

But in the face of all this modern apostasy the true minister will never falter. He will say with Paul, "None of these things move me." He will be a confirmed optimist. When everyone else is discouraged, when the sun is hidden and the way seems obscure, when defeat seems to stare us in the face, we must be able to stand before our congregations and declare without the slightest hesitancy or doubt, "I know in whom I have believed." Nothing gives confidence to a congregation so much as the strong, robust, abiding faith of their minister.

Brethren, let us rest in the assurance that "the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are His. And, Let everyone that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity. . . . If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honor, sanctified, and meet for the Master's use, and prepared unto every good work." 2 Tim. 2:19-21.

"I'd rather see a sermon than hear one any day;
I'd rather one should walk with me than merely tell
the way.

The eye's a better pupil and more willing than the ear,
Fine counsel is confusing, but example's always clear;
And the best of all the preachers are the men who live
their creeds,
For to see good put in action is what everybody needs.

"I soon can learn to do it if you'll let me see it done,
I can watch your hands in action, but your tongue too
fast may run,
And the lecture you deliver may be very wise and
true,
But I'd rather get my lessons by observing what you
do;

For I might misunderstand you and the high advice
you give,
But there's no misunderstanding how you act and
how you live.

"And all travelers can witness that the best of guides
today
Is not the one who tells them, but the one who shows
the way."

—Edgar A. Guest.

"In conclusion, strengthen yourselves in the Lord and in the power which His supreme might imparts. Put on the complete armor of God, so as to be able to stand firm against all the stratagems of the devil. For ours is not a conflict with mere flesh and blood, but with the despotisms, the empires, the forces that control and govern this dark world—the spiritual hosts of evil arrayed against us in the heavenly warfare.

"Therefore put on the complete armor of God, so that you may be able to stand your ground in the evil day, and, having fought to the end, to remain victors on the field.

"Stand therefore, first fastening around you the girdle of truth and putting on the breastplate of uprightness as well as the shoes of the gospel of peace—a firm foundation for your feet.

"And besides all these take the great shield of faith, on which you will be able to quench all the flaming darts of the evil one; and receive the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit which is the word of God.

"Pray with unceasing prayer and entreaty at all times in the Spirit, and be always on the alert to seize opportunities for doing so, with unwearied persistence and entreaty on behalf of all the saints." Eph. 6:10-19, Weymouth.

Your fellow servant,
W. H. BRANSON.

The Latter Rain—No. 6

By MEADE MacGUIRE

WE have stated several times in these studies that there are certain definite conditions upon which the Lord has promised to give the latter rain. God is waiting for us to meet those conditions, and until we do so, we are delaying the coming of the Saviour. In view of these tremendous facts, we can see the paramount importance of studying carefully what the Lord has revealed on this subject. Here are some of the statements in which the conditions are tersely set forth.

"I also saw that many do not realize what they must be in order to live in the sight of the Lord without a high priest in the sanctuary, through the time of trouble. Those who receive the seal of the living God, and are protected in the time of trouble, must reflect the image of Jesus fully. . . .

"I saw that none could share the 'refreshing,' unless they obtain the victory over every besetment, over pride, selfishness, love of the world, and over every wrong word and action."—*Early Writings*, p. 71.

"Not one of us will ever receive the seal of God while our characters have one spot or stain upon them. It is left with us to remedy the defects in our characters, to cleanse the soul temple of every defilement. Then the latter rain will fall upon us, as the early rain fell upon the disciples on the day of Pentecost."—*Testimonies*, Vol. V, p. 214.

"Today you are to give yourselves to God, that He may make of you vessels unto honor, and meet for His service. Today you are to give yourself to God, that

you may be emptied of self, emptied of envy, jealousy, evil surmising, strife, everything that shall be dishonoring to God. Today you are to have your vessel purified that it may be ready for the heavenly dew, ready for the showers of the latter rain; for the latter rain will come, and the blessing of God will fill every soul that is purified from every defilement. It is our work today to yield our souls to Christ, that we may be fitted for the time of refreshing from the presence of the Lord—fitted for the baptism of the Holy Spirit."—*Review and Herald*, March 22, 1892.

Whenever there is a special interest manifested in the truth and a large number of people eagerly study and accept it, either in heathen lands or at home, some immediately talk of this as the latter rain. They seem to forget that it is the early rain that causes the seed to spring up and grow, and the latter rain comes at the close of the harvest to bring it to perfection. There have been, and doubtless will continue to be, wonderful miracles of healing and deliverance under the early rain.

But we cannot expect the experience of the latter rain foretold in Joel 2:23, until the people of God meet the conditions described in Joel 2:12, 13. We can never expect to reach this high and holy standard of "victory over every besetment" and Christlike perfection of character until we turn to the Lord with all our hearts, with fasting and weeping and mourning. We do not understand

that it is the fasting and weeping that brings the results, but they indicate that we are awake and realize our desperate need, and like Jacob, we are determined to hold on to God until we have complete deliverance. This experience is graphically described by the messenger of the Lord.

"I saw some, with strong faith and agonizing cries, pleading with God. Their countenances were pale, and marked with deep anxiety, expressive of their internal struggle. . . .

"As the praying ones continued their earnest cries, at times a ray of light from Jesus came to them, to encourage their hearts, and light up their countenances. Some, I saw, did not participate in this work of agonizing and pleading. They seemed indifferent and careless. They were not resisting the darkness around them, and it shut them in like a thick cloud. The angels of God left these, and went to the aid of the earnest, praying ones. I saw angels of God hastening to the assistance of all who were struggling with all their power to resist the evil angels, and trying to help themselves by calling upon God with perseverance. But His angels left those who made no effort to help themselves, and I lost sight of them."—*Early Writings*, pp. 269, 270.

Here it is plainly indicated that those who do not participate in the revival God is calling for—the deep heart searching and crying to Him for deliverance from all sin—will not continue with God's people, and this is called "the shaking."

"I asked the meaning of the shaking I had seen, and was shown that it would be caused by the straight testimony called forth by the counsel of the True Witness to the Laodiceans. This will have its effect upon the heart of the receiver, and will lead him to exalt the standard and pour forth the straight truth. Some will not bear this straight testimony. They will rise up against it, and this is what will cause a shaking among God's people."—*Id.*, p. 270.

When the church of Christ fully meet His requirements and reach out by faith, the latter rain falls upon all who have "come up to every point, and stood every test" to fit them for the closing work. The Lord gives us a wonderful picture of His people at that time.

"My attention was then turned to the company I had seen, who were mightily shaken. I was shown those whom I had before seen weeping and praying in agony of spirit. The company of guardian angels around them had been doubled, and they were clothed with an armor from their head to their feet. They moved in exact order, like a company of soldiers. Their countenances expressed the severe conflict which they had endured, the agonizing struggle they had passed through. Yet their features, marked with severe internal anguish, now shone with the light and glory of heaven. They had obtained the victory, and it called forth from them the deepest gratitude, and holy, sacred joy.

"The numbers of this company had lessened. Some had been shaken out and left by the way. The careless and indifferent, who did not join with those who prized victory and salvation enough to perseveringly plead and agonize for it, did not obtain it, and they were left behind in darkness, and their places were immediately filled by others taking hold of the truth and coming into the ranks. Evil angels still pressed around them, but could have no power over them."—*Id.*, p. 271.

How many of us today have loved ones who profess the truth, yet have no living connection with the Saviour. We need to plead and agonize with God, not only for ourselves but for those who we know will soon be shaken out unless they awake and cry to Him before it is too late. May God help us to be in earnest now while the door of mercy still is open.

Extremes

By G. A. ROBERTS

NOW do ye Pharisees make clean the outside of the cup and platter." "Woe unto you! . . . Ye tithe the mint and rue and all manner of herbs." Luke 11:39, 42.

It was not wrong, nor was it hypocritical, properly to make clean the outside of the cup and platter, nor was it wrong or hypocritical properly to pay tithe of mint and rue and all manner of herbs. The wrong and hypocrisy lay in the fact that they made these and other similar parts of proper things the leading features of their religion, thus going to great extremes on the outmost borders, or fringes as it were, of God's requirements. They did this that they might obscure their neglect of the great fundamental requirements. By giving their chief attention to demonstrating to others their own self-conceived righteousness, they blinded their eyes to the divinely appointed righteousness required of them.

If Satan cannot keep one bound in the ice of indifference, he will push him past the bounds of actual divine standards of Christian living into the fire of mistaken and obnoxious extremism. Thus instead of bringing honor and favor to the cause of God, he brings reproach and dishonor upon it.

It is true that the road to the city of God is

narrow, and that every weight and "the sin which doth so easily beset us" must be altogether cast away. It is true also that every divine requirement in its entirety must become the goal, and, so far as possible, the achievement of our lives, and that no carelessness or humanly assumed liberalism concerning these requirements will be accepted of God.

God has set bounds that are within the possibility of the everyday duties and responsibilities which are required of us in our association with others.

Within these divine bounds of Christian privileges and responsibilities are found all the basic fundamentals and all the minute details necessary to perfect service and Christian living, but the details, though essential, are not to be made the all-absorbing, overmastering fundamentals of one's life, nor are we to liberalize our relationship to the basic fundamentals to the point where the details are despised or overlooked.

A Christian doctor or other evangelist could make the theories of divine doctrines the fundamentals of his teachings; there are times, however, that they should not even be mentioned.

"The work of the Christian physician does not end with healing the maladies of the body; his efforts