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# Friends' Review.

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## FROM AN ESSAY ON CONSCIENCE IN EDUCATION.

BY DR. WILLIAM NICHOLSON.\*

The Christian ministry has need to cry aloud and to spare not: to lift up its voice like a trumpet and show God's people their sins of every kind. The torpid, dormant conscience of Christendom must be roused from its slumber of death. Ministers must cease their depreciation of good works and must heartily enforce the necessity of a strict conformity to the law of God. They must not only preach faith but faith and a good conscience. They must tell men that if they put away a good conscience, they will shipwreck their faith and lose their souls; (1 Tim. 1-19.) that the inner life of their Christianity will die,

if they do not allow it to leaf out, blossom and mature a fruitage of moral integrity. We do not want the hard dry conscience of Heathendom nor the faith which flies with electric mobility from nature to grace and back again, so that men read its record quite as much by blanks as by the marks of positive goodness. But we do need the strong, steady, persistent innervation which keeps the spiritual man toned for the works of the Christian life in a whole souled obedience to the law of God. We want emotional holiness compressed into practical righteousness. We want the superheated steam turned into the cylinder that it may expend its force in work rather than to go off in noise through the escape pipe and whistle. When all the machinery of the establishment, even to the smallest, is in rapid movement, we know, without being told, that the steam is We want a sanctification so "entire" as to include a "good conscience"—not an easy conscience, but one at ease because of obedience—not a sleeping conscience, but one that promotes sound sleep by its own approving-a conscience well instructed in God's will and purified or purged by the blood of Christ, through faith, and thus created anew unto "good works" so that it responds promptly to all the claims of honesty, truthfulness, temperance, mercy and every other Christian virtue; but promptly closes the door against every suggestion of injustice, falsehood, insincerity, uncleanness or other outgrowth of an evil heart.

Such quickening of the Church life in practical holiness would remove the main cause of the present paralysis in Christian nurture. Parents would soon be aroused to a sense of the necessity of this nurture, and their own perverse or defective example would no longer exist to hinder their earnestness in teaching and discipline or to neutralize the work of others. The Church would thus be the means of saving first the children of the Church and then the world; for these saved children and children's children would become a constantly multiplying power, whose sweep would em-

Read before the Conference of the Educational Association of Friends in America, Richmond, Indiana, 1883.

westward as the rainfall increases yearly, and so does the agricultural production, which from present appearances may reach the foot of the Rocky Mountains and cover the whole incline which slopes so grandly eastward. What a view might be had from the summit of the mountains at sunrise, showing the great grazing lands and 500,000 cattle feeding on the sunny slopes, and cornhelds which in 1882 produced a million bushels of grain, and all this stretch of 600 miles to the Missouri river dotted with groves and belts of timber!— J. T. A. in Country Gentleman.

#### ITEMS.

A CORRESPONDENT of the London Times proposes that the Brazilian government shall raise a large loan in England, in order to buy all the slaves in Brazil of the planters, at thirty pounds serling for each slave. Against this the Anti-Savery Reporter strongly protests; while urging the propriety of immediate instead of the very gradual emancipation provided for by law in that tountry. The same letter to the Times gives the following picture of some of the sufferers from the system in Brazil:

"Plantation Slaves-(Half a million of these.) -Last of all come the plantation slaves, who often in appearance look little human, and seem very Calibans in many, many cases. These sad ones are they who earn all the wealth of the land; these are they who rise before the sun, and after asking in forced formality the blessing of Christ from their master or overseer, are led off in herds to toil till dark, their food being taken to them in rarts, and doled out as to a herd of creatures more swine-like than human; these are they who do all the hard work of the plantation, the lifesapping toil, leaving that which is easy to the colonist or free laborer. No one who has only seen the city slaves can form an idea of a herd of slaves being led off to their work, nor can tell the sensation of meeting a half-hundred human beings homeward turning after a hard day in the sun, each carrying wood to serve for the food-cooking, each on meeting you folding his hands and abectly begging your blessing in Christ's name. On they come, one straggling behind the other, be young and still strong in front, the old and keeble and the women, with their little ones bound be their waists, toiling far behind.

"A good defence of slavery cannot be given, for by it a way is left open for the almost unregrained exercise of the passions of the owner."

THE PANAMA CANAL.—M. de Lesseps is carring on the work across the Isthmus on a stupendous scale. Some of the stations are large and present an imposing appearance.

### A TRUE HYMN.

My joy, my life, my crown!
My heart was meaning all the day,
Somewhat it fain would say:
And still it runneth muttering up and down
With only this, "My joy, my life, my crown!"

Yet slight not these few words; If truly said, they may take part Among the best in art.
The fineness which a hymn or psalm affords, Is, whe then soul unto the lines accords.

He who craves all the mind, And all the soul, and strength, and time, If the words only rhyme, Justly complains, that somewhat is behind To make his verse, or write a hymn in kind.

Whereas if the heart be moved,
Although the verse be somewhat scant,
God doth supply the want:
As when the heart says (sighing to be approved)
"O, could I love!" and stops; God writeth,
"Loved." GEORGE HERBERT.

#### IN THE HEREAFTER.

BY MARGARET J. PRESTON.

I sometimes wonder whether I could be Happy in heaven, were all Earth's dearest memories blotted out for me, That hold my heart in thrall:—

The hour of vision,—the transfigured height Where souls come face to face,— Some rare apocalypse of love, too bright For life's low dwelling-place:—

The rapt and fine elation when the mind Seems caught away as far As if we left this mortal sphere behind, And touched some distant star!

Could I forego them all without a sigh,
Content to give them o'er,
And know what moved me most beneath the sky,
Should move me never more?

I think the heavenly hills would shine more fair, Its waters softer flow, If you could walk together with me there, And talk of long ago.

No spirit from the central, seven-fold band
That nearest sees the Throne,
Could hold such converse—know, or understand
What you and I have known.

Angelic sinlessness would seem to me, An essence too divine,— Touched with no feeling of infirmity As links your soul with mine,

Amid the splendors, wondrous, manifold,
That every sense would fill,
I think—sometime—the simple bliss of old,
My heart would yearn for still!

I dare to feel that it might seem right blest, Even with the Throne in view, In some serene and quiet spot of rest, To sit and talk with you:

And there unravel all the tangled skein
Of trial, pain, and woe,
And read as on a tablet written plain,
All we have pined to know.

The fellowship that like experience brings— The retrospections fair,— The tender pathos of a thousand things,— Could any angel share?

Nay—let me hold the sweet conclusion fast, That the pure memories given To help our joy on earth, when earth is past, Shall help our joy in heaven.—S. S. Times.