

THE PULPIT TREASURY.

AN EVANGELICAL MONTHLY.

VOL. III.

NEW YORK, FEBRUARY, 1886.

NO. 10.

→ SERMONS ←

THE CHRISTIAN'S COMPLETED LIFE.

BY REV. G. M. MATHEWS, PASTOR OF SUMMIT STREET UNITED BRETHREN CHURCH,
DAYTON, OHIO.

I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with thy likeness.—Ps. xvii., 15.

MEN often speak and live better than they know.

It is not probable that the author of these words fully comprehended the import of his own language. It is prophetic and far-reaching in significance. When interpreted in the light of the New Testament, it brings blessed assurance and consolation to all who are in Christ.

The text suggests:

I. The source and nature of Christian contentment. Soul-rest comes from God alone. "Come unto Me," said Jesus, "and I will give you rest." Nothing can afford the soul repose save its union with Christ in God. In vain do we look to the world for satisfaction. Do we seek riches? They serve to intensify our discontent by increasing our longing for more. Do we court earthly honors? They are but empty bubbles that rapidly vanish and leave the seeker in cruel disappointment. Do we depend upon earthly wisdom? Though it yield great pleasure to its possessor, yet each acquisition of knowledge opens to the student a larger field for exploration and awakens in him an insatiable thirst for the unknown.

Says Swinnoek, "Men that are in the valley think if they were at the top of such a hill they should touch the heavens. Men that are in the bottom of poverty or disgrace or pain, think, if they could get up to such a mountain,

to Him as miracles did when He manifested Himself to His people of old by them. By the miraculous manifestations they knew that He was, and that He was near. When revivals prevail, the people know that God is, and, that He is near. Revivals are more mighty than miracles. The first revival after the resurrection resulted in more conversions in one day than did all the miracles which Christ wrought during His whole ministry. One general revival would convert more unbelievers than all the arguments in the world. When the Spirit of God is being poured out, the scoffer is silent, at least after a time. He may scoff for a while, as the devil will in the latter days, because he knows his time is short. There never was a revival but that it was signalized by the conversion of infidels. The Spirit of God is a power that nothing can resist.

Nothing can take the place of this power. Costly churches will not do it. A brilliant ministry will not do it. High social position will not do it. Great

wealth will not do it. There are churches in which all these things abound; and yet there are no, or almost no, conversions. Nay, more; great religious activity will not do it; for it is "not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit," saith the Lord of Hosts. We do not decry wealth, nor fine churches, nor a brilliant ministry, nor high social position. But we do most earnestly urge upon our churches and upon all Christian people that our great, crying, pressing need now is an outpouring of God's Spirit. For with this only will we be able to relieve the abounding infidelity that encompasses us. Nothing short of this will enable us to draw back the tide of worldliness that threatens to swamp our churches. Nothing short of this will give power to the Word for the conversion of our children. In short, unless we have a revival of religion, the world of the flesh and the devil will triumph—which, God forbid. It must not be. It shall not be. For we will now, with one accord, begin to pray: "O, Lord! revive Thy work."—*Independent*.

THE PULPIT TREASURY IN THE FAMILY.

The Establishment of a Home.

By T. DEWITT TALMAGE, D.D. (PRESBYTERIAN).

An important pass in one's life, a turning point in one's history, is the time when he establishes his own home. When a man builds his home he builds for eternity. Is it not amazing that affiancing in life is so often a matter of merriment and of joke, when it decides so much for this world and the world to come? I do not put the case too strongly when I say that when a man marries he marries for heaven or for hell. Oh, build not your home on earth upon the sparkle of a bright eye or the color of a fair cheek. The time will come in your history when you will want in your home not a pet or a toy, but a heroine, and you will find that life is not a gay romance, but a tremendous reality, and coming home from your store, or office, or shop, or factory, or studio, most of all, you will need some one in your

home with a face cheerful but sympathetic.

There is an aged man who looks back to a crisis in life when his fortune went away and reason almost left the throne. He knew not what to do. He remembers a particular evening when he came home from the store. He hardly dared break the news to the wife. He could not bear to tell her he had suspended in business, that he had stopped payment, that his fortune had gone. He went into the house, he closed the door upon the world, and in domestic peace found a foretaste of that heaven where panics never come. Ah! if it had not been for that help that you had what would have been the result when you told her of your financial embarrassment and misfortune? She was cheerful, she was sympathetic, she was helpful, she helped you all through those dark days of trial, and after the piano went she could sing without the accompaniment just as well as she ever sang with the accompani-

ment. There have been Christian women who have so had their domestic troubles sanctified that they could get more music out of a sewing-machine than ever in the days of their prosperity they got out of a Chickering grand or Steinway.

A Christian minister in England called upon a home of great destitution. There were the husband, the wife, and there were the children. No comfort in the household. Everything indicative of want and struggle. The minister of the Gospel said to this young man: "Your mistake was in marrying so early. Do you not think that was the mistake of your life?" The man had been told that that had been the mistake of his life before. The minister said: "It would have been a great deal better for you to have gone on and got something of a property before you entered into the marriage state. Don't you think it would have been better?" And then the young man looked around, and his eyes filled with tears, and he looked to his poorly clad wife and said: "No, sir; she's been the same to me all through!"

Ah, there are some of you who would never have known what your homes were worth, if troubles had not come. Perhaps your companion in life may have been too fond of the world and its gayeties; but one touch of misfortune turned her into a Miriam shouting the triumph on the banks of the Red sea. If you have spoken of

frivolity and fondness of display as the chief characteristics of woman, you may have to correct your mistake in some bitter pass of life, when, all other resources having failed, you are upheld by a wife's hand, suddenly armed of the Lord God Almighty for that emergency. Oh! in this tremendous pass of your earthly existence, cry unto God and ask His direction. Make a mistake here and you make it forever. Walter Scott wrote something, half of which I do not like, for it is sarcastic; but the other half I do like, for it is so true:

O woman! in our hours of ease,
Uncertain, coy, and hard to please;
When pain and anguish wring the brow,
A ministering angel thou.

Blessed that home in which the newly-married couple dedicate their souls to Christ. Blessed the family Bible in which their names have just been written. Blessed the hour of morning and evening prayer. Blessed the angels of God who join wing-tip to wing-tip over that home, making a canopy of light and love and blessedness. It may be only yesterday that they clasped hands forever. The orange blossoms may fade and their fragrance may die on the air, but those who marry in Christ shall walk together on that day when the Church, which is the Lamb's wife, shall take the hand of her Lord and King amid the swinging of the golden censers.

HELPS IN PASTORAL WORK

A Faulty Pulpit as Seen from the Pew.

By REV. N. D. JOHNSTON, CUMBERLAND
PRESBYTERIAN.

"O wad some power the giftie gie us
To see oursel's as ithers see us."

How many a good laugh we might enjoy then at our own expense! Our meaningless, pump-handle gesture, the ministerial grunt, miserable inflection, inarticulate, mumbled words are all enough to give the world a good hearty laugh; and we, too, might relax our solemn vis-

age and join in if we could only see ourselves. To improve a minister needs a merciless yet true friend, who will truly lay bare his faults.

A young lady once complained to a friend, "I don't see why Mabel is always preferred to me!" Her friend stamped across the floor, slammed the door, threw herself rudely into a great chair, yet said not a word. She explained why Mabel was always preferred. So some preachers might be taught why men of less education are often preferred to them. Let