

Old Maggie's Three Texts.



No. 10.]

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HAD been visiting all the day, and night was at hand. I had, in common with all who go forth in the Master's work, much to try my heart as well as my physical strength. Much of the labour appeared to be in vain; the consciences of some seemed to be inaccessible. The wrath of God had no terrors, and the love

of God, and the sufferings of Jesus, no charm for them. My heart was pained, and I was ready to give up. The enemy said, "It is an unprofitable job;" and my soul would have fainted but for the voice of the Captain, saying, "Forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord."

I had one cottage more to visit on my way home. I had often been there, and as often left discouraged from the apparent inability of old Maggie to receive the truth, however simply it was put before her. I found her, an aged woman, busy knitting: she could not see, for she was

nearly blind, and the shades of evening were rapidly deepening into night.

“Well, Maggie,” I said, “how does the matter stand between you and God?”

“Well, sir, there is no matter between us now; it is all settled.”

“All settled?” I asked. “Who has settled it, Maggie?”

“Why, sir, the Father and the Lord Jesus settled it all between them.”

“When was that done?” I asked.

“Why, sir, the settlement was made when the Father entered into judgment with the Son for me, a poor wretched sinner, on the cross.”

“But,” I replied, “that was a long time ago. How was it that you did not know this before? because for ten years I have been telling you about this, yet you did not believe me.”

“Oh, sir, I was blinded by the devil through unbelief, and so I could not believe it was true that I could be saved so easily. Ah, sir, I have been a wicked old sinner; and when I think how long I have made Him a liar, instead of believing Him as I ought, I can cry for shame. When I ought to have been living for the Lord, I have been living for the devil.”

I replied, “I am delighted to hear you

“ speak as you do. But do you really think the matter is settled ?”

“ Well, sir, I don't *think*, but I am *sure* it is settled, for He said on the cross, ‘ It is finished. ’ He died under the judgment of God upon sin, my sin: He took it for me. It is in the Word of Him that cannot lie, ‘ He loved me, and gave Himself for me. ’ (Gal. ii. 20.) He has made it plain to me at last.”

I asked how it was made plain to her.

She said, “ It was those three blessed texts you preached from the other Sunday. One was, ‘ It is finished ; ’ the others, ‘ Forgiveness, ’ and ‘ Remembered no more. ’ I

took those words to my heart, and it was as if a voice from heaven had said, 'That is for you, Maggie.' Believe me, sir, I never was so happy in my life; and though I have been reading my Bible for many years, I never seemed to have a bit of real comfort till then. Sins put away, sins forgiven, to be remembered no more. I found the words as soon as I came home. (Heb. x. 17.) Oh, sir, those words of His have new-made me! and now the words come so fast into my mind which I have heard so often, but did not believe, that it is like Him talking to me all the day long."

She poured forth her heart in praise,

and her words were living waters. And to me was fulfilled the word of promise, "He that watereth shall be watered" (Prov. xi. 25); and I was watered and greatly revived from her on whom I had so often poured water.

Dear reader, how does the matter stand with you? Is it settled? Can you rejoice in this blessed fact, that the question of sin is for ever settled, and that it is settled by God Himself, and so completely that the matter can never come against you as a sinner before the bar of God at the great white throne?

Perhaps you say, with many, "I wish it was settled; I should not be so troubled as I am at the thought of death and eternity. But I cannot settle it." No, blessed be God, you cannot; but He has settled the whole matter. Look again, dear reader, if you are not saved, at the three texts old Maggie so rejoiced in, and in which I, with thousands besides, rejoice: "It is finished." What was finished? All offering for sin was finished; there is no more sacrifice for sin. (Heb. x.) He put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself; He purged sin away, and sat down. Having finished His work, He rests from His

labours at the right hand of God. (Heb. i.) The majesty of the law, broken by man, has been vindicated through the death of the God-man, and justice is satisfied. God is well pleased with the perfect work of His Son, and He has proved this by raising Him from the dead, giving Him the highest place in heaven, and associating with Him there all those who are washed from their sins in His precious blood. So completely has Jesus met all the righteous requirements of the God of holiness, that the holy, righteous God proclaims forgiveness of sins to all who believe in Him. All such He justifies

from all things from which they could not be otherwise justified; and to such He promises to remember their sins no more. He cannot lie; so we may have strong consolation who have fled for refuge to Him.

Some time ago I visited a man on his death-bed. The future to him was awfully dark; he could see nothing but his sin, and stern justice calling for his soul. "Oh that I could forget my sins!" was his cry. "I've a dreadful load here, sir," smiting his breast. "I wish I could forget my sins."

I replied, "If you could forget all your

sins, it would not alter your state, any more than a man who owes many debts would satisfy his creditors by forgetting to pay. The best way to forget our debts is to pay them; and the best way for you to lose the trouble of your sins, is to know that God forgives them. Now," I said, "my joy is, not that I can forget my sins, but that I remember them. And yet the very remembrance of them only increases my obligation to Him who has for ever blotted them out by His precious blood. And while He has nowhere said I shall not remember my sins, nor that Satan shall not remember to array them

before my eyes, yet He has said, 'I will remember them no more.' (Heb. x. 17.) And this is what you want," I said to the dying man.

"Oh, sir, do God say He won't remember them no more?"

"Yes," I replied; "to such as are forgiven He will not remember them again. But before you can take that precious promise, you must receive His message of salvation."

"Sir, I should be only too glad to receive salvation if I could!"

I read Acts xiii. 32-38, laying stress upon the *you*—"Unto you is preached the

forgiveness of sins"—which I trust he was enabled to receive.

His last words to me, before he departed this life, were, "I bean't afraid now. I believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and He have forgiven me."

"Do you forget your sins now?" I asked.

"No, sir, I don't forget what a wicked sinner I be; but He have forgiven me, and He do say He won't remember them again."

"Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered." (Psalm xxxii. 1.)

Dear reader, see to it that your sins are

forgiven by receiving the salvation of God, and that you are cleansed from them by having a purged conscience, being delivered from the dominion and power of sin, and living in the light of His countenance, hating even the garment spotted by the flesh.

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