Home Chats

By

MARIE ANN BEST

Christianity says — Be Christ-like, give thyself.

Atheism and Light

From time immemorial electricity has been with us, around us, in the air we breathe. Yet we groped along in the darkness for aeons of centuries knowing practically nothing of it. There came a time when prophets foretold its coming but few believed the prophecy until, believing it or not, when the time came that the thin edge of the wedge was applied by the slow process of scientific research, darkness suddenly opened up into a flood of light and power hitherto undreamed of. The great power was here which could destroy as ruthlessly as it could belch out light and energy. Yet all at once it was harnessed in so safely by skilled human hands that we use it now without fear, taking it as a matter of course, even though most of us know little more about it than to turn on the switch.

But we must have some appliance installed in our homes if we wish to use it and benefit by it, and we must touch the button to secure the power in order to connect up and benefit by it.

If this is true, and we know it is, is it not comforting that we have been told by the noblest man who ever lived, whose integrity was unimpeachable, whose truth and magnetic spirituality placed him first among the greatest of all men, that there is a power, a God power which is likewise everywhere. This power is supreme and above all other powers, bringing order out of chaos wherever it touches.

This greatest man of all men told us it was necessary for the Father to send His Son, to come to this world in order to teach us how to build up this spiritual machinery for ourselves which will give us the eternal life of light.

At the time Jesus lived on earth history shows us that virtues were a mockery. Conditions were terrible, in fact we have no idea of the wickedness and consequent sufferings endured by those early people. This was when Christ came to apply the thin edge of wedge. So great was the need of Him that they killed His physical body in their ignorance of right thinking. He found it necessary to die in order to show them the importance of each individual actually living the principles of love, truth, kindness and all virtues even unto death, the development of which brings us into everlasting life where moth nor rust does not corrupt.

He has said we should pray. We do not understand why, but in some manner prayer does make the circuit complete and for those who touch the spiritual switch by following what he taught a beacon is set out which helps us along wonderously through the trials and sufferings on this murky road of life.

He has shown us that we are going through the process of being born again; we have come up through the infinite ages; passed through darkness, ignorance, violence and materialization and can now see the glimmerings of a great light ahead.

How then can there be annihilation? If there has been a past how can it be possible not to have a future? All the past was future at one time, was it not? We have come this far not knowing what we are or how we move, or have our being. The world becomes more illuminated physically by electricity and immeasurably more important, it becomes spiritually illuminated by good living when everyone will do as they would be done by.

Oftentimes we think our own sufferings and difficulties, though hard to bear can be tolerated, but looking at others for worse off we are often puzzled when something seemingly terrible happens. "Well now, that person is good, and yet see how he suffers," and then we are apt to allow the small seeds of doubt to grow, forgetting God's words: "Thy dross to consume and thy God to refine." It is God's way of making us fit to be born again.

After all what is one little life when gazing into the depths of eternity? Earthquakes, famine, sorrow, death are as nothing if they bring us into the eternity of Divine Love.

Twilight Hour Story

Chicks and Other Little Friends

No. 31

Last week I told you about Fluffy being so cross at Rover because he came into the same room where Mamma Lady and Billy had brought her little kitties. She was so cross she scratched him, then jumped on his back and scratched some more so he didn't know what ever could be the matter, for you know he came in the room all right, but he didn't have a chance to even see the kitties, so he hadn't the slightest idea what all the fuss was about.

After he got chased out like that he wouldn't come in for a long time. It was a little while before Mamma Lady noticed Rover didn't come in the house. It was really Billy who noticed it first. He said, "Say, Mamma, do you know Rover won't come in the house? I wonder why?"

Then Mamma Lady remembered and said, "I believe he thinks it isn't very safe for him in here. I never thought of that. We'll have to coax him in."

So Billy ran out and called him and when he got near the door he was going to disappear again but Billy caught him by the collar and hugged him and said, "Oh, come on in Rover, nothing will hurt you."

You see, Rover wasn't a coward if he knew what was the matter, but he didn't know why Fluffy jumped on him like that, so he thought he would just stay away.

Well, just as he was trying to get away Mamma Lady came out and was extra nice to him. Come in, Rover, Fluffy won't hurt you, now come on, it's all right, come on in," and she opened the door so he could see it really was all right.

Rover looked at her and took a little step, then stopped, then another, and she kept saying "Come on in. It's all right." Then he looked warily around and took another few steps. "She won't hurt you, Rover."

But Rover didn't know whether to believe it or not. All at once he was going to back out pretty quick, for there was Fluffy sitting on the cushion on her chair. But would you believe it, she just looked good naturedly at him as though she had never done anything to him at all.

Wasn't that funny? You know I believe there are a lot of people like that. They get so very cross about something then forget all about it, and they want us to forget all about their crossness too, which isn't so easy to do sometimes, is it? But I guess it's just their way, so it really is best to forget.

You see Fluffy forgot all about it because her kitties were away off in a dark closet now and she liked Rover again, so that when he saw her she was a nice kitty again, and wasn't Rover a good dog, for he was soon good friends with her, although often he looked at her queerly, as much as to say, "Why did you scratch me?" Perhaps he'll know when he sees the kitties when they are bigger.

But whatever are the chicks doing all this time?

Popular songs are often so popular that they become unpopular.

"Did you husband bring home any fish?"

"No. I understand William had bad luck on this trip. He got into a game of cards and lost the money he took with him to buy fish."

Sunday School Lesson

August 9. Lesson VI—Saul Converted and Commissioned—Acts 9: 1-9, 17-19; 1 Timothy 1: 12-14. Golden Text—I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision.—Acts 26: 19.

I. SAUL, PHARISEE AND PERSECUTOR, Acts 9: 1, 2; 22: 3-5.

II. SAUL CONVERTED, Acts 9: 3-19a; 22: 5-16.

III. SAUL PREACHING, Acts 9: 19b-31; 22: 17-21.

IV. PAUL, LOOKING BACK, Galatians 1: 11|17; 1 Timothy 1: 12-17.

I. SAUL, PHARISEE AND PERSECUTOR, Acts 9: 1, 2; 22: 3-5.

(a) The Pharisee. Saul's family, although living in a Greek city, were of pure Jewish descent, and Pharisees. They also enjoyed the privilege of Roman citizenship, conferred upon them probably for some service to the emperor. According to Jewish custom, the boy was taught a trade, tent-making, Acts 18: 3. In the university city of Tarsus he would acquire a knowledge of Greek customs, literature and philosophy. His education in Tarsus completed, he was sent south to Jerusalem to study under a famous theological professor named Gamaliel.

The gentle and tolerant spirt of Gamaliel (Acts 5: 34), was not shared by his brilliant pupjl. Saul was an ardent student of the Law. When religion becomes a matter of law and doctrines, intolerance is the result. So it was with Saul.

(b) The Persecutor. When, after Stephen's death, the authorities took measures against his followers, Saul threw himself into the work of repression. Not content with his efforts in Jerusalem, he secured authority to go to Damascus, where the Jewish colony had evidently been influenced by the new faith.

II. SAUL CONVERTED, Acts 9: 3-19a; 22: 5-16.

Saul's conversion was the most momentous occurrence of apostolic history.

(a) The Preparation. On the lonely road to Damascus, six or eight days' journey from Jerusalem, Saul would have time for reflection. By this time he was discovering that the Law was not an adequate religion, Romans, chapter 7. Failing in his quest for God, he was steadily sinking into pessimism. The memory was always haunting him of Stephen dying with the face of an angel—and with a prayer of forgiveness on his lips. The joyful courage of the men whom he was persecuting, their lives for each other, the calm confidence which told of an inner peace must have been undermining his old assurance. His troubled mind was working up to the crisis which he was soon to experience.

(b) The Crisis. As Saul and his men were approaching the city a blinding light suddenly burst upon them, the shock of which threw them to the ground, Chap. 9: 3. Saul heard a voice saying, "Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?" Was it, then, really true that in harrying the believers he had been persecuting the Lord himself? "Who art thou, Sir?" he asked. He did not recognize the voice. The Authorized Version with "Lord" suggests that he did. The answer brought to Saul the transforming conviction that Jesus was, as his followers had claimed, the true revelation of God.

(c) The Result. Saul immediately placed Christ in complete control of his life, 9: 6. Brought to a believer's house in Damascus, he remained there three days, blind physically and spiritually, overwhelmed at the collapse of his past life and dark as to the future. Ananias, divinely prompted, found him and showed him that all that had happened was God calling him to his service. Saul, now healed in body and spirit (9: 17), was baptized, and thus admitted to the fellowship of the believers.

III. SAUL PREACHING, Acts 9: 19b-31; 22: 17-21.

After some days spent with the disciples, in Damascus, Saul retired "into Arabia" (Gal. 1: 17), probably some quiet village near Damascus where, in seclusion, he could ponder the meaning of his great experience and determine his future course of action. Not only the words of Ananias' vision (22: 14, 15), but his own nature made action of some kind inevitable. He returned to Damascus and began to preach controversially, 9: 22. Not yet, refined through suffering, mellowed and enriched by love, could he utter 1 Cor. chap. 13. A plot against his life forced him to leave the city. He went to Jerusalem, where he endeavored to make the acquaintance of the apostles. They, however, were afraid of him and, had it not been for Barnabas, his visit would probably have been unsuccessful. His bold preaching aroused antagonism. The "brethren," fearing persecution, brought him down to Cæsarea and sent him home to Tarsus.

IV. PAUL, LOOKING BACK, Galatians 1: 11|17; 1 Timothy 1: 12-17.

His Testimony. Looking back over the ears of his Christian life, he gratefully testifies that the Power which saved him at Damascus has always sustained him. The arrogance of the Pharisees has become the humility of the chief of sinners, 1 Tim. 1: 15.

What New York Is Wearing

BY ANNEBELLE WORTHINGTON

Illustrated Dressmaking Lesson Furnished With Every Pattern

Enhance our charm by wearing flattering jacket costumes.

It is a season of jackets!

The one sketched is in the green and white printed sportsweight linen in combination with plain green handkerchief linen.

The skirt shows slenderizing line in pointed hip yoke treatment. The jacket is in popular hip length.

Style No. 3436 comes in sizes 14, 16, 18 years, 36, 38 and 40 inches bust. The 16-year size requires 4 yards of 39-inch figured material with 1⅜ yards of 39-inch plain material.

It is stunning with the dress made of chiffon print in hyacinth blue coloring with the jacket of flat silk crepe in matching shade.

Yellow and white sportsweight linen with plain yellow sheer linen for simulated tuck-inn bodice is very chic.

Dusty pink flat silk crepe, white shantung and cotton or silk striped shirting are swagger.

HOW TO ORDER PATTERNS.

Write your name and address plainly, giving number and size of such patterns as you want. Enclose 20c in stamps or coin (coin preferred; wrap it carefully) for each number, and address your order to Wilson Pattern Service, 73 West Adelaide St., Toronto.

Will

Ignatius Loyola was a great leader and master of men. One of his rules was: "What you want to be you can be. Will it then, and will it with all your might." Modern psychology tells us the same thing. Character is a matter of right will. Holiness is a will set toward God and His righteousness.

Carbon Monoxide Takes Heavy Toll of Bird Life

Washington.—A never-ending gas attack from the exhausts of automobiles is taking heavy toll among English sparrows and pigeons, says Austin H. Clark, biologist of the United States National Museum.

These two birds, which formerly were common in the cities of Eastern United States, have been disappearing rapidly.

They feed largely on street refuse, which brings them into contact with carbon monoxide gas from motor exhausts. It is a heavy gas that tends to cling to the ground when there is no wind.

It takes very little carbon monoxide to kill a bird or weaken it so it is easily caught by cats, hawks or other enemies, Clark explains.

This is because birds live "at high speed." Their bodies transform oxygen into heat much more rapidly than human bodies.

They must have plenty of oxygen at all times. Anything such as gas that tends to block the oxygen supply from their lungs has a bad effect almost at once.

English sparrows were imported from Europe before the days of modern sprays and insecticides, to eat the canker worms that were infesting the American elm trees.

They accomplished their purpose but aroused complaints among bird lovers because they drove away other birds from birdhouses and feeding places.

To a Locomotive in Winter

Thee for my recitative,
Thee in the driving storm even as now, the snow, the winter—day declining,
Thee in thy panopl, thy measur'd dual throbbing and thy beat convulsive,
Thy black cylindric body, golden brass and silvery steel,
Thy ponderous side-bars, parallel and connecting rods, gyrating, shuttling at thy sides,
Thy metrical, now swelling pant and roar, now tapering in the distance,
Thy great protruding head-light fix'd in front,
Thy long, pale, floating vapor-pennants tinged with delicate purple,
The dense and murky clouds out-belching from thy smoke-stack,
Thy knitted frame, thy springs and valves, the tremulous twinkle of thy wheels,
Thy train of cars behind, obedient, merrily following,
Through gale or calm, now swift, now slack, yet steadily careering;
Type of the modern—emblem of motion and power — pulse of the continent,
For once come serve the Muse and merge in verse, even as here I see thee,
With storm and buffeting gusts of wind and falling snow,
By day thy warning ringing bell to sound its notes,
By night thy silent signal lamps to swing.

Fierce-throated beauty!
Roll through my chant with all thy lawless music, thy swinging lamps at night,
Thy madly-whistled laughter, echoing, rumbling like an earth quake, rousing all,
Law of thyself complete, thine own track firmly holding
(No sweetness debonair of tearful harp or glib piano thine),
Thy thrills of shrieks by rock and hills return'd
Launch'd o'er the prairies wide, across the lakes,
To the free skies unpent and glad and strong.

—Walt Whitman, in "Leaves of Grass."

Maternal Instinct

It is a mistake to suppose that the maternal instinct is universal on the one hand, or that it is developed only by personal experience on the other. Even women who are mothers may be found wholly destitute of it, with not a ray of natural feeling for their offspring; and some who are neither wives or mothers in fact are all the latter in feeling. These are the women who are the chosen friends of both sexes and all ages. To them flock all who have troubles, sure of a patient hearing and that sweet sympathy which of itself heals the wounds laid bare to its touch.

Wisdom of the Foolish

The foolish think that they can escape punishment; but every wrongdoing carries its own punishment. Punishment is not always something that happens to us, but rather something that happens in us. The greatest of all punishments is the loss of our humanity. What is more terrible than to lose the open countenance—to be forced to wear the fox's eye and the wolf's mouth?—Markham.

Vote or Be Arrested

Aim of Bill in France

Paris.—A law compelling all French citizens to vote, under penalty of fines, has been proposed by a group of conservative members of Parliament.

Voting, they declare in the bill they have laid before the Chamber of Deputies, is a duty and not a mere privilege.

The Chamber of Deputies and the departmental and communal elective bodies are, they maintain, composed too largely of the representatives of minorities because the other fellows shirked their duty at the polls.

In France, as in most countries, the well-to-do citizens are inclined to forego their right to vote. It is with the purpose of getting out this portion of the vote that the backers of the bill, led by Louis Marin, have moved for the reform.

Fear

Fear and lack of faith go hand in hand. The one is born of the other. Tell me how much one is given to fear, and I will tell you how much he lacks in faith.

Fear is a most expensive guest to entertain, the same as worry is: so expensive are they that no one can afford to entertain them. We invite wha we fear, the same as, by a different attitude of mind, we invite and attract the influences and conditions we desire. The mind dominated by fear opens the door for entrance of the very things, for the actualization of the very conditions it fears.

Fear is, so to speak, the direct opposite of faith, and faith is perhaps the strongest and most effective mental-spiritual force that we can possess or grow.—Ralph Waldo Trine.

Argentine Grain Output Grows

Buenos Aires. — Argentine wheat, corn, linseed and oats shipments this year show a considerable increase, private statistics of cereal exports reveal. A total of 1,928,752 tons of wheat was shipped from January 1 to May 22, as compared with 1,291,104 tons for the corresponding period a year ago; 2,480,795 tons of corn, against 1,2265,482 tons; 951,045 tons of linseed, against 683,378 tons, and 301,963 tons of oats against 162,457 tons a year ago.

Impossibilities

Nearly everything that is worth while, that has been accomplished by men, has been considered impossible by many others. Every man who has ever done anything great has been ridiculed and advised by others to let it alone.

"Yes, I fitted up my flat at a ridiculously low price. In fact, it cost me but a song."

"How's that?"

"Well, you see, I started up a solo on the back fence at 2 a.m. and the donations I received in the shape of furniture, etc., just filled the bill."

MUTT AND JEFF—Mutt Could Make a Quaker Enter West Point. By BUD FISHER