

# Statesville Christian Advocate.

"GOOD TIDINGS OF GREAT JOY TO ALL PEOPLE, WITH PEACE, GOOD WILL TOWARD MEN"

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## POETRY.

### TO REMEMBERING GOD.

When winds and waves in tempest toss,  
And leave but emptiness and pain;  
Who turn through weary, bitter loss,  
To Him for gain.  
Who, when the star of hope is low,  
And all is dark and troubled night,  
With faltering, painful groppings go  
To Him for light.  
But happier they, in manhood's glow,  
Whose hearts grow faint, or eyes grow dim;  
Who in their life's full flush and flow  
Remember Him.  
Who in the golden prime of power,  
On summer earth's most pleasant road,  
And in the day's most sunny hour,  
Still walk with God.  
—Alex. Brown, in Christian Leader.

### ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

#### God, An Indispensable Portion.

BY REV. M. C. THOMAS.

As an indispensable portion God presents Himself to us His intelligent, rational, responsible creatures. He only can satisfy the wants of every living soul. Repentance, faith in Christ, the pardon of sin, the witness of the spirit, and complete renovation of soul are all necessarily implied in one's being able to say, "The Lord is my portion."  
"The soul was made for God, and in the possession of Him alone can it find its happiness." We are shut up to the necessity of accepting His aid, in the great work which He has made for the soul's happiness and salvation, or to the necessity of rejecting Him, and thus perishing forever.  
It admits of no disputing that we make a mistake seriously fatal to our well-being in this world; a mistake which will prove, beyond all that we have any power to adequately conceive of, utterly ruinous to soul and body in the world to come, by refusing, or by neglecting, to avail ourselves of the provision which God, in His wisdom and goodness, has made for our happiness and salvation. The word of God is, "See that ye refuse not Him" (the Lord Jesus) "that speaketh." For if they escaped not who refused Him" (Moses) "that spake on earth, much more shall not we escape" (escape what? Whatever is implied in God's being a consuming fire) "if we turn away from Him" (the Lord Jesus) "that speaketh from heaven." O the hereafter, the terrible hereafter, that dreadful something just beyond the valley of the shadow of death, which is to be experienced and endured by those that reject the Gospel of their salvation, and God as their portion in this world!  
Most assuredly, God can do without us; but we cannot do at all without God. His happiness does not all depend upon any of His creatures—men or angels—rendering to Him the homage and service He requires of them; but their happiness depends upon an entire conformity to His will. Our wills must be wholly given up to God's will, in order that we may be perfectly happy.  
"Thy will be done, O God, as thou art, and I will be as thou art, and I will love thee as thou lovest me, and I will praise thee as thou praisest me." The prayer prayed by us, when the late Rev. Dr. Sumner was suffering from a surgical operation, resulted fatally, on account of his age and infirmities, his will was so fully and so sweetly sunk into the Divine will, that he uttered, as his own experience, these strong expressions: "There can be no hell to one where will is lost in God's will. If he suffered a thousand torments, he is happy, because it is God's will." Such is the inexpressibly blessed experience at which every believer in Christ Jesus should aim; the experience which every believer—thanks be to God for His grace—may attain to, aided by the Comforter, the Divine Helper. God did not give us being for the sake of His happiness, which is absolute, but He gave us being to make us the partakers of His happiness. Our happiness necessarily proceeds from God. The measure of our happiness consists in the measure of our likeness to the moral nature of God; and the measure of our likeness to the moral nature of God consists in the measure of our faith

in God, and of our obedience to His commandments. "The more we walk after the divine counsel, the more we obtain of the divine image; and the more we resemble our Maker, the more we partake of the divine favor," and the more we partake of the divine favor, the happier we are. There is no true happiness, there can be none, apart from doing the will of God; and this is the will of God, that we keep His commandments.  
The sooner we are firmly settled in the thorough conviction of this truth, there is nothing that can possibly, in any measure, conduce to our well-being, which is opposed to the will and purpose of Him who created us, and of all worlds by the word of His power, the better for us in time and through all eternity.  
The wisest of men, divinely inspired, declares, "The grave and destruction are never full, so the eyes of man are never satisfied." Or, according to the sense given of this proverb by an eminent commentator, "As the grave can never be filled up with bodies, nor perdition with souls, so the restless desire, the lust of power, riches and splendor, is never satisfied."  
You may surround a man with wealth in ever so great abundance; you may raise him to power and position the most exalted, and that man is, of necessity, a wretched man without God, destitute of a sense of the divine approbation and favor. On the other hand, on the other hand, may be ever so poor and humble, and out of his poverty and obscurity, looking up to Him in whom all fullness dwells, and from whom all blessings flow, that man is, of necessity, a happy man.  
Happiness true and substantial, and worthy the having—it should never be forgotten—does not consist in earthly possession, in worldly surroundings. It has been judiciously said: "Could we unveil the history and get a full view of the interior life of one of those magnificent structures which are usually regarded as the abode of greatness, how possible is it that it would rank in peace and happiness below some of the lowliest cots in the land."  
"What wealth, while not to be despised, is not to be coveted, and is not to be the power for the accomplishment of good, and for supplying its possessor with life's conveniences and comforts, hath never given happiness, but has often hastened misery. The words of the poet are in perfect accord with the Divine Volume.  
Were I possessor of the earth,  
And called the stars my own,  
Without Thy grace and Thyself,  
I were a wretch undone."  
Is it possible to conceive of a better definition of true happiness than this? "It springs from conscious rectitude; it is the consciousness of perfect peace with God."  
That has been well and truly said to be a happy house, a home supremely blest,  
"Where the Lord Jesus Christ is entertained  
As the most welcomed and beloved guest,  
With true devotion, and with love unfeigned;  
Where all hearts beat in union with His;  
Where eyes grow brighter as they look on Him;  
Where all are ready, at the slightest sign,  
To do His will, and do it heartily."  
How fragrant with the aroma of Heaven the community made up of such homes! Without controversy, nothing short of God as an indispensable portion; the heart of every inmate echoing to the precious sentiment of the inspired Psalmist, "whom have I in heaven but Thee, and there is none upon earth that I desire beside Thee." Can we suppose such a community? Reader, if you be the head of a family, let me say to you, do what you can, by your example and by your influence, to the making of your home a constituent of such a community. Or whatever your relation in life may be, sacredly and solemnly feel it to be your mission in the world to contribute, in your measure, to the making of such a community.  
He who spake as never man spake, with positive emphasis declares, "A man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth."  
You remember the startling language of the all-wise God, which we would do eminently well to heed, in reference to a certain rich man, mentioned in the Bible, who was troubled and perplexed about the increase of his goods; thinking within himself and saying, "What shall I do, because I have no room to bestow my fruits?" Having determined to pull down his barns and build greater, that he might have room sufficient to hold all his fruits and his goods, as he presumptuously regarded them, you remember what this rich man said. Think of it! Is it not the very climax of folly? A man having any knowledge of the soul, of its nature, its needs, its capacity, and of its uncertain tenure of life, making such a speech as this: "Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years;

take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry." Proposing, as you see, his fruits and his goods to his soul as the means of its happiness! How supremely preposterous in presuming to satisfy an immortal spirit with corn, and wheat, and bacon, or with what will purchase these, and such like! "What a really pitiable portion do we present to our soul in offering to it such goods, as the means of its happiness! and yet those who know not God have no other, and many of them not even this."  
And now, what do we hear coming down from high heaven to this rich man, who thus thought, and thus to himself said. Give attention to the words of the Lord, which are pronounced upon him of the eternal, the all-wise God: "Thou fool! this night thy soul shall be required of thee; then whose shall those things be which thou hast provided?" And says the great Teacher, to whom, as the judge of all, every one must give account, in reference to all that are playing the role of this rich man, be it on a large, or on a small, scale—and there are thousands of them in the Methodist Church—are you among the *unfortunate members*, reader? "So is he" (a fool) "that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God"—rich in faith and good works; rich in the hope of that large, immortal store, secured by grace divine; so is he who, to any extent, or in any sense, substitutes the world for God, things temporal for things spiritual, with a view to happiness and enjoyment. In God's estimation, and on God's authority, such a one is a fool.  
"What a spectacle to men and to angels," it has well been said, "a Christian man laying up treasure on earth, as if he had never heard the Master's warning! Where your treasure is there will your heart be also. In a world, full of hunger and nakedness, Christian men add field to field; they pile up bonds in iron safes; clip coupons, pile up more bonds—and die."  
"Extol not riches, then, the toil of fools, The wise man's cunning, if not snare; More apt to slacken virtue, and abate her edge,  
Than prompt her to do ought may merit."  
Let us keep before us, dear reader—for it is to you I am particularly addressing myself, that "The true enjoyment of life lies not in the abundance of outward good, but rather in a cheerful and contented spirit; especially in an humble resignation of ourselves to God's all-powerful disposal, with unwavering faith in Him for the present and for the future."  
Think of it! The only true God, self-existent; by whom and for whom are all things; through whose gracious power all things are upheld and continued; the author of our being and the unfailing fountain of our supplies—pledges to supply all our needs according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus—glorious in holiness, good to all; whose tender mercies are over all his works; exhaustless in the riches of His wisdom and knowledge; He it is presents Himself to us as our portion, as indispensable to our happiness and peace and eternal salvation. And especially think of it! Hear it, ye heavens! be astonished at it, O earth! What blindness, what base stupidity, what vile presumption, what extreme fool-hardiness, what supreme recklessness evinced by us in our not accepting, acknowledging, relying upon Him as such! He hath made us and placed us in the world, and in mercy, keeps us here, to serve and please Him; to seek no other good below than that to be had by an entire surrender to His all-wise requirements.  
"For this, O God, Thou hast designed,  
And formed us men for this;  
To know, and love Thyself, and find  
In Thee our endless bliss."  
Thomas Arnold.

in his journal: "I have seen just looking over a newspaper, one of the most solemn and painful studies in the world; if it be read thoughtfully. So much sin, and so much of suffering in the world as are there displayed, and no one seems able to remedy either."  
Did all read the newspapers as did this serious-minded man. They hurry over them after tea, and article after article, without pausing to consider their import. The pages of a daily secular newspaper are indeed of a nature to suggest serious reflections to a serious-minded man. The record of births, of marriages, and of deaths, to such a man, is solemnly suggestive. But we pass to other and different chapters. This is the chapter of accidents and calamities. In one place there has been a railroad disaster, by means of which many have been bruised and mangled, and others have been fatally injured. To how many hearts and homes has sorrow thus come? In another place, and indeed, in many places, there have been disastrous conflagrations. Thousands and millions of dollars of property have thus been consumed. Riches have thus suddenly

made themselves wings, and have flown away. Many families have thus been made homeless and homeless, and brought to destitution. In another quarter a terrible earthquake has had a prosperous city in ruins, and spread desolation far and wide.  
And here, worst of all, is a chapter of crimes. Under this head we read of robberies, of burglaries, of incendiarism, of dishonesties, of seductions, of domestic quarrels, of fightings, of suicides, and of murders. The chapter is often a long one, and we read it with heart-sickening. For the most part, we glance only at the headings.  
Surgeon says that he reads the newspapers to learn how God is governing the world. Doubtless God is controlling and overruling all things, causing the wickedness and the wrath of man to praise Him, and restraining the remainder thereof. But oftentimes, as we read, we forget this great truth, and it seems as though the devil, who is styled the "god of this world," had here pretty much his own way. Our heart is sickened by every day's report of wrong and outrage. We are moved to sigh, and to ask "How long, O Lord, how long shall the wicked triumph?" Blessed be God, it shall not always be so. We read of a time hastening when Satan shall be bound, and when "the righteous shall flourish, and abundance of peace."  
—*Christians in New York Observer.*  
"Whoever."  
Some years since, as a clergyman was passing through the ward of a hospital on his way to see a child he visited weekly, he noticed a young woman who lay with closed eyes and face as white and hard looking as chiseled marble. As he paused for a moment, she opened her eyes, saying: "Who has sweet peace? I used to love them so." In his hands he had a few, with some mignonette, for the child he was to see.  
"That is the first thing she has seemed to care for during the week she has been here," remarked the nurse. "Probably they remind her of home, maybe a mother's love."  
"They remind me of my father," she replied freely. "I never knew a peaceful man. She died when I was a child, and I never saw her again."  
Sweet peace over the window where father sat mornings to read the Bible. I remember the fragrance of them all these years, and fancy I feel the wind coming into the window which lifted the hair above the pale, careworn face. O, if I were only as pure and happy now as I was in those days!  
"What did he read to you out of his Bible on those mornings?" was asked to change her thoughts, as she was evidently much excited.  
"Come unto me all ye that labor, and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest," was one text that I remember. But these words were never meant for me. I am the chief of sinners."  
"And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely," the minister slowly repeated.  
The woman had sunk back now, closing her eyes. Evidently she desired no further conversation; so laying the little bouquet upon her pillow, he passed on.  
The next week when he visited the hospital, as he entered the ward where the woman lay, he was astonished at the change in the hitherto cold, impassive face. Now it was illuminated; glorified would better illustrate it.  
Reaching out her thin hand, she said: "I am glad to see you."  
"I see Jesus of Nazareth has passed this way," he answered.  
"Yes, and He came so near I touched the hem of His garment."

of whosoever on which I touched up," she added.  
When he next visited the ward another occupied the bed in which the woman had lain. Her "ladder of whosoever" had taken her above the skies.—*American Messenger.*  
Living Close to God.  
Conversion is a twofold process; God seeks the sinner, and then, under the influence of the Holy Spirit, the sinner seeks God. The shepherd finds the wanderer, and the wanderer finds Jesus, the Way, the Truth and the Life. Once afar off, he is made nigh by the blood of Christ. As conversion is the return of the penitent soul to God, the joy, the sweetness and the vigor of the Christian life depend upon keeping close to God. "Draw nigh unto me, and I will draw nigh unto you."  
If you ask what we gain by living close to God, I would answer, that we gain fresh supplies of strength. The strength of yesterday will not suffice for to-day, any more than yesterday's food will sustain me if I neglect to eat my breakfast this morning. God means that we shall be kept in constant dependence; therefore he notes

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## SELECTIONS.

### Shall We Give Smiles or Frowns?

How few of us reflect but a little it takes to make one happy or unhappy. A smile, a tear, a frown may do it. It takes but a moment of time, but the result of the smile or frown may shape the future course of the one on whom it is bestowed.  
There is a little ragged boy trying to get an honest living selling small wares. Do not despise him. You may be giving him a smile, or a frown, which will follow him through life.  
A child has broken its doll's head or arm. Say a pitying word if you cannot then stoop to repair it. It is a double grief to the little one if no word or look of sympathy is given. The child could exclaim, "You might have said, oh! a little one did who was turned off by a heedless father, who said, 'I can't help it,' when his child told him with tears of some little pain."  
See that young girl, without parents or friends in the city to guide or counsel her. Kindly inquire after her; see if she attends church or the Sunday school. Take her to your own place of worship; introduce her to the Sunday school class. If she needs suitable clothing, help her in as delicate a manner as possible, that she may not feel that it is common charity that she receives. By so doing you may place her feet in the pathway of eternal happiness.  
Happy and blessed are they who dispense smiles instead of frowns.  
—Home Guardian.

### Looking Over My Shoulder.

Thomas Arnold.

### For The Advocate.

#### The Importance of Well Spent Youth.

BY G. F. M.

Youth is the most important part of life. As the beauty of summer, the fruitfulness of autumn, and the support of winter, depend upon spring, so the happiness, wisdom, and piety of middle life, and old age, depend upon youth. Youth is the great seed time of life. If the farmer don't plough his land, and commit the precious seed to the ground in the spring, it will be too late afterwards, so if we, while we are young, neglect to cultivate our hearts and minds, by not sowing the seed of knowledge, and virtue, our future lives will be ignorant, vicious, and wretched.

### APPOINTMENTS FOR 1887.

Statesville District—2nd Round in part.	
B. A. WILLIS, P. E., Statesville, N. C.	
Iredell circuit at Eagle Mills.	9 10
Mooresville circuit at Wesley Chapel.	13 14
Statesville circuit at Providence.	16 17
Newton circuit at Upper Marvin.	23 24
Catawba circuit at Catawba, April 30, May 1.	1
Caldwell circuit at Ebenezer.	4 5
Lenoir circuit at Marsh Chapel.	7 8
Reddies' River Mission.	9 10
Rock Spring circuit at Rehoboth, Statesville station.	14 15
Alexander circuit at Union.	28 29
Yadkinville circuit at Prospect.	June 1 2
Wilkes circuit at Reeves' Chapel.	4 5
Dobson circuit at New Hebron.	11 12
Mt. Airy circuit at Mt. Hermon.	18 19
Mt. Airy station.	19
Washington District—2d Q. m.	
W. H. MOORE, P. E., Washington, N. C.	
Tarboro and Bethel, at Bethel, April 9 10	
South Edgecombe, at McKendree.	16 17
Greenville.	23 24
Williamston, Hamilton, April 30 May 1	
Plymouth.	7 8
Columbia, at Columbia.	14 15
Fairfield.	21 22
Swan Quarter, at Swan Quarter.	28 29
Mattamuskeet, at Amity.	June 4 5
Harkers.	11 12
Dermokee and Portsmouth.	18 19
Washington.	25 26
Trinity College District—3d Q. m.	
V. A. SHARPE, P. E., Thomasville, N. C.	
Jackson Hill circuit, Center, April 30 May 1	
Deep River mission, at Mt. Pleasant.	7 8
Morganton circuit, at Shiloh.	14 15
Deep River circuit, at Wesley Chapel.	21 22

T. W. GUYRE, P. E., Rockingham, N. C.	
Whiteville circuit, at Whiteville, Apr. 3 4	
Beaufort circuit, at Bethel.	10 11
Fifth Street Station.	16 17
Brooklyn mission.	16 17
Elizabeth circuit, at Singletary.	23 24
First Church station.	23 24
Oswego circuit, at Gun Branch.	May 1 2
Duplin circuit, at Richland.	7 8
Carvers Creek circuit, at Carvers Creek.	14 15
Macoma circuit, at Duplin Roads.	21 22
Smithville station.	28 29
Cokesbury circuit, at Cokesbury, June 4 5	
Clinton circuit, at Bethel.	7 8
Bladen circuit, at Antioch.	14 15
Topsail circuit.	21 22
Whiteville circuit.	28 29
Waccamaw circuit.	June 4 5
Brunswick circuit.	7 8
St. James' church, at Wilmington.	14 15
District Stewards will meet in Wilmington at Dr. Yates' study, Friday, the 10th of April, at 10 o'clock.	
Raleigh District—2d Q. m.	
N. H. D. WILSON, P. E., Greensboro, N. C.	
Hickory circuit, at Hickory, Apr. 2 3	
Bartholomew circuit, at Zion.	9 10
Oxford station.	16 17
Raleigh, Brooklyn.	23 24
Raleigh, Person St.	23 24
Oxford circuit, at Morrow.	May 1 2
Henderson station.	7 8
Raleigh, Edenton St.	14 15
Raleigh circuit, at New Chapel.	21 22
Smithfield, at Princeton.	28 29
Car River, Grove Hill.	June 4 5
Yonahville, at Cook's.	7 8
Louisburg station.	14 15
Clayton, at Clayton.	21 22
Newson Grove Mission, Newton, G. July 2 3	
Rockboro circuit, at Pleasant Plains.	9 10
Dary, at Hollands.	16 17
Bartholomew circuit, at Pleasant Plains.	23 24