RELIGIOUS THOUGHT.

Gems Gleaned From the Teachings of All Denominations.

We are not filling our mission until we live up to the highest that is in us. —Rev. H. E. Rompel, Methodist Episcopal, Chicago.

Togetherness.

The whole process of civilized life lies in the one fact that men have experienced "togetherness."—Rev. F. W. Gunsaulus, Congregationalist, Chicago.

No Abstract Gospel.

An abstract gospel will no longer suffice. Human hearts need steadying, overshadowing and uplifting power.—Rev. L. A. Barrett, Presbyterian, Cleveland, O.

Hell as a Reality.

Each being will be his own hell, and unless he repent so long as he is a being so long will hell be a reality.—Rev. Dr. Walter Calley, Baptist, Jamaica Plains, Mass.

Importance of Mental Seed Sowing.

Thinking is seed growing, and the fruit of your thoughts is either wheat or tares, good or evil, according to the sowing.—Rev. J. W. Francis, Presbyterian, Parkersburg, Va.

Distillery of Tears.

Sin is the distillery of every tear that is shed. You cannot say sin without hearing the hiss of the serpent. Sin is a diabolical thing that only God can dare to touch.—"Gypsy" Smith, Evangelist, England.

Great Man's Points.

The great man manifests himself in everything he does—in his gestures, the look in his eye, the tones of his voice, by his dress and his actions.—Bishop Eugene Russell Hendrix of Missouri, Methodist.

Sharers In God's Friendship.

True equality, the church teaches, is in the soul, not in the conditions of life, and the souls of the humblest laborer and the richest noble may enjoy alike the friendship of God.—Rev. Dr. James A. Supple, Roman Catholic, Boston.

Function of the Church.

Christ always regarded sin as a more important disease than any bodily ailment, and it is the function of the church, as established by him, to regard the healing of men's souls as far more important than the healing of bodies, which at the best cannot outlast a century.—Rev. Charles H. Parkhurst, Presbyterian, New York.

Mutual Inspirers.

Sociology is a science, a science of social phenomena. It is being built up by systematic arrangement of social facts. Religion, then, inspires us with the disposition to treat our fellow men well, and sociology tells us how to do it. Religion stands for the human hope to be found worthy of God, and sociology is a scientific display of opportunity, wherein man may attain such worth. Thus they go together, mutually inspiring each other.—Rev. M. O. Simons, Unitarian, Cleveland, O.

Available to All.

Don't fret because others have been more prosperous than you. The best things in life are more evenly distributed than we are willing to admit. There is no trust big enough to get a corner on good digestion or cheerfulness of disposition. No man can have a monopoly of friendship or affection. No corporation can bar you from the splendor of the heaven that arches over you and the beauty of the earth that engirdles you. The best things are open and available to all. When you sit down to think how powerful gold is, think also how powerless it is. It is powerless to purchase a single kiss of affection or buy a bond of friendship.—Rev. J. B. Silcox, Congregationalist, Kansas City, Mo.

Rationalism In Religion.

The mysticism and emotionalism of present day religion must give way to some extent to rationalism. It must be rescued from the ghosts of night and from introspective brooding, as was Maeterlinck, the poet. Its growth must be outward and not inward. Its thought must be ministrant to the whole and not to the individual. We must demand more facts, more proof, and be persuaded less easily. Religion to be soul satisfying will need to discard much that is mystical and fanatical and take up that which is scientific and rational. Righteousness can be found more readily in the outer world than in the inner. It must be sought for in the world about us. We will need to learn the habits of our fellows if we would make religion serve for the betterment and enlightenment of the world. — Professor George Burman Foster, Unitarian, Chicago.

Soul Prosperity.

Prosperity of soul demands soul growth. Growth is the replacing of wornout tissues and new and greater supplies. Soul force consumed in vanquishing temptation is replaced by renewed and increased force, and this is soul growth. All growth proceeds from rudimentary state to formative and from that to maturity and from maturity to the culture stage. This is the goal in every field. The workman aims to become expert and the scholar to become cultured. The progress of the soul should not stop short of the cultured stage. In spring the blossom comes and goes, but leaves a tuft of green, which, rounding out to the full, becomes the solid apple. The mellowing process comes, and acids which bitterly antagonize each other blend into one delightful flavor, while the tough woody substance becomes a mass of luscious crystals. Thus the principles of the soul, its knowledge, its faith, its emotion, its purposes, all blend in the prosperous soul into one mellow and pleasing personality, of which only is it safe to pray, "Mayest thou prosper in all things, even as the soul prospers."—Rev. A. MacDonald Reach, Congregationalist, New York.

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RELIGIOUS THOUGHT.

Gems Gleaned From the Teachings of All Denominations.

Reality, confidence and reverence—these three make up the religion of a young man, and the greatest of these is reverence.—Rev. Dr. Hugh T. Kerr, Presbyterian, Chicago.

What Christ Wants.

It is not enough to confer titles upon Christ. He is not so much concerned with that. He wants us to obey him.—Rev. A. A. Lamy, Roman Catholic, Worcester, Mass.

Life.

Life is what you put into it, not what you get out of it. Happiness is a triumph of the inner spirit over the universe.—Rev. Dr. Frank Crane, Congregationalist, Worcester, Mass.

A Fruitful Christian.

Any sensible person will say that of all Christians he is most likely to be fruitful who most gives himself his powers and possessions to the interests of God's kingdom.—Rev. Dr. Leete, Episcopalian, Detroit, Mich.

To Approach God.

The way to God is through the mind of man. Each generation sets a higher standard of living, and therefore the mind of man should conceive and appreciate the high standard given us by God.—Rev. C. K. Carpenter, Methodist, Aurora, Ill.

Workers Wanted, Not Complainers.

The greatest need of the church today is workers for the Lord. We need Christians who will come in and go to work and not sit down and complain about some one not making them welcome.—Rev. S. W. Smith, Baptist, Providence, R. I.

Measure of God's Love.

The gift of Christ is the only adequate measure of God's love. The world contains many things to bless man, but we cannot judge from what we see about us the measure of God's love.—Rev. D. R. Rankin, Presbyterian, Denver.

Men at Church.

Men do go to church and in large numbers and with sympathetic souls when you give them something to go for, something that satisfies their highest intellects, their spiritual aspirations and needs.—Rev. K. B. Tupper, Baptist, Philadelphia.

God's Hand.

Behind the mechanism of the world's civilization is the power of God. The hands of God are on our hands for good. If we trusted God's hand more we should spend less time fretting and worrying.—Rev. Dr. O. P. Gifford, Baptist, Brookline, Mass.

Marks of Moral Power.

Everywhere there are marks of a moral power that makes for righteousness in the world. Life is keyed to fair play through nature by automatic methods, rewards for righteousness and punishment for iniquity.—Rev. N. D. Hillis, Congregationalist, Brooklyn.

Value of Reverence.

When a young man loses the sense of reverence, when he never bows down in worship, when his heart is never hushed in the presence of mystery, the fountain of his joy is soon dried up and he becomes his own god. —Rev. Dr. Hugh T. Kerr, Presbyterian, Chicago.

Lesson of Resurrection.

Life is stronger than death. The soul is not conquered when the body dies, but through the shadows of the grave rises to a higher and better state of existence. Heaven is not far away above the sky, but a word of spiritual life and love and power right around us. This is the lesson of the resurrection of Jesus.—Rev. A. T. Bowser, Unitarian, Atlanta, Ga.

The Way to Give.

Giving means little unless the giver gives himself. Men who give $100 to some charitable organization would do a great deal more good if they went personally and gave a dollar to some poor family. There is danger that charitable enterprises may take away our personal interest in the poor and needy. Churches should learn to give their money to the Lord's work and not to an oyster supper in which there is only one oyster or in which the meal costs twice as much as is asked for it.—Rev. Dr. Bustard, Baptist, Cleveland, O.

The Good Man.

No man is a good man who is not good to himself, unless he obeys the laws of health and then takes good care of his body. Neither can he be good to himself if he neglects his mind and grows up in ignorance. In this age of public schools there is no excuse for illiteracy. Every man owes it to himself to develop his mind to his fullest opportunity. No man is good to himself who allows his highest and finest part to atrophy. Many a man has a fine body and an educated mind who has never cultivated his soul. All the finer things of his spiritual life have been utterly neglected. His lofty and eternal nature, his spiritual part, that makes him most like God, whose offspring he is, has been forgotten. His moral nature is starved. To be a good man one must be careful of the health of his body, the education of his mind and the culture of his spiritual nature. No man is a good man who is not good to his fellow men. A good man is good in his home life. There all the noble qualities shine. If one is bad it will show in the privacy of his home. If he is good anywhere he must be good to those who know and love him best. He must be good in his business life, practicing the Golden Rule and being absolutely honest. He will show his goodness in the kindly consideration he shows those less favored than himself. It is the way one treats his inferiors more than the way he treats his equals which reveals one's real character.—Rev. Charles Bayard Mulken, Methodist Episcopal, Chicago.

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Religion is the greatest dynamic in the world today.—Rev. H. Vanderwart, Reformed, Hackensack, N. J.

Holds a Better Place.

The Bible does not hold the place it once did. It holds a better place.—Rev. Dr. Eakin, Episcopalian, Toronto.

No Greater Joy In Heaven.

There is nothing in all the universe that can bring greater joy in the heavens than that one humble heart should repent.—Rev. A. H. C. Morse, Baptist, Brooklyn.

Our Duty.

It is every man's duty to radiate hope and joy, like a band of music going down the street, flooding the whole atmosphere with melodies and harmonies.—Rev. J. B. Silcox, Congregationalist, Kansas City, Mo.

The Religion Needed.

In the sphere of religion there is an open door—too much knowing, too little doing. We need a religion that means something, a religion that has and gives life, the religion that has upon it the image of Christ.—Rev. H. E. Rompel, Methodist Episcopal, Chicago.

Believing.

Let every man believe all he can. Never surrender your old truth until you have it in some new form more vital and full of power. Poor indeed is a life when afflicted with a poverty of sustaining truth, but rich when great ideas shine in upon the soul like stars in a cloudless night.—Rev. Dr. Edward Yates Hill, Presbyterian, Philadelphia.

Salvation.

The supreme need of the world is salvation, not education. Give the educational part of the evangel, its system of ethics, to an unregenerated man and you stagger him. He simply cannot apply it to his daily life. But let the blood of Jesus be applied to his heart and the eternal miracle is once again performed.—Rev. Alexander S. Taylor, Reformed Episcopal, Chicago.

Happiness.

The happiest people are not those who live on a mountain top, where they crown themselves with a coronet of stars, but rather those who seek the great shadows, the green pastures and the rippling waters at their feet. The fleecy clouds in the distance may look like the flowing robes of angels, but they often turn out to be nothing but fog banks, which bring only disappointment and death.—Rev. Dr. W. W. Bustard, Baptist, Cleveland, O.

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