

### THE SOWER

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

#### WE ARE ALL CLIMBING THE SAME MOUNTAIN

We're all in the same boat. We're all sailing toward the same port.—perfection, God-likeness. Or, to change the simile, we are all climbing the same mountain,—the upward path that leads to perfection, to the becoming of mature gods. And it is a hard climb. Some are ahead, some are just behind, some are back a little farther, and some are away down near the bottom, but we are all climbing, and it doesn't behoove anyone to shove anyone else back, or to step on anyone else's neck, or run up alone and leave the rest to struggle by themselves, if we can help them up. It isn't good sportsmanship to hinder anyone else in his climb up, nor to ignore him if he needs help. It is Christian to "look upon the things of others," as well as upon our own things.

I am climbing; you are climbing; the other fellow is climbing; we are all climbing. And no one has any right to hinder anyone else, or to throw stones at him, or to put anything in his way, or to ignore him if he needs help; for we are all in a precarious condition, and if anyone stops and starts to throw stones at anyone else he may start a landslide that will sweep the whole crowd down the hill again.

Sadly enough that thing DOES happen often enough on the journey up. Some moron or bully starts a war—and the whole crowd of climbers is catapulted down the hill to lower levels where we all have to start again to climb laboriously back up to where we were before. War brings in its wake a resurgence of liquor, gambling, slavery, exploitation, sensuality, low idealism, brutality, race-hatred, animality, crime, etc., and as the result the climbing race is thrust back down the hill again, and must begin painfully to re-climb the hill. No wonder we are still, after long millenniums of climbing, still down near the bottom.

But don't be discouraged, for the trouble is not that mankind is unable to learn and progress to better things. It is NOT that man is naturally corrupt, or by nature evil,—as some ignorantly contend—nor that man is by nature inclined to do wrong, (that's a slander on mankind and an insult to God the creator.) The trouble with the mass of mankind here in this world is this: There is continually being born into the world a stream of babies that as they grow up, must of necessity learn over again the lessons that their adults had to learn, and in the process of learning these lessons they, of course, keep the atmosphere inevitably akin to the atmosphere of the kindergarden as compared to the maturity of the adult life therein.

It seems that we all have to learn the lessons of life for ourselves,—no matter how often they have been learned by our forbears, and handed down to us in good advice and counsel. This world will always be the kindergarden of humanity,—because we start life down here.

As long as new material is con-

tinually being borne into this mass of humanity down here we will be under the necessity of putting up with its growing pains and being patient with its immaturities. Of course, that doesn't mean that things are not slowly improving as we go along, even down here in this kindergarden. We ARE improving, slowly, but nevertheless improving. And this kindergarden is slowly being made a better place in which to train youngsters.

But, always, this earthly scene will be largely infantile because infants are continually being borne into it, while the spiritually and mentally mature are continually being advanced on to another scene of training and discipline, thus keeping the mass-level here well down toward the kindergarden stage of culture.

—Some things we learn from others, and thus are saved from learning by experience ourselves. But not many things. Every man has to live his own life for himself, and, as Paul says, "work out his own salvation with pain and suffering, if not with fear and trembling."

That's what you had to do; and that's what we have had to do,—according to each, our own peculiar characteristics. Everybody makes his own mistakes,—and learns by them. We go on to perfection, day by day, by "rising on the stepping stones of our dead selves to higher things," as the poet says. Jesus did that, so does everyone else. He showed us how to do it in fine fashion, and the world will always be grateful to Him for showing the way. It helps and encourages us. And if we keep our eyes on Him, watching and imitating Him as much as we can, we will eventually come to the top of the hill in due course of time.

John says: "Beloved, let us love one another, for love belongs to God, and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God, for God is love. If we love one another, then God remains within us. Above all other things love one another. He who loves his brother loves God"

LOVE is the heart and soul of the Gospel message. Only people who love can understand God, for it is the nature of God to love. Love is the fulfilling of the law.

Love begets patience. The writer of Hebrews says: "Steady patience is what you need. We are not the men to shrink back and be lost, but to have faith and so to win our souls. God is treating you as one." Read on, in chapter 12, to the statement by the writer of how God is training us by discipline to become ideal sons, as was Jesus. In order that we may come "to mount Zion, the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to myriads of angels in festal gathering, to the assembly of the first-born registered in heaven, to the God of all as judge, to the spirits of just men made PERFECT." "Make love your aim," because love begets faith and hope and every other good virtue, and makes the personality to glow with that divinity which is within us all, and which is the promise that some day we shall be as gods.

#### FIRE SWEEPS TIPPLE

Clearfield — Fire swept a tippel at the Wiley coal mine in nearby Hyde last Thursday caused a loss estimated by owners at \$8,000.

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5.50-17.....	14.65	6.50-16.....	19.35	6.25-16..	16.15
6.00-16.....	15.95	7.00-15.....	21.35	6.50-16..	17.40
6.00-17.....	16.50	7.00-16.....	21.95	7.00-15..	19.25
				6.00-16..	14.35
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James A. Turner, Pastor  
 Church School 10 A. M. Preaching, 11 A. M. and 7:30 P. M. Epworth League 8:30 P. M. Mid-week Bible Class, Wednesday 7:30 P. M.

The interest in the mid-week Bible class is growing week by week. On Wednesday evening the 8th there were 72 present, and a larger attendance is expected on the 15th. The studies are of exceptional interest, and are worth anybody's time and consideration. The content of these lessons, their expository material, have required a great many years of study and research to gather and arrange for presentation, and those who have heard the first in the series of lectures will agree that the subject matter is unusually interesting and absorbing as well as unique and extraordinary. Perhaps this is the only time that you will be privileged to hear anything so so entrancing, impressive and inspiring. Come out, next Wednesday evening, bring your Bible,

and enjoy one of the most entertaining, interesting, instructive and uplifting evenings that you have ever known. You will go home exhilarated, inspired, informed, glad of heart, and in possession of a greater degree of self-esteem than anything you have heretofore experienced. Come and see for yourself.

#### MARK LEADBETTER JOINS FRATERNITY

Barnesboro — Mark R. Leadbetter of Barnesboro has accepted an invitation to membership in the Delta Upsilon Fraternity at the University of Pennsylvania following the close of the annual fraternity rushing season on the university campus. Leadbetter is a son of Dr. and Mrs. M. I. Leadbetter of Barnesboro and formerly attended Barnesboro High School and Franklin and Marshall College. He is now enrolled in the College of Arts and Sciences at Pennsylvania.

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