THE CHRISTIAN SUN.

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THE CHRISTIAN SUN.

Devoted to Religion, Morality, Temperance, Literature, News, and the support of the Principles, of the Christian Church, South

"Religion without Bigotry, Zeal without Fanaticism, Liberty without Licentiousness,"

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Poetry.

LINES TO AN OCTOGENARIAN.

Respectfully inscribed to the venerable Dr. Bowers of Southampton co. Va., one of the few yet living whose birth was prior to that of the Confederacy.

BY INVALID.

Venerable man! thy hair all silvered o'er,
All sprinkled with the frost gems of forescore years and more;
And yet erect and manly and firm of port and form,
Unbowed by the weight of age and scathed not by its storm!
What a history is thine, with incident how fraught!
How rich with truthful lessons experience hath taught!
Ah! what a wealth of memories, and what a priceless store
Of reminiscent treasures and traditionary lore
Thou must have garnered up in such a long career,
As gleanings of the past to Memory still dear!
How many varied visions unto thy glance appear
As with ken retrospective thou scans each by-gone year—
Visions of those loved ones long slumbering in the tomb,
Which phantom-like comes stalking from out the deepening gloom
And glimpses of those changes, of import, small and great,
Which thou must needs have witnessed in families and state!

Race after race has risen, run their short race and died;
Friend after friend the Spoiler hath stricken from thy side!
Of all the youthful comrades, who thy affection shared,
Scarce one of all the number, scarce one indeed is spared;
Whilst thou like some sturdy oak which alone has braved the storm
Of all the neighboring forests, stands firmly yet alone.
Born whilst thy loved country was even yet unborn
Amid its infant struggles in the Revolution's storm?
Thou hast grown along with it through manhood and to age,
Familiar with each record upon its history's page.
Thou saw its gallant founders consigned to honored tombs,
And from their hands received the blood-baptized heirloom;
With words of solemn warning the precious boon to guard,
From treason to protect it, and its poison shafts to ward!
And faithful to thy trust thou hast faltered nor despaired,
But exulted in its triumphs and in its conflicts shared;
And with thy bosom burning with patriotic zeal,
Thy loyalty has proven alike in woe and weal.

Cans't thou be doomed, aged patriot, thy country to survive!
And must thou hear its death knell whilst thou art yet alive
Must thou behold its death-throes as thou beheld its birth—
Outlive the noblest empire that ever blessed the earth!
Well may'st thou stand aghast o'erwhelmed with gloom and grief,
To the Ruler of the nations appealing for relief,
When traitors and fanatics with parricidal hand,
Are kindling flames of Discord o'er this devoted land,
And striving to enwrap in Ruin's lurid blaze,
The heritage so cherished, so prized in by-gone days

But patriot sage, despair not; the same almighty arm,
Which hath so long protected and shielded it from harm,
May yet vouchsafe in mercy to avert the gathering storm,
And still preserve thy country for millions yet unborn!
And long its glorious banner thou may'st with pride behold,
With not one gem dismembered from its star-bespangled fold—
Aye, long reposed in quiet 'neath its benignant shade,
With Peace again triumphant and the furious storm allayed!

Elm Cottage, Va.

Selections.

NOT YET.

"Not yet," said a little boy, as he was busy with his trap and ball. "When I grow older I will think about my soul."

The little boy grew to be a young man, "Not yet," said the young man. "I am now about to enter into trade. When I see my business prosper, then I shall have more time than now."

Business did prosper.

"Not yet," said the man of business. "My children must have my care. When they are settled in life, I shall be better able to attend to religion."

He lived to be a gray headed old man.

"Not yet," still he cried. "I shall soon retire from trade, and then I shall have nothing else to do but to read and pray."

And so he died. He put off to another time what should have been done when a child. He lived without God, and died without hope.

Some sins are productive of temporary profit or pleasure, but profaneness is productive of nothing unless it be shame on earth and damnation in hell.—*Edwards.*

Never incline to buy your own profit with the loss of others, or your own ease and comfort with the suffering of others.—*Mrs. Fredonia Pitts.*

WITH A GLOW.

Some Christians long to do all their work with a glow. It is certainly a comfortable state when our feelings can be so raised, that they will carry us on without an effort on our own part; and we may seem to ourselves, and to the multitude, more godly, as we have more outward fervor. But we are not to be discouraged, nor to think evil of our state, if this cannot always be maintained. We cannot spring at once from the depths of sin to the heights of the Christian life, and even the most godly must sometimes 'go mourning all the day long.'

The life of a Christian is represented as a race. Paul says 'Let us run with patience the race that is set before us.' We are to run with patience. We are encumbered with weights and beset with sin, and the course is rough, and we are liable to stumble. But through all discouragements we are to hold on our way. 'If thou faint in the day of adversity, thy strength is small.'

There is a difference between those who trust to impulse, and act only from it, and those who measure their religious state by the fervor of their feelings. Of the former we are not speaking. The latter may always desire to experience the Christian's joy, and they may pray, 'Lord, lift thou up the light of thy countenance upon us.' But they must remember that there are a thousand evil things ready to rise up, as a cloud, between us and God, and they must not for this intermit, or neglect, (as too many do,) the performance of duty, or fear that their services will not be acceptable to God. He always accepts that which comes from 'a good and honest heart, and he knows how to pity, and is ready to pardon our imperfections and weaknesses.

There is reliance to be placed on character founded on principle, and it has a depth which mere feeling lacks. Jeremy Taylor says, 'The age of passion is not long;' and he who acts from the promptings of feeling is fitful. But he who acts from settled and wellgrounded convictions will never be wanting to his duty, or to himself, and he will always feel the earnestness so suitable to a Christian.—*Sunday School Times.*

BEAUTIFUL EXTRACT.

The following beautiful tribute to Woman was written several years ago. It occurs in a tale of touching interest entitled 'The Broken Heart'—its author, Dr. F. J. Stratton:

'Oh, the priceless value of the love of a pure woman. Gold cannot purchase a gem so precious. Titles and honors confer upon the heart no such serene happiness. In our darkest moments when disappointments and ingratitude, with corroding care, gather thick around, and even the guant form of poverty menaces with his skeleton fingers, it gleams around the soul with an angel's smile. Time cannot mar its brilliancy; distance but strengthens its influence, bolts and bars cannot limit its progress, it follows the prisoner into his dark cell, and sweetens the home morsel that appeases his hunger, and in the silence of midnight it plays around his heart, and in his dreams he folds to his bosom the form of her who he loves still, though the world has turned coldly from him.

The couch made by the hand of the loved one is soft to the weary limb of the sick sufferer and the portion administered by the same hand loses half its bitterness. The pillow carefully adjusted by her brings repose to the fevered brain, and her words of kind encouragement survive the sinking spirit. It would almost seem that God, compassionating woman's first great frailty had planted this jewel in her breast, whose heavenlike influence should cast into forgetfulness man's remembrance of the Fall, by building up in his heart another Eden, where perennial flowers forever bloom, and crystal waters gush from exhaustless fountains."

HOW TO RECEIVE THE PREACHER

1. Entertain him with hospitality and kindness, as a brother in Christ.

2. Support him, (and his family, if he, like Peter, is a married preacher,) cheerfully, promptly, and liberally.

3. Pray for him fervently, assist him heartily and perseveringly, in his labors for the good of souls.

4. Do all you can consistently with truth and charity, to increase his influence for Christ

5. Confer with him freely upon all the interests of the Church, and of your own soul.

6. While you love and honor him as the minister of God, and do all in your power to aid him in his holy work, rely upon the Holy Spirit only, for success in winning souls, and building up the world.

Do these things, at the close of the Conference year, you will find that "your labor has not been in vain in the Lord."—*Messenger.*

What we wish to do, we believe we can do, but when we do not wish to do a thing, we view it as an impossibility.—*R. B. Cutter.*

If a proud man makes me keep my distance, the comfort to me is, that he keeps his at the same time.—*Swift.*

'ROOM ENOUGH UP STAIRS.'

It is related that a young man, hesitating as to the choice of a profession, applied to Daniel Webster for advice. 'The legal profession is quite full, I am told,' said the querist. 'do you think there is any chance for such a man as myself?' 'There is room enough up stairs,' was Mr. Websters significant reply.

The remark is widely applicable. In every laudable and useful avocation, there is usually 'room enough up stairs.' The lower stories may be full, the moderate, mediocre grades of culture and ability may be crowded, the supply on this level may exceed the demand, and he who is content with a ground floor life, with no earnest diligent efforts to rise, no resolute strivings for excellence and superiority, may find large occasion for doing nothing, because there is nothing to do, and nothing to be had for it. Rarely, however, is this the case with the man of large attainments and high ability. Seldom is such an one 'out of a place.' Society always hath need of him.' The upper apartments, in whatever profession or pursuit, are never over full. Times may be hard—business dull—throngs in the market-place 'all the day idle,' and yet it is true as ever, 'there is room up stairs.' The higher talent will still find scope and sphere for its exercise. It is sure to be in demand somewhere, for work and reward.

In the spiritual realm, the kingdom of grace, there is every where 'room enough up stairs.' Perhaps it is scarcely within our province to make the application to the Christian ministry, and yet the principle doubtless has its significance here. Though there may be (and we believe there are) some humble, faithful servants of God who are far from being appreciated, yet as a general rule, it may be safely assumed that diligent, studious, able, devoted preachers and pastors need not want for a sphere of honorable and useful service. Let the Bible standard of ministerial excellence and eminence be adopted, together with the Bible method of attaining it, and it will be found that 'there is room enough up stairs.'

But how true is the sentiment in its wider application to the Christian church and the Christian profession! How relatively full are the lower apartments of the spiritual house How sadly content are the masses of professed disciples with an inferior, rudimental, half developed type of the spiritual life—abiding all their days in the underground rooms, with little air, little light, little breadth of vision, and correspondingly little scope of Christian character and attainment. The higher plane of discipleship goes a begging for aspirants and occupants. There is too much spare room 'up stairs.' What all our churches need is more of the Pauline spirit, never content but in ascending.—'Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect, (complete,) but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. This one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.' O for more of this (as a plain Christian brother recently designated it) 'piety on the ascending scale.' The pen of inspiration had long ago written concerning the faithful believer. 'He shall dwell on high; and yet there is abundance of unoccupied 'room up stairs.' Who will occupy it? Alas, that so large numbers of professed disciples are found too weak limbed and short breathed to make the ascent. Unless the Great Physician shall strengthen them speedily, we fear they will never reach the upper kingdom.—*Christian Secretary.*

"HE READS AND I PRAY."

Alice M——, had received a fine education. Her mind had been naturally and evenly developed. She had committed many select texts of Scripture to memory, and had enforced their lessons on her heart. The Spirit of God took of things of Christ and showed them unto her. She received the truth in the love of it. Her Bible and her closet were dear to her. Her happiest hours were seasons of communion with her Saviour. The Sabbath was to her a heaven below.

Alice was but twenty-one years of age when she became the wife of a ship master some four or five years older than herself. He was going to Europe in a new ship, and had a stateroom fitted and furnished for her accommodation, and she consented to accompany him to sea. Their wedded life began upon the deep. The husband was a stranger to the power of grace. He admired and loved his wife for her simple and earnest piety. On her return from her first voyage, she confided to a friend who had been her spiritual adviser, that they had lived a life of prayer even on ship board. "Was he willing to pray with you?" asked the friend. "No", replied Alice, "but we had prayers together every day, and he seemed glad to have it so. He read and I prayed."

Is it strange that within two years that husband's soul was brought to the foot of the cross, and that the time came when she read and he prayed?

Let young wives who love the Lord Jesus but are joined to partners who have not tasted the powers of the world to come, remember the woe which falls on the families that call not on the name of the Lord, and begin their married life, whether at home or abroad, as did young Alice and the Lord may give them a like reward.

SERMONS TO CHILDREN.

Though the practice of ministering from the pulpit to the lambs of the flock is extending among our clergy, it is by no means yet, as it ought to be, universal.—For if 'rightly dividing the word of truth does not fairly include dividing at least a portion of it into morsels small enough for children's digestion, then we miss the meaning of that text:

The main objection urged by pastors who remain yet derelict touching this delightful duty, is that they 'have no tact for interesting little auditors. Many a good clerical brother who takes his little daughter on his knee at home, and delights her with some simple story, cannot be persuaded to carry the same style and the same power into his church, or even lecture room.—We believe there is not a pastor in the land who cannot, if he will give himself to the work in earnest and in the love of souls, come down to the level, and win the delighted interest of every child of common intelligence in his congregation.

And they who raise this complaint of incapacity are the very men who most need for themselves and their people at large, the benefit of the work. It would infuse new life and freshness into the stiff propriety of their discourses It would give flexibility and vivacity to their whole manner of address. It would increase the practice of illustration in sermonizing. It would, indirectly, greatly aid the Sabbath school. It would more deeply interest parents in the spiritual welfare of their children, and suggest to them interesting modes of conveying truth.

Any pastor who will, by carefully collecting facts and anecdotes from the newspapers and from his general reading gather materials for this labor, will be surprised to find how little labor will enable him to interest an audience of children. The writer has as large an attendance at the Sabbath evening service for children as at any other during the day, while, with the aid of a well stocked scrap book, his preparation for that service is often made in an hour.—*California C. Advocate.*

THE PRAYING WIFE.

Recently, in Wales two men were returning home from a beer shop at a very late hour, as they were walking one said to the other, "When I get into my house to night, my wife will scold me dreadfully." "Ah," replied his companion, "I shall have something ten times more intolerable than scolding; my wife is always quiet, but she weeps and speaks to me about my soul, and her words are burning like fire in my conscience." He reached home; as he anticipated, his wife met him at the door weeping. He went to bed and slept, but his wife distressed and anxious about his soul, instead of doing so, prayed to God on his behalf. About three o'clock in the morning he awoke, and saw her standing at the bedside still weeping. He said, "Margaret, what is the matter with you?" She answered, "The thought that my dear husband is an enemy to my beloved Savior, and that he is likely to have his portion with damned spirits, almost breaks my heart." This answer broke him down. He felt that his case was a bad one, and the fact that his wife felt so deeply on his account, led him to feel for himself. He arose and knelt by the side of his wife, and prayed to God, who blessed the conduct and language of his wife to his conviction, manifested to him his pardoning grace through Jesus Christ, and they are a happy couple rejoicing in the hope of dwelling together forever in heaven.

Has any reader of this an unconverted husband? Do you feel deeply in his behalf, and does his present danger and future ruin excite your deepest interest? Have you prayed earnestly and persevesingly to God for him? Has he reason to believe that you are anxious on his account, or is your conduct such, as to lead him to suppose that you are indifferent to his state and regardless of his future welfare. Try such a course as this woman pursued, and God will bless your efforts and answer your prayer.

PRAYER.—All the duties of religion are eminently solemn and venerable in the eyes of children. But none so strongly proves the sincerety of the parent; none so powerfully awakens the reverence of the child; none so happily recommends the instruction he receives, as family devotion, particularly those in which petitions for the children occupy a distinguished place.—*Dwight.*

When the Roman poet was told by a phlegmatic friend to mind his own business and not meddle with other men, affairs, he made the immortal reply: "I am a man, and whatever relates to my fellow creatures also touches me."

A religion that never suffices to govern a man will never suffice to save him.

They who seek wisdom will surely find her.

Farm and Garden.

ASHES.

"Would you advise the mixing of unleached wood ashes with barn-yard manure? says one, "With Peruvian guano?" says another, "With Nitrogepized Phosphates?" says a third. We answer to all, "No." Unleached wood ashes, says the *Working Farmer*, have a much higher value as a manure than is usually accredited to them, and they should never be mixed with top dressing manures, as they force on the ammonical portions while decomposing the organic portions. Wood-ashes unleached are worth in many districts, as a manure, fifty cents per bushel, when they are sold to soap boilers at thirty-five cents. These farmers, if they would treat themselves as they are treating their soils, would be bled once a day instead of repudiating the Sangrado. Unleached wood-ashes contains large portions of potash, and exactly in that condition most available to a majority of crops. When mixed with swamp muck, river mud, woods-earth, chip manure, head-lands, weeds, etc., wood ashes assist materially in their disintegration, and in the developement of their inorganic constituents to a condition capable of feeding crops, but when mixed with stable manures the decomposition is too rapid to permit the absorption of the ammonia, by the less valuable portions. When soils are deficient of potash—and we have yet to find the soil that is not—wood ashes may be sown directly on the surface, and the potash contained in them will find its way into the soil by the action of dews and rains, and as it is not volatile, the surface of the soil is the proper place for its deposit. It is true that it may find its way to the soil through compost, composed of otherwise inert materials, thus spent ashes may be reduced by the potash to a fine powder, well suited after such treatment, for composing with stable manure, which in turn, will be rendered in a better condition for the use of plants. Thus the potash performs the double service, first of forwarding the decomposition of inert matter, and secondly of furnishing potash eventually to the soil; but it should never be brought in contact before its application to the soil, with manures of a highly putrescent character, nor with artificial manures containing ammonia in any form.

SHALL WE PLOW IN THE FALL?

All lands, except light loams and sandy soils, are benefitted by Fall ploughing, unless they are exposed to washing. Steep side hills should never be plowed in the Fall, unless you sow them immediately with grain or grass seed, to furnish roots for holding the soil in place.

But all heavy loams lying flat, and clays, are greatly benefitted by Fall plowing.—The teams are generally in the best condition for plowing at this season. They have had good pasturage through the Summer, and, as a rule, have less to do than in the Winter and Spring. It puts the Spring work very much ahead to have all the green sward turned over in the Fall.—However much of this may be done, the teams will have enough to do in the Spring, in carting manure, cross plowing, harrowing, and getting ready for sowing and planting.

In the Fall, the lands that are most benefited by plowing, are generally in the best condition for the operation. In the spring they are often so wet that they can not be plowed until May or June. Now they are dry, and will crumble as they are turned over.

By plowing now they are prepared to receive the full benefit of the action of frost, rain and snow through the Winter.—There are no disintegrators like the elements. Stiff clays and hard-pans are made loose and friable by these exposures. The more rough and broken they are left by the plow, the better. Then, there are rough pasture swards full of brush and rank weeds, and reclaimed swamps with a thick turf of swamp grasses, that are best subdued by tearing them up now. They freeze and thaw through the winter, and little life is left in them by Spring.

Besides this, plowing has an important influence upon insect life. Many insects burrow in the earth, and if left undisturbed, come forth with new life in the Spring. Plowing disturbs their Winter arrangements, and kills myriads of their larvæ. At this season the soil may be safely plowed deeper than in the spring. The inch or two of yellow soil will undergo important changes before Spring.—*American Agriculturist.*

INDIAN TOAST.—Place two quarts of milk over the fire: When it boils, add a spoonful of flour to thicken, a teaspoonful of salt a small lump of butter; two tablespoonfuls of sugar; have ready in a deep dish, six or eight slices of light Indian bread toasted. Pour the mixture over them, and serve hot.

BALDOON PUDDING.—To one square baking tin, use four eggs and three tablespoonfuls of flour, well beaten together; a little salt; then fill up with sweet milk. Bake fifteen minutes in a quick oven. Serve with sweetened cream or any sauce you choose. It can be made with three eggs and four spoonfuls of flour.

CULTIVATION OF THE PEA-NUT.

I see by the 4th number of the present volume of the Country Gentleman, that a correspondent wishes to have some information respecting the cultivation of the pea nut. As I have some little experience in the cultivation of this article, and lest some more experienced hand should neglect to supply the desired information, I shall state what I know on the subject.

The article is called by a variety of names in this part of the country; such as pea-nut, ground pea, pinder, gowber-pea, &c. The ground should be rich and well broken up. It ought to be of such a description as might be expected to produce a good crop of corn. It ought to be laid off in ridges about three feet apart. A shallow furrow run with a shallow plow along the centre of each ridge prepares the ground for the seed. The pods which contain from one to three peas each, must be broken, and the peas planted in the drill from one foot to eighteen inches apart, and covered with a hoe about one inch and a half deep. They ought to be plowed and hoed three times during the season, to destroy the weeds and keep the ground loose. The pea vine while growing, sends up a perpendicular stem about a foot high; about this stem many others shoot out in all directions, and run about fifteen inches along the surface of the ground. Those runners have joints about an inch and-a-half apart. At each joint a strong root strikes down into the ground about two inches deep; at the end of this root the pea-pod is formed, and there comes to maturity. Some farmers cover these lateral vines with earth, while others leave them bare all the time. It is not agreed which is the better mode. When ripe, one bunch of vines will have from one to two quarts of peas. Some planters cultivate them in hills like corn, but I prefer drills. One acre will produce from thirty-five to fifty bushels of peas, which usually sell at $1 per bushel in our markets.—*Cultivator.*

BOILED FOWLS WITH OYSTERS.—Take a young fowl, fill the inside with oysters, put it into a jar, and plunge the jar in a kettle or sauce-pan of water. Boil it for one hour and a half. There will be a quantity of gravy from the juices of the fowl and oysters in the jar,—make it into a white sauce, with the addition of egg, cream or a little flour and butter; add oysters to it, or serve up plain with the fowl. The gravy that comes from a fowl dressed in this manner will be a stiff jelly the next day, the fowl will be very white and tender and of an exceedingly fine flavor, advantages not attainable in ordinary boiling, while the dish looses nothing of its delicacy and simplicity.

THE UTILITY OF USEFUL THINGS.

The prussiate of potash is made in large quantities in Cincinnati, from hoofs, horns, and other refuse of slaughtered grunters.

Cow-hair, taken from the hides in tanneries, is employed for making plastering morter, to give it a sort of fibrous quality.

Sawdust is sold in our streets for sprinkling the floors of markets It is also used for packing ice for shipping.

The rags of old, worn-out shirting, calico, dresses, and the waste of cotton factories, are employed to make the paper upon which these lines are printed.

Old ropes are converted into fine note-paper, and the waste paper itself, which is picked up in the gutters of our streets, is again reconverted into bread, white sheets and thus does duty in revolving stages.

The parings of skins and hides, and the ears of cows, calves and sheep, are carefully collected and converted into Peter Cooper's famous glue, made out at "Old Bushwick."

The finer qualities of gelatine are made from ivory rasping—the bones and tendons of animals.

Bones converted into charcoal by roasting in retorts, are afterwards employed for puryfying the white sugar with which we sweeten our coffee, etc.

The ammonia obtained from the distillation of coal in making gas, is employed for saturating orchil and cudbear, in making the beautiful lilac colors that are dyed on silk and the fine woolen goods.

Carbonic acid, obtained in the distillation of coal tar, is employed with other acids to produce beautiful yellow colors on silk and wool.

The shavings of cedar wood, used in making pencils, are distilled to obtain the otto of cedar wood.

Brass filings and old brass kettles are remelted and employed to make the brass work of printing-presses and pumps.

Coal tar is burned and made into lamp-black, used for printer's ink, common black paint, and blacking for shoes, etc.