and communion like our own. This is the foundation necessity of love, and the most profound argument for the Trinity His right here. Love always demands for itself an object of affection, for it is essentially a social relation.—Rev. Frank Crane.

Parents' Duty to Children.

A parent does only harm to his children when he leaves them great property; his duty ceases when he has given them a thorough education and an equipment in their chosen trade. Why swear? One can say 'things much nastier in good English. If I had my life to live over I would permanently abstain from all stimulants or sedatives, and would use no alcohol, tobacco nor meat. I am 45 years old and base this conviction upon my own experience and observation.

Simon's Begard For Christ.

Simon did not think of Christ as a social equal. He looked upon Him as hardly worthy those marks of respect conventionally used between gentlemen. It may be the thought of offering Christ water and kiss and oil never entered his mind. If such a thought had come Simon would probably have smiled at the idea of offering these courtesies to a man who had not proved in the upper society. So he made the mistake of thinking that Christ would not notice the omission.

It Wouldn't Pay.

A great smoker handed his cigar case to his right-hand neighbor. "Thank you, but I don't smoke," said the man. He therefore handed it to the man on the left, who made the same reply. Whereupon his wife nudged him and said: "Why don't you hand it to the captain?" "No, thank you, he smokes."

Don't Use Harsh Physics.

The action weakens the bowels, leads to chronic constipation, Get Doan's Regulents. They operate easily, tone the stomach, cure constipation.

Many an operation is due to the fact that the doctor needs the money. Can't look well, eat well or feel well with impure blood feeding your body. Keep the blood pure with Burdock Blood Bitters. Eat Simply, take exercise, keep clean and you will have long life.

LAW OF BROKEN HEARTS.

Curious Breach of Promise Laws in Other Countries.

England is the best place—from the plaintiff's point of view—for a breach of promise action. All other countries seem to regard with grave suspicion any attempt to recover monetary consideration for the loss of a prospective husband, and unless the plaintiff has a strong case indeed it is never worth her while to carry her grief into the law courts. In France breach of promise cases are rare for the simple reason that the law requires the plaintiff to prove that she has suffered pecuniary loss. Now this is not an easy thing to do on the part of the lady, especially in a country where a girl without a dot—that is, a marriage portion—has a poor chance of finding a husband. Holland and Austria have adopted the French system, and the result has been about the same. Breach actions are rare, the injured damsel or her relatives usually taking the law into their own hands.

Practical Germany, as might be expected, has perhaps the best method for solving this problem. When a young couple have become engaged they have to go through a public betrothal ceremony that ought to knock all the shyness out of them. In the local laws here the pair declare their affections, willingness to marry, etc., ending by signing a collection of documents that apparently leave no loophole for escape.

But if either party to the contract wishes to withdraw, another journey is undertaken to the town hall and another collection of documents signed, witnessed and sealed. Then the authorities determine the question of compensation—should it be claimed. In this connection it may be said that the man can, and often does claim a solatium for his wounded feelings. The usual reward is one-fifth of the marriage dowry. It is easy to understand, when all this is remembered, how loath the young people of Germany are to break their betrothal vows.

The law of Italy offers little or no protection whatever to filial damsels and swains. It is not surprising whatever that the suitors should be the favorite mode of settling breach of promise cases. The Italian law demands that the person suing for "breach" shall produce a written promise to marry him from the defendant; otherwise the action cannot proceed. This difficulty is almost insurmountable, and the Italian judges are seldom troubled to adjudicate between old-time lovers.

To bring an action of breach of promise of marriage against a reigning monarch is an achievement, but it has been done, and by an English lawyer. It is now fifteen years since Miss Josephine Mighel sued the Sultan of Morocco, and as there was a doubt whether the sultan was actually a reigning monarch, the case was allowed to come into court. But the judge quickly disposed of the action by ruling it inadmissible for the reason referred to, and Miss Mighel was non-suit.

It is remarkable that one of the two actions which have brought verdicts of £10,000 each to the plaintiffs should have had for its defendant the editor of a matrimonial paper. The second case was between a well known actress and the second son of an earl.

Tested.

The proprietor of a tanyard was anxious to fix a suitable sign to his premises. Finally a happy thought struck him.

He bored a hole through the door post and stuck a nail into it, with the tufted end outside.

After a while he saw a solemn-faced man standing near the door, looking at the sign. The tanner watched him a minute, and stepped out and addressed him.

"Good morning, sir," he said.

"Good morning!" said the other, without taking his eyes off the sign.

"Do you want to buy leather?" asked the tanner.

"No."

"Perhaps you've got some hides to sell?"

"No."

"Are you a farmer?"

"No."

"What are you, then?"

"I am a philosopher. I've been standing here for nearly an hour, trying to find out how that calf got through that hole."

Cartoons as Penalties.

Cartoons have always been a great irritation to politicians and crooks. Tweed said he didn't care what the newspapers said about him; the people who voted under his orders didn't read them; but the cartoons hurt him, for everybody saw them, and the people who couldn't read understood them. All persons in the Tweed class will also remember that Tweed was arrested in Spain because he was recognized by a man who had never seen any picture of him except those wonderful portraits that Tom Nast used to draw.

A Great Smoker Handled His Cigar Case to His Right-Hand Neighbor.

"Thank you, but I don't smoke," said the man. He therefore handed it to the man on the left, who made the same reply. Whereupon his wife nudged him and said: "Why don't you hand it to the captain?" "No, thank you, he smokes."

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CAVE SNAKES OF SELANGOR.

Their Curious Coloration and How It is Suited to Their Habits.

About ten years ago H. N. Ridley made an exploration of the Ilmoestene caves at Selangor in the Malay peninsula with the object of ascertaining whether they contained any form of animals, specially adapted for life in complete darkness.

The results were disappointing. Neither blind, large eyed nor colorless animals such as inhabit caves in temperate regions were discovered. However, it was found that a snake, Culber taniurus, lives in the caves, where it feeds exclusively on the bats sheltering there in extreme abundance, and that these examples are much paler in color than the typical form of this widely distributed species, which inhabits the Malay Archipelago, and attains a length of 7 1/2 feet.

Mr. Ridley thus describes the coloration of the cave specimens: The top of the head is bluish gray and there is a black line about an inch long through the eye toward the neck. The neck and back are of a pale ochreous color, each scale being tipped with isabelline, getting paler toward the tail; the centre of the back is yellowish, and the belly pale yellowish white along the sides runs a purplish gray bar, becoming darker or black toward the tail.

The coloration is remarkably suited to the habits of the snakes which frequent the darkest portion of the caves, living at a considerable distance from the mouth, but it may sometimes be met with at the mouth. It has a habit of resting on the ledges of rocks in the neighborhood of the exits of the caves, with the head hanging over the edge, so as to capture the bats as they fly in and out. The walls of the caves, though of white crystalline limestone, are not pure white but of a pale ochreous yellow, and here and there are black veins running usually vertically down the sides. The coloring of the snake is so exactly that of the walls, the black lines on the tail representing the shadow of a crack or projecting vein that the animal when at rest on the walls is often exceedingly difficult to see and readily escapes observation, even on the part of those on a careful lookout for them.

Messrs. Annandale and Robinson, who also observed the snake in the Jalor and Selangor caves, say it is usually found in the darkest part of the cave, but thought it seemed dazed and perturbed when suddenly brought out into a bright light it soon regains normal vision.

Circus Lessons.

Discipline is one of the spokes in the circus system wheel, says a writer in the Cosmopolitan. In the modern circus no sweating is allowed, as women and children can bear it. Cards, dice and drink are prohibited. This is not the conception that the public holds concerning circus people, but strength and steady nerves are needed for circus acts, and discipline of any kind, would soon leave the performers without a profession.

When a big American circus was abroad, the German Emperor came one night inognito and watched them unload the flat cars. Their system so impressed him that he had some of the officers of the German army see it and adopt some of their methods.

In landing the circus outfit the first man there is the "layer-out." He generally settles in about ten minutes where his tents are to be placed. As the building of the white city proceeds, everything seems to be confusion, a tangled mass. News is running every way; wagons seem to be dumping their loads promiscuously, but every wagon is lettered or numbered, so is every box or trunk, and all have their proper places.

This great jumble of wagons, grunting and creaking in the soft turf and men shouting and singing is all working as one great whole to an end.

But although they all work together, each man is taught to think for himself, and when a man shows ability, he is soon noticed. One instance of this was afforded by a young man who was studying medicine in the winter, and thought a season in the fresh air would harden him for his next winter's work. The only job he could get was as a canvas man. But he was able to think for himself, and promotion soon came.

The circus child is not taught by blows, but by kindness and patience, and the circus management insists that every child shall go to school to winter.

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TRADING FOR A WIFE.

An Army Officer's Experience With an Indian at a Western Fort.

"He says he would like to trade with you for your wife!"—It came one day at last. It was a startling proposition indeed. For a moment we were both too breathless to comment. Finally my husband yielded to his impulse for amusement and smiling at me he replied:

"Ask him what he will give for her."

"He says six ponies, Lieutenant."

"Oh, tell him she is worth lots more than that."

"He will give you twelve ponies for her."

My husband again replied that he would not trade for anything like that; so the Indian kept raising his bid. He offered twenty ponies; then twenty ponies and a squaw and a papoose. At length, wearying of the nonsense, my husband nodded the dismissal of the subject. But the Indian seemed to think that the apparent holding out for a higher price constituted a trade when the final offer was not rejected. He appeared satisfied, but soon signified he wished to finish the bargain. Of course, my husband immediately objected.

My savage admirer continued unaccountably insistent; and amble to rid himself of the Indian's importunity my husband told him I was not fit for more travel; that I needed to go to rest at once. Accordingly I entered our tent.

The Indian was not content, and continued, with some of his companions, to hang around the camp until one of the men told them they must now return to their camp, as we were all going to retire. When they had reluctantly departed, my husband told the Lieutenant who had not been present during the parleying, of the incident. The latter looked grave, and expressed a fear that the Indian, in the belief that he had made a trade, might cause trouble when the bargain was not kept. My husband assured him that there was no agreement, and that the buck had no basis for such a claim. The Lieutenant explained that the failure to reject the last bid and the presence of witnesses to the price haggling was all the Indian considered necessary to make a binding affair of heart and honor.

Of course, terms had to be reached, and my husband, for the only time in his experience with the red man, or as far as I know, with any man, agreed to compromise. He bought them off and appeared their disappointment by a gift of good, hard money and a lot of tobacco.—Army and Navy Life.

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St. Peter—No; she said it wasn't nearly as large as her winter hat.—New York Sun.

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New Jersey Child—Getting rid of mosquitoes.—Harper's Weekly.

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