

THE SOWER

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

A LONG, LONG CLIMB

It is plain that one's duty is to keep on climbing.—loving your neighbor, helping him up the hill as much as you can,—and someday the sunrise on the other side of the hill will burst on one's gaze and one will be greatly glad.

Don't be discouraged if the most of the people seem to prefer to stay a good while down at the bottom of the hill, for this climbing business is most difficult and decidedly hard work. Every step steps up costs, costs, costs, and that's why so few are avid about stepping up, for it means pain, self-discipline, self-denial, self-control, hard work, humility, long suffering, kindness, goodness, (good for somethingness) faithfulness, meekness, willingness to return good for evil, willingness to prove yourself bigger than the other fellow in not harboring spite, ill-feeling, enmity, envy, an unforgiving spirit, self-pity and hurt feelings.

And always remember that simply because a person has reached five feet and several inches from the ground that that is no proof at all that the said person has grown up, either mentally or spiritually. One might be six feet tall, physically, and sixteen inches tall in mentality and spiritually. Physical growth almost invariably outstrips heart and soul growth.

If this fact is kept in mind one won't be liable to get one's feelings hurt because of something someone else has said or done to one. Only mental and spiritual infants say unkind and unlovely things to other people, or intentionally hurt their feelings, and therefore one shouldn't take offense—knowing that an infant is irresponsible and too ignorant to know better, one therefore who is grown up will not take offense, for what grown-up would strike back at an infant. A great man once said: "My equals won't insult me, and my inferiors can't."

The only way to keep from remaining down on the low level at the foot of the hill is to keep one's mind open to all the truth,—every window of the whole personality open to the sunlight of all kinds of culture,—physical culture, mental culture, social culture, esthetic culture, spiritual culture, so that one can grow in full and beautiful proportions into a well-rounded and full-orbed character that will be beautiful to behold.

If one doesn't do that one becomes a cripple,—a one-sided, unevenly developed, halt and lame, weak-kneed and lop-sided cripple,—whose disproportions and distortions are pitiable to behold, and who never come to know really what this thing is that is going on around them.

Douglas Jerrold says: "The superior man is he who develops in harmonious proportions, his moral, intellectual, and physical nature. This should be the end at which men of all classes should aim, and it is this only which constitutes real greatness."

Shakespeare asks: "Do you know what a man is? Are not birth, beauty, good shape, discourse, manhood, learning, gentleness, virtue, youth, liberality, and such like, the spice and salt that season a man?"

And someone else has said: "A man is one whose body has been trained to be the servant of his mind; whose emotions are trained to be the servants of his will; who enjoys the beautiful, loves truth, hates wrong, loves to be good, and respects others as himself."

And Paul said: "Whatever things are worthy, just, true, pure, attractive, high-toned, all excellence, all merit,—keep in mind." That is what he meant when he elsewhere said, "Have that mind in you which was in Christ Jesus." That is, have Christ's attitude.

His attitude was one of love and obedience. He tried always to do the things that pleased the Father. Thus was He in that attitude of mind that is basic to true salvation, and all He needed to do was to go on from there to the accomplishment of every task and duty that that attitude of mind implied. Faith without action is dead. Read James 2:14-26.

If you love God and want to live in a way that pleases Him, then you will have to do everything that love demands, or you won't be saved. Just WISHING to please or serve God won't save you,—you will have to go on and DO what he says. "Why call ye me Lord, Lord, and not do what I say?" It is DOING the will of God that saves you. "Many there are that shall WISH to go in, but shall not be able. Only he that DOETH the will of God shall enter in." If and when you stop DOING your salvation stops,—you stop climbing the hill to perfection.

Paul said: "I am STRAINING on to what lies before me." In South Africa, in looking for diamonds, they often find a substance that is half charcoal and half diamond. It was intended to be a diamond, but it stopped short, and is only diamondiferous; it is partly a cinder and partly a jewel. Scientists say that copper is elementary, aboriginal matter, which was on its way to become gold, but by some accident it got shunted on to the wrong track,—it stopped short.

And there are lots of people who are half angel and half devil,—half cinder and half diamond,—simply because they stopped climbing, stopped "straining on to what lies before." The Court Opinion says, "There are three rules for success. The first is: Go on. The second is: Go on. And the third is: Go on."

PATTON METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

James A. Turner, Pastor
Church School 10 A. M. Preaching 11 A. M. and 7:30 P. M. Epworth League, 6:30 P. M. Mid-Week Bible Class, Wednesday, 7:30 P. M.

On Tuesday evening, March 14th, the Ladies Aid met in the home of Mrs. Thomas Lowes. The following members were present: Mrs. Thomas Lowes, Mrs. Mary J. Lilley, Mrs. Edw. Jenkins, Mrs. Fred Kinkead, Mrs. James Blake, Mrs. Fannie McQuillan, Mrs. J. A. Turner, Mrs. John Johnson, Mrs. Lora Lowes, Mrs. David McConnell, Mrs. Emma Lynn, Rev. J. A. Turner. Business was transacted, refreshments were served, the work of the Church discussed, and plans formulated for future activities.

The second quarter issues of the UPPER ROOM are at hand and ready to be distributed. Come prepared to take a copy home with you. They are five cents a copy. You can't afford to be without the stimulation and help which these booklets bring to your life. Get one for yourself, and take one to a neighbor or friend for a present.

You will also want a copy of the Conference Minutes. The coming Annual Conference session will be held in First Church, York, Pa., and will be the last to be held under the old denominational designation at the Methodist Episcopal Church and will be a historic session. Consequently you will want a copy of the proceedings of that session. The price will be thirty cents. Give the Pastor your order as soon as possible.

The mid-week Bible Class is growing apace. If you miss these series of lessons on the first chapters of Genesis you will miss something that you will probably never get again. And you cannot afford to miss them.

DOGS FOR SALE—Small house dogs, 2 months old. Inquire Anna Dandrea, Box 303, Patton, Pa.

BARNESBORO MEN PURCHASE GROUND

Mrs. Annie M. O'Connor of Johnstown, Saturday disposed of a piece of ground in Ebensburg borough adjoining the Ebensburg Trust Building, having a frontage of 74 feet and a depth of 182 feet on Center street, and a piece having a frontage of ten feet and

a depth of 74 feet facing High street in the rear of the Trust Building, to Strollo Brothers, of Barnesboro. The consideration was \$6,379.54. A one-story brick building is to be erected on the ground soon, to be occupied by the A & P Tea Company. The land is part of that which President Judge John H. McCann recently urged the county to acquire "for future needs of the county."



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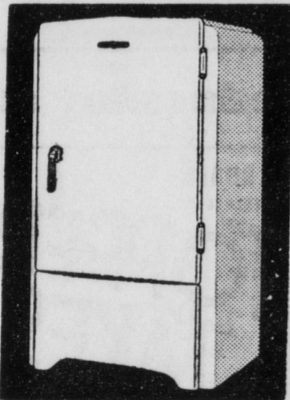
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