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THE SOWER

A Weekly Department of Religious and Secular Thought Contributed by REV. JAMES A. TURNER, Pastor, M. E. Church, Patton, Pa.

THREE MONTHS FOR A SQUASH—ETERNITIES FOR A MAN.

(Continued from last week.)
Of course people don't grow up in a day,—nor in a few years. Squashes grow to maturity in a few weeks time,—and remain squashes. Even trees which require thousands of years to grow to maturity are still trees when they have matured. But a man, though it may take ages, grows eventually to be a god. "Ye shall be known as gods when . . ."

Man never quits growing. He goes on growing and developing throughout the everlasting eternities. In this world, or life, he never gets much, if at all, beyond the nursery period. Or the cradle period. He doesn't advance much beyond the kindergarten stage of development. Life is too short, here to get far. Some, of course, get along farther than others,—due to varying, conditioning circumstances. A child born and raised in an environment of culture and refinement will have a great start on a poor fellow who is born and raised in opposite circumstances. But eventually, all will arrive at their various successive and progressive stages of culture and development in the course of time. But they must be given time, time to grow, and not be expected to arrive too soon, for man is a slow-growing creature. He needs lots of time, and one shouldn't get anxious or impatient if it takes some much longer than it takes others,—or if it takes all a great, great while. It takes even the best of the genus homo a long time to get anywhere worth writing home about because there is so much ground to cover. A horse, or a cow, or a dog, or other animal, doesn't need much time, for such don't cover much territory, such aren't going far, therefore grow to maturity quickly,—but it takes man eternities to grow to maturity, if he ever does reach maturity.

Truly enough, Paul said that we should reach maturity,—"the full measure of development which belongs to the fullness of Christ, instead of remaining immature," but there will not be many that will do that in this life,—very few indeed. It will take a good many more years than is allotted to the average of us in this world to arrive at that degree of maturity,—for undoubtedly Jesus was a great spiritual genius who had a handicap on most people due to his endowments and training,—just as Einstein is hopelessly beyond the average human run of people in things mathematical due to his inherited endowments and genius. It is said that only about a dozen of people in the world can grasp and understand Einstein's mathematical equations, showing that he is such a genius that only a negligible few can ever hope to stand beside him in this world as pertaining to things relating to mathematical calculations.

But one doesn't need to infer that just because most of the human race is in the kindergarten, mathematically, as compared with Einstein, we shall always remain there, and will never be able sometime to understand Einstein's equations, or achieve his capacity, or equal his mathematical wizardry. Give us time and we shall grow, and grow, and grow, and eventually achieve a degree of maturity that will enable us to stand on the heights of lofty accomplishment in every realm of human endeavor. We shall do as the gods do, and be as they. The Father's home will never be home for Him until all of His children can sit down with Him in the glorious family-circle and converse and commune with Him on terms of equality. "I have called you friends, because I have made known unto you all that was in the Father's intent." And he will never close his school until all have matriculated and graduated,—none excepted.

Get your concordance and look up passages in the New Testament in which the writers speak of GROWING into maturity, or salvation, and you will be surprised to find, if you do not already know it, that they all speak of getting along stage by stage, or, as Paul puts it,—growing from grace to grace. It is a gradual growth. We don't jump into any kind of salvation, physical, mental, or spiritual. We GROW into maturity, we achieve in "slow motion."

As Lowell says: "New occasions teach new duties; time makes ancient good uncouth; They must upward still and onward, who would keep abreast of truth."

Or, as someone else has said: "Heaven is not reached by a single bound, but we build the ladder by which we rise from the lowly earth to the vaulted skies and mount to its summit round by round."

Paul sums up this whole argument in these words: "Not that I have already attained this, (salvation, the ideal Christian life) or am already perfect, but I PRESS ON to appropriate it, because I have been appropriated for that purpose by Jesus Christ. Brethren, I for one do not consider myself to have appropriated this; my one thought is, by forgetting (and Paul had a lot to forget) what lies behind me and STRAINING to what lies before me, to press on to the goal. For all those of our number who are MATURE, this must be the point of view; God will reveal that to any of you who look at things differently. Only, we must let our steps be guided by such truth as we have attained."

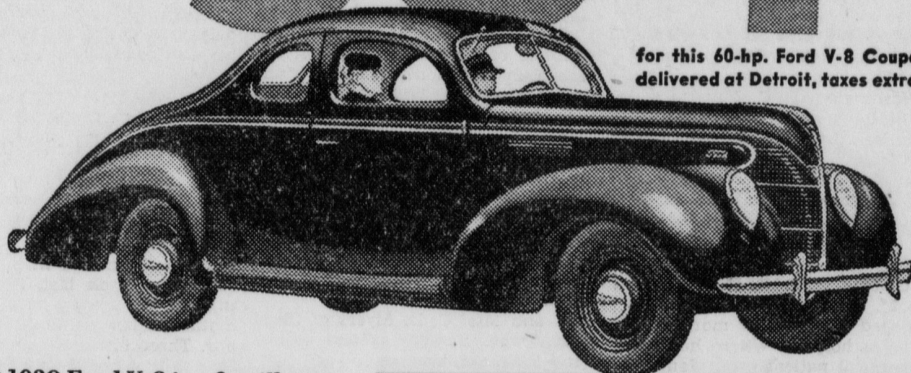
Of course, "by such truth as we have attained!" We step up on the following truth from the truth that we have attained. "We build the ladder by which we rise . . . round by

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round." That means growth. We don't jump from the bottom of the ladder to its top. We CLIMB, slowly and painfully.

It is no easy job,—this business of becoming a god. We are "not carried to heaven on flowery beds of ease. We fight to win the prize, and sail through bloody seas," to the goal. The aristocracy of Heaven is recruited from the shock troops of earth,—no cream-puffs, cry-babies, quitters, small timers, cheap-salvation people, or calculating short-cutters need apply,—only heroes. (Continued next week.)

EXECUTOR'S NOTICE.
In the Estate of Thomas J. Durbin, late of the Township of Clearfield, County of Cambria and State of Penn-

sylvania, deceased.
Notice is hereby given that Letters Testamentary in the Estate of the above named decedent have been granted to the undersigned. All persons indebted to said Estate are requested to make payment, and those having claims or demands against the same will make them known without delay to the undersigned.

GORDON DURBIN,
GERTRUDE DURBIN,
Executors of the Last Will and Testament of Thomas J. Durbin, deceased.
Patton, Pa., R. D. Shettig & Swope, Attorneys,
Ebensburg, Pa. 61.

Administratrix's Notice.
Notice is hereby given that Letters

of Administration upon the estate of Frank W. Cunningham, late of the Township of East Carroll, Cambria County, Pennsylvania, deceased, having been granted to the undersigned, all persons owing said estate will please make payment and those having claims or demands against the same will present them, properly proven, for settlement.

Adaline Cunningham
Patton R. D. 1, Pa., Box 309,
Patton, Pa.
William F. Dill,
Attorney for Administratrix,
Barnesboro, Pa.

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