

Beligious Miscellany. We must taste gall if we are to taste glory. If justified by faith, we must suffer tribulations. When God saves a soul, he tries it. Some believers are much surprised when they are called to suffer. They thought they were to do some great thing for God, but all he permits them to do is to suffer for his sake. Go around to every one in glory. Each will have a different story to tell, yet every one a tale of sufferings. But mark! all are brought out of them. It was a dark cloud, but it passed away. The water was deep, but they reached the other side. Not one there will blame God for the way he led them thither. "Salvation" is their only cry. Child of God, murmur not at your own lot. You must have a plain as well as a white robe. Learn to glory in tribulation also.

Some one says the Bible is the book of laws, to show the right and wrong. It is the book of wisdom that makes the foolish wise. It is the book of truth, which detects all human errors. It is the book of life, which shows how to avoid everlasting death. It contains the most authentic and entertaining history ever published. It is a perfect book of divinity. It is a book of biography. It is a book of travels. It is a book of voyages. It is the best ever written. It is the young man's best companion. It is the ignorant man's dictionary. It promises an eternal reward to the faithful and believing.

"Ah!" said the imprisoned bird, "how unhappy were I in my eternal night, but for those melodious tones which sometimes make their way to me like beams of light from afar, and cheer my gloomy day! I would myself repeat those heavenly melodies like an echo, until I have stamped them on my heart, and then I shall be able to bring comfort to myself in my darkness." Thus spoke the little warbler, and soon had learned the sweet airs which were sung to it with voice and instrument. That done, the curtain was raised, for the darkness had been purposely contrived for its destruction.

A Methodist laborer of Westley's time—Captain Webb—when any one informed him of the conversion of a rich man, was in the habit of asking, "Is his purse converted?" Without the conversion of his purse, the good Captain would give no credit to the conversion of the man. In this he agreed with Dr. Adam Clarke, who used to say: "He did not love in the religion that cost a man nothing." The religion that costs a man nothing is no religion at all; and the being converted, all but the purse, is no conversion at all.

"Mary, do you remember the text this morning?" "No, papa, I never can remember the text, I've such a bad memory." "Mary," said her mother, "did you notice Sarah Brown?" "Oh, yes. What a right! She had on her last year's bonnet, done up, a peacock silk, a black lace mantilla, brown gaiters, an imitation Houston collar, a lava bracelet, her old earrings, and such a fan! Oh, my! Oh, my! Oh, my!" "Well, my dear, your memory is improving."

"If the tree fall toward the south, or toward the north, in the place where the tree falleth, there it shall be." Eccl. xi, 3. There is a solemn meaning couched under this metaphor. The tree will not only lie as it falls, it will also fall as it leans. And the great question which every one ought to bring home to his own bosom, without a moment's delay is this: What is the inclination of my soul? Does it, with all its affections, lean toward God, or from him?

A Christian mother was once showing her little girl, about five years old, a picture representing Jesus holding an infant in his arms, while the mothers were pushing their children toward him.

"There, Carrie," said her mother, "this is what I would have done with you if I had been there."

"I wouldn't be pushed to Jesus," said little Carrie, with beautiful and touching earnestness, "I'd go to him without pushing."

It is related of a well known divine, that when on his deathbed, he was dictating words to an amanuensis, who had written: "I am still in the land of the living." "Stop!" said the dying man, "correct that. Say: 'I am yet in the land of the dying, but hope soon to be in the land of the living.' Beautiful thought! It is so. In his closing scene, the Christian is enabled to contrast this passing, dying world with that "which is to come."

That is a beautiful thought which a minister, in a recent public address, embodied as follows: "Where is Jesus Christ?" was once asked of a child. "He lives in our alley now," was the reply; for the boy had learned that Christ is where he has friends to serve him. Dear reader, does love, and the labor of love, give Christ a home under your roof, however humble and in your heart, however unworthy?

It sometimes seems to us a poor thing to walk in the common paths, wherein all are walking, yet these common paths are the paths in which God is met. Welcoming and fulfilling the lowest duties which meet us there, we shall often be surprised to find that we have been unwares welcoming and entertaining angels.

A wise man sought to explain to his little child the nature of a cross. He took two slips of wood, a long and a short one. "See, my child," he said, "the long piece is the will of God, the short piece is your will; lay your will in a line with the will of God, and you have no cross; lay it athwart and you make a cross directly."

Oh, how many of our youth are passing through these flowery gates of social pleasures down into the abyss of sensuality, of godless pride, from which only the ministry of angels can lift them up into the light of a real life.

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The Clearfield Republican.

Banks.

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