

SUNDAY READING.

ALIVE.

SERMON, PREACHED BY PASTOR C. H. SPURGEON.

"The righteousness of thy testimonies is everlasting: give me understanding, and I shall live."—Psalm 119:144.

Yesterday afternoon I was the subject of a somewhat singular circumstance. An esteemed friend and relative came over to my house, evidently laboring under great disturbance of mind, and having inquiries to make of a very important order.

SPIRITUALLY ALIVE.

By this incident I was led to turn a heart-glance upon myself, and to say, "I wonder whether there is any question as to whether I am alive in the higher sense?"

My subject is life, may the Lord of life help me to speak of it after a lively manner. A consideration of the text will help in the inquiry as to whether we live unto God or no; and it may further help those who sigh after the divine life to discover the way of divine quickening.

A SIMPLE PRAYER.

I. First let us consider this prayer in its simplicity. We ask you to notice, first, that this is a suitable prayer for the awakened sinner. He discovers himself to be guilty, and he perceives that there is a punishment for sin, and so far he understands his position.

Equally applicable, however, will this be in the case of one who is a Christian, and who is struggling against temptation perhaps, my brother, you are placed in a position where

YOU ARE FIERCELY TEMPTED.

from without by the world, and possibly you may fear that you will not be able to survive it. It comes with such force that you are staggered by its power you feel that you cannot bear up under such pressure, you despair of your spiritual life.

Do you not think that this prayer will often well up from the heart of the suffering believer? To some of our dear brothers and sisters life is one long pang, for bodily disease has fixed its fangs in their flesh.

CALLED TO SUFFER.

In these ways, have you not cried out at times, "I shall never be able to bear it; I shall die of a broken heart under these great afflictions. O that I might hide me in the grave!"

I thank God that a large number now present are not so much sufferers as workers. Now, I know that you who are working for God and trying to win souls

often feel as if you were not half alive. I am compelled to make such a confession personally. I want to get alive to the utmost; not only having life, but having it "more abundantly."

WE NEED QUICKENING.

brethren; do you not feel that it is so? I believe that those who are most earnest are the very persons who blame themselves the most for the want of earnestness.

Is not this a very proper and blessed prayer for aspiring minds in the Church of God, of whom I trust there are many present? Such men are not satisfied with themselves, but press forward to that which is yet beyond and above them.

LIFE IN DEATH.

Last of all, when we shall not be so much aspiring saints as expiring saints—when we come to lie upon our last bed, and to lock into the unseen, then may we still pray after the same fashion.

Thus, I think I have shown you that this prayer sounds well on every note of the scale. You may sound it out of the depths of seeking penitence, and you may run up to the very highest note with the expectancy of glory, and the word will sound well on any note you touch.

II. The time has come when under our second division the prayer is to be more fully opened up. "Give me understanding, and I shall live." Here

A WANT CONFESSED.

because it is deeply felt; the suppliant owns his need of understanding. Has that want been felt by you, my brother? We are all fools till God gives us understanding.

Next, the prayer is directed to God for God alone can give understanding. Teachers can enlighten an understanding which already exists, but they cannot give one.

Brethren, the Psalmist speaks of understanding in a general way—"Give me understanding"—as if he wanted the faculty for use in many directions. In every transaction of this life we need to be prudent, for we are surrounded by a thousand snares and pitfalls, and if we do not exercise discretion we shall be taken all unawares and become the prey of our enemies.

LIKE MEN IN A FOG.

who cannot be sure where they are. It happened but the other day near Milan that so dense a fog covered the railway that a number of workmen who were employed upon the line heard the sound of an approaching freight train and rushed to get away from it; but at that very same moment an express train which they had not heard or seen, came rushing upon them, and cut them to pieces.

in the Bible as if to show that they ought to be read together, and that their spirit and influence are essential to a complete practical character.

Still, while the understanding sought for in the prayer is evidently of a general character, the former portion of the verse links it with

A SPECIAL UNDERSTANDING.

of the word of God; and oh, beloved, we need above all things to understand what God has revealed. Take care first that you know it. Search the Scriptures, let them be the man of your right hand.

WHAT LIFE MEANS.

Permit me now to say that no man who is at all awakened can really live unless he knows the word of God and understands its inner meaning. For this reason: Do you call it life to live without light? You may have been in the sepulchral dungeons of Venice, where not a ray of light ever came to the unhappy prisoner.

III. Now we will take the third step and go deeper, laying bare the argument of this prayer.

WHAT DOES HE MEAN.

by saying, "The righteousness of thy testimonies is everlasting: give me understanding, and I shall live." I think he means this—that the word of God when it is practically and experimentally understood by the mind is a pledge of life.

THE CROWN OF LIFE.

One more, the understanding of God's word is the very flower and crown and glory of true life. When a man so understands God's word as to experience it, and to practice it, he has reached a high point of spiritual culture, and his life will be loaded, like Aaron's rod, with buds and blossoms and fruit unto God's glory.

I cannot make out the notion of certain professing Christians, that a charge comes over Christianity as the ages move on; that there is a Christianity for the first century, and a revised Christianity for the present era.

CULTURE AND THOUGHT.

so much of these things that it is an honor to speak with them. The gospel that was preached to the poor, which childlike persons understood by the enlightening influence of the Holy Spirit, is in their eyes a very poor business.

Well, now, to my mind, this is the very bliss and blessedness of the gospel, that the righteousness of God's testimonies is everlasting, that though it has been tried by criticism and tested by experience, it remains the same in its spotless purity and in its divine infallibility to this day.

Do you want a better gospel, any of you? Go and fish for it, if you do, but not in the waters of truth. Do you want any nobler promise, and surer covenant? As for me, I bless God that the righteousness of his testimonies is everlasting, and by them I mean to abide all my days, God helping me.

SOME NEW OLD FRIENDS.

The Story of a Boy Who Stays at Home of Nights Now.

My father played a queer trick on me the other night. You know I used to feel that I had done myself an injustice if I did not go to the theatre about five or six nights a week. It wasn't always the theatre, but if it wasn't that it was a music hall or perhaps a game of cards or billiards with some of the boys.

Well, you also know how I am situated as to business. I work for my father, and I have to be at the office at 8:30 in the morning, just as the rest of the family are sitting down to breakfast. In consequence I fore they are up. But I can't complain of that. I'm doing exactly what the man who had my place before me did, and between you and me I'm drawing more salary.

But that's neither here nor there. It's the evenings. I used to finish work about 6, get dinner in the city, and go to the theatre or somewhere else. I had been doing it for about six months, and when I look back, about the only time that I saw my mother and sister during that period was at Sunday dinner. Nothing unusual in that, of course. The same thing is true of hundreds of young men in town. But they haven't fathers like mine. He came to me one afternoon and asked me if I had an engagement for that night.

"Yes," I said; "I've promised to go to the theatre."

"How about to-morrow night?" he asked.

"Nothing on at present," I replied.

"Well, I'd like you to go somewhere with me."

"All right," I said; "where shall I meet you?"

You see he leaves the office about an hour before I can get my work finished. He suggested the Lenox Restaurant, at 7:30, and I was there, prepared for the theatre and a quiet lecture on late hours. He had combined the two on several previous occasions. But when he appeared he said he wanted me to call on a lady with him.

We went out and started straight for home. "She is stopping at the house," he said, when I spoke of it. I thought it strange that he should have made the appointment for the Lenox Restaurant under those circumstances, but I said nothing.

Well, we went in, and I was introduced with due formality to my mother and my sister. The situation was ludicrous and I began to laugh, but the laugh died away.

None of the three even smiled. My mother and my sister shook hands with me, and my mother said she remembered me as a boy, but hadn't seen much of me lately. Then she invited me to be seated.

It wasn't a bit funny then, although I can laugh over it now. I sat down and she told me one or two anecdotes of my boyhood at which we all laughed a little. Then we four played whist for a while.

When I finally retired I was courteously invited to call again. I went upstairs feeling pretty small and doing a good deal of thinking.

Then I made up my mind that my mother was a most entertaining lady, and my sister a good and brilliant girl.

Now I'm going to call again, as I have been doing quite regularly for the last week. I enjoy their company, and I intend to cultivate their acquaintance.—Arkansas Traveller.

The Latest Furnishing Fad.

A curious arrangement of a window top is accomplished by discarding the conventional curtain pole and substituting nothing more nor less than a limb of a tree, as quaint and as Japanese in its singularity and quaintness as it is possible to get it.

This limb should be a forked affair, shaped like a letter Y if laid on its side. The curtain should be draped over one leg and the extension of the Y, and along the branch or leg that rises upward—the scheme is to perch blackbirds and squirrels and hangout clinging moss. It's one of those things that you can't describe, but can picture in imagination.

The Churches.

METHODIST, Cambridge St.—Rev. T. M. Campbell, Pastor. Services at 11 A.M., and 7.00 P. M. Sabbath School and Bible Class at 2.30. Classes at 10 A.M. Prayer Meeting, Wednesday at 8 P. M. Young People's Christian Endeavor Society, every Friday evening at 7.30.

METHODIST, Queen Street.—Rev. Newton Hill, Pastor. Services at 11.00 A.M., and 7.00 P. M. Sabbath School at 2.30 P. M. Prayer Meeting Thursday at 7.30 P. M.

KEEP THE CASH. Beginning on October 22nd. and ending on Dec. 25, will be

RED-LETTER DAY'S FOR BUYERS OF HOUSEHOLD FURNITURE.

WE HAVE DECIDED TO HOLD A GREAT FOUR WEEK'S SALE commencing on the above date, during which we will offer every grade of Furniture in our warerooms at reduced prices.

Parlor, Dining-room, Kitchen and Bedroom Setts, Chairs, Rockers,

In fact everything in our store will be away down in price for the above period. If you need Furniture and have the money there won't be much bargaining.

ANDERSON, NUGENT & CO. Furniture Dealers and Manufacturers, near the Market.

THE MARCH OF IMPROVEMENT.

Art in the household and beauty in the ordinary surroundings in life was the gospel propounded by the late Professor Ruskin and other elevators of the human mind, and to realize what progress has been made in this direction it is well worth while paying a visit to the magnificent show rooms of the old established furniture house of Messrs.

OWEN MCGARVEY & Son. 1849-1853 Notre Dame Street.

MONTREAL. A walk through those spacious show rooms is a revelation; in fact they really amount in themselves to a Montreal Industrial exhibition in their line. Such must necessarily be the reflections of anyone who pays a visit to this firm's prominent establishment and makes a tour of inspection through their attractive warerooms.

Everything in the furniture line is to be found there, from a twenty-five cent chair to a fifteen hundred dollar bedroom set, and prices to suit everyone.

No one need despair; the millionaire can furnish his house from top to bottom with the finest and most costly, and his junior clerk can fill his little tenement with useful and pretty articles at prices to suit his more limited means.

On entering the well-known and extensive warerooms on Notre Dame street, the visitor is struck by the excellent display of Sideboards, Dining Tables, Hall Stands, Bookcases, Wardrobes, Library Tables, Writing Desks, and Easy and Combination Chairs of all descriptions.

On reaching the second floor a beautiful assortment of

PARLOR FURNITURE meets the eye, such as 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 piece parlor suites. Odd piece suites, gilt chairs, corner chairs, ottomans, divans, tete-a-tetes, piano and foot-stools in plushes, brocatelles and silk damasks of all the newest and latest shades; also a full line of fancy centre, card and work-tables, statue-stands, ladies writing desks, music stands and easels.

On the third floor a fine selection of Rocking, Easy and Reclining Chairs claims particular attention. The celebrated bent wood furniture imported from Vienna, Austria, and of which the Messrs. McGarvey make a specialty, also occupies a prominent position on this floor.

On the fourth floor bedroom sets in profusion are to be found from the cheap ash wood to the elegantly carved set valued at fifteen hundred dollars. Brass and iron furniture, of which they have just received a very large consignment from Birmingham, England, is an especially noticeable feature; handsome solid brass bedsteads and pretty cots for children from \$30 up to \$125—there they are of the newest designs: neat iron bedsteads as low as \$5, and rising to much higher figures, can also be found here. A great advantage in this house is that the price of every piece of furniture and article is marked in plain figures, but owing to the widening of Notre Dame street west, which will necessitate their removal next spring, they are now offering special inducements in the way of Discounts off the marked prices. The entire establishment is a model one, neatness and order prevailing everywhere; all available space is taken up to accommodate the enormous stock which they carry, and from which purchasers can select at their liberty. Their new passenger elevator will be found not only a great convenience, but also a luxury in its way to carry their customers to any of their six flats of show rooms.

The firmly established reputation of this well-known house is a sufficient guarantee that outside show is only the last thing aimed at, and that stability and good value for money are to be found in the old established firm of Messrs.

Owen McGarvey & Son

1849 and 1853 Notre Dame Street, corner of McGill street.