

Correspondence.

DELAY OF ANSWERS TO PRAYER.

A human teacher would not have ventured to use such an illustration as that of the friend at midnight in our Lord's parable. Here the man obtained his request by sheer force of importunity...

Not so our Lord; the truth to be taught was so important, that it needed to be sharply conveyed, and He had no apprehension that a mistake would be made...

How little do men understand the greatness of their requests! We come before God, and how flippantly we ask for the mightiest blessings...

Would you know what forgiveness is? Go, uncover the mouth of the pit, and ask the sufferer who walls in his despair amid the unquenchable flames, what it would be to be forgiven.

Need you wonder that the sense of forgiveness does not often come sooner? You ask it often so carelessly, because you do not know its worth...

Suppose, now, that you should begin to see how good it is to be and to feel yourself forgiven, and should bow before God with a very deep consciousness that this was more important than all beside...

This is but a type of all the rest. Our Heavenly Father delays His answers till we have some proper thoughts of the value of His gifts which we seek.

Have you ever thought how difficult it is for God to keep Himself before eyes those who pray to Him? He delays His answers on purpose, that He may be seen and recognized in His gifts.

The above letter is full of instruction. O, that every wife in the land might, like this lady, spend a "sleepless night in prayer."

My wife and children attended your first meeting. The children were delighted, but the wife caricatured your manner very amusingly.

My wife soon got over her prejudices, and instead of laughing, she came, "Have you been to the meetings? O! do go and hear and see for yourself."

first asking, you would in a little while forget that God had anything to do with giving it. But it does not come as soon as you have asked. You ask again.

In some blessed hour the request is granted, and you rejoice in the boon. Will you now think that you got it yourself? That it came of itself?

WILMINGTON, June 21, 1866.

A WHOLE FAMILY LED TO JESUS.

I have just been reading, with the deepest interest, two letters from a gentleman and lady in Springfield, Ill., telling how they were brought to Christ.

It is now about two months since they found peace in believing, and last Sabbath I heard this father stand up in the presence of not far from five thousand people in Springfield and tell the story of his conversion.

On your arrival in this city, my curiosity was very great to attend your meetings. I never dreamed that any beneficial results would be produced upon me!

By that time, three of our little family had found that they loved the blessed Jesus since you arrived, and my dear husband and myself were still without the peace which we both required.

I did; I prayed all night, slept none. O, what a night that was! As the day dawned, a light broke in upon my soul.

While I am writing this letter he is, perhaps, wrapt in his blankets in sweet slumber, or meditating around the camp-fire, peering into the bright blaze of the pine, studying the fanciful images of the burning coals.

Still he is surrounded by many dangers. The region through which he passes is infested by the Bloods, Piegans and Sioux Indians, who are very treacherous and hostile.

The first year, Brother Smith labored in Bannack, and always drew a good audience. The new and extensive discoveries of Last Chance, Silver-Bow, German and French Gulches, Blackfoot and Ophir, caused so many of the miners to "stampede" from this camp.

It is with deep regret we learn that the Rev. George G. Smith, pastor of the Presbyterian Church of this city, is about to leave for the States.

"Father, why can't we have family worship, like aunt Di...?" My son, but I can't pray. That hurt me. My wife, on one occasion said, "O! why don't you come on as usual?"

The next day was election. I thought I could alleviate my suffering about the polls, and have a good time as usual.

BANNAK CITY, MONTANA TERRITORY, May 17th, 1866.

LETTER FROM MONTANA TERRITORY.

REV. JOHN W. MEARS, Philadelphia, Pa.—Dear Brother:—My object in penning the following article is twofold. First, to give you a good account of the Rev. Geo. G. Smith, sent to this field from one of your Presbyteries...

While I am writing this letter he is, perhaps, wrapt in his blankets in sweet slumber, or meditating around the camp-fire, peering into the bright blaze of the pine, studying the fanciful images of the burning coals.

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It is with deep regret we learn that the Rev. George G. Smith, pastor of the Presbyterian Church of this city, is about to leave for the States.

Mr. Smith has labored most zealously for the cause of Christ, and general good of the community in which he lives, for besides his regular studies, he either teaches or preaches every night in the week but one.

Where board is from \$14 to \$20 at a common "ranche," and washing a dollar a-piece, the preacher must make his own bread, chop his own wood, and wash his own clothes.

It is useless to mention a thousand other obstacles and discouragements, but we will come to the conclusion at once. Can you send us any young or middle-aged man full of the vigor of life, of resolution and the Holy Ghost?

Respectfully, SAMUEL F. DONLAP.

CHILDREN OF WRATH. Little given to the reading of systems of theology and much to the study of the Bible, I have come to feel that "what we are to believe concerning God and what duty God requires of man," is far better learned, and in better and more just relations from the very words of Holy Scripture, than from the best humanly devised schemes of doctrine.

THE RELIGIOUS WANTS OF MONTANA are immense. There is scarcely a camp in the Territory that is now provided for by the Christian churches, except that the Catholic priests have organized societies in the cities, and the Rev. A. M. Hough, of the M. E. Church, is located at Helena City, Last Chance, and at this time a pious father of "the mother" Church is on the Montana boats, coming up the Missouri to visit this field and their missions.

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