

EXPERIENCE IN FAITH WORK.

By A. F. AND D. R. FOSTER.

About fourteen years ago, the Lord gave us a burning desire to publish the Gospel of Peace, Purity, and Salvation. We wanted to scatter free to the poor, the uneducated, the indifferent, and all who might in any way be benefited by a printed Gospel. We were then in debt and not worth above \$500, but we had faith in God and we believed that he would go work in partnership with us that whenever papers were asked of us, we would be able to send them free of charge, postpaid. We knew nothing about the business of printing, but having a knack of turning our hands readily to any light work, we began to consider whether it would not be well to get a few type and go to work in a small way.

We were in debt several hundred dollars on our home, and felt that we must provide not only for our own household but also things honest in the sight of men. Thus fettered we felt that the Lord must send special help for this our special work. Oh, how badly we wanted a press and type. To this end we asked large things of the Lord and looked for answers.

The pressure of our indebtedness was so great that we decided to only give five cents to the Lord out of each dollar earned. This small amount we divided among the various objects that it seemed our duty to sustain, giving a goodly portion to the Peace Cause. This we used to purchase tracts, papers and books to be loaned and scattered free. We determined not to make money in any way out of the Lord's work; not to go in debt; never to solicit aid for the cause, either in public or private. Small gifts began to come in quite sufficient to pay for postage, tracts, etc. But we wanted a large donation so we might be enabled to enlarge the work. We asked for it while walking home with the Lord one day at noon and the next day a bit of property was put into our hands from which we realized about \$50. With this we were enabled to purchase type and begin work on a home-made press. What trying times we had! Why it took us longer to learn to use the machine than to make it; but our zeal burned hot night and day. Business was made secondary in all our plans. We were literally 'seeking first the kingdom of God and his righteousness.' We started a periodical tract DAY-STAR, printed five hundred numbers then, and soon ran the number up to two, three, and four thousand, (our largest issue was nine thousand.) The papers found their way into nearly every state in the Union, distributed among the poor by Evangelists, teachers, and Christian workers. Our press had to be remodeled several times and now prints four pages three hundred impressions per hour and answers our purpose quite well so far. Our family now consists of five children from two to sixteen years of age. The eldest has become quite skillful in typesetting and does most of that part of the work, we pay her a half cent per line and she is thus able to clothe herself and purchase her school books and give a tenth to the Lord, thus lessons of economy, business, christian giving, and religion in business, is being taught to our children. Of late we devote most of our time [and make no account of it] to the work on the paper, asking the Master to so provide for us that we need not go from home to labor for our support. Our garden of two acres in small fruits and vegetables furnishes us with exercise in the

open air and almost a living beside. Money when needed has come often from distant states and even from the islands of the sea; very often just in time, stamps taken from the mail often go to the office with packages for the next mail. Financially we cannot say the work has been a success though still in the field, we sow much and reap but little. It is encouraging to notice however that we are out of debt. We have learned to do the work better and faster than heretofore. We have learned a simple method of stereotyping which we shall use largely hereafter. We have learned also to live very cheaply, with our cow and chickens and garden we can live comfortably on \$250 a year. Our religious privileges and school helps for our children are excellent. Though funds have often been low we have not lacked food, fuel or clothing.

We never worry our neighbors about our hard times, if we did they might think we were begging or serving a hard Master. Our health as a family is better than ever. We pray for each other when sick and as a result have not expended \$3 in the last five years for doctors of medicine. Praise the Lord! "there is no want to those who trust in Him."

Mt. Vernon Iowa, January 1888.

Robert Yowitt, Esq.—Dear sir: Perhaps you may remember a few words of conversation between us, on the subject of Peace, when casually meeting in the street, some little time ago. At your request, I promised to think of it; and now I have to say, that I have *thought, prayed, read, and conversed* on the subject; and the result is, a deep, solid, and comfortable persuasion that 'war, in every shape, is contrary to the spirit and precepts of the gospel of Christ.' In adopting the principle of peace, I enjoy an increase of inward peace, and I feel as if I had advanced a step in the knowledge of Christ. When the lovely principle of peace had nearly captivated my own mind, I thought it right to bring it before my missionary brethren, as a scripture subject deserving inquiry. It was entered into with spirit; it was thought by most that nothing was more easily defended than *defensive* war. After the first meeting, two or three of us made a full surrender; and after the next meeting two or three more. I heartily wish that many others, through your means, may derive a much light and comfort as myself and brethren. S. B.

Mrs. Sallie F. Chapin, of South Carolina, gives utterance to the following remarkable combination of poetic fancy and unanswerable logic:

"We must have the liquor tax to pave our streets," says a politician. But I think if mothers had the control,

They could pave to-day the broad highway
With something not so white as the souls
Of the innocent boys at play.
Why can't men pave the business marts
With something harder than women's hearts?
Is there no gold, that will serve their turn,
Save the shining gold of the heads that rest
Soft on a loving mother's breast?
Must these go down to the drunkard's grave
In order that we the streets may pave?

The nations called Christian are the most powerful on earth. They profess the religion which alone prohibits war. With them, therefore, rests the responsibility for the continuance of this most heinous custom.

JESSE LEE.

A METHODIST MINISTER AND PEACE MAN.

Jesse Lee was born in Virginia, in 1758. He became a Christian at the age of fourteen years, and at the age of eighteen years he was appointed a Methodist class teacher. He began to preach in 1779, at the age of twenty-one.

In the year 1780 he was drafted to serve as a soldier in the army of the American Revolution, and desired her independence, he had serious doubts whether, as a Christian, he had a right to bear arms, or take the life of any of his fellow-creatures. He concluded to join the army, and trust in Providence to save him from shedding blood.

In July, 1780, he arrived at the encampment, and soon after he was called on parade. On his resolutely and perseveringly refusing to take a musket, the officer placed him under guard, and though the Colonel came and endeavored to convince him that he was in error in refusing to bear arms, his arguments availed nothing, with such a clear-sighted Christian as good Jesse Lee.

The next day, being the Sabbath, it was proposed that he should preach. To this proposal the Colonel made no objection; but before the service began he had another close conversation with him on the subject of the right of Christian to bear arms. The result was that when he found that Lee was as immovable as a mountain as to his right to bear arms, and thereby take human life, the Colonel released him from his confinement and gave him the charge of a baggage-wagon. He preached on that Sabbath day, and the sermon deeply affected both the officers and the soldiers.

He moved about with the army from place to place, availing himself of every opportunity to preach to the soldiers. In a few weeks the Colonel gave him an honorable discharge, no doubt very glad to get rid of such a Christian soldier, whose presence and life was a piercing reproof to the voluntary destruction of human life, by men calling themselves the faithful followers of Jesus, who came into the world to teach his people to save life and not to destroy. If all of the Methodist ministers in all the world had been as faithful as Jesse Lee to their Divine Master, the Prince of Peace, in bearing, word and deed, and testimony against war and the taking of human life, how much brighter would be the record of the Methodist ministry!

After his discharge from the army, he hastened home, and met joyfully his friends, from whom he had been separated three months and a half.

Oh, that every Methodist minister, and all other ministers, throughout the world, were as sound against war, and as ably in life, as Jesse Lee; and let all the people who may read this article say "Amen!"

He was so highly esteemed that he lacked but one vote of being made a Bishop of the Methodist Church; but that high-sounding office would not have made Jesse Lee a greater or better man.

J. H. in *Messenger*.

Only three numbers of the DAY-STAR were printed last year. We were expecting to do more, but late in the year we began making arrangements to have the paper a monthly for 1888, and to do this it was needful to perfect some of our work so as to print from plates. This took longer than we expected but we have hope of finally succeeding.

The success of our DAY-STAR has not come up to our expectation, yet we have no doubt that the Lord uses it for good, and that this is the way we are to "seek first the kingdom of God." We have been cheered in the thought that the command is to 'seek'. We do not seem to be expected to look much at the results of our work; and yet how few of us are willing to labor without seeing fruit. Even the command "Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature" does not require us to gather a harvest of apparent success. True, the promise is that 'the word shall not return void' but we are not to falter because we see no fruit. It takes a strong Christian to labor steadily on from year to year with no apparent success; such do indeed walk and work by faith and truly honor God by their steadfast obedience.

Why is it not our first and chief business to seek the kingdom of God in our hearts and lives, and in the hearts and homes of those around us, near and far? Would we not have less of worldly matters on hand if we did really do this?

What an abundance of means would come into the Lord's work if the business men of our Churches would do as one noted English convert who gave the bulk of his means to the China Inland Mission and then offered himself as a missionary. We need to be awakened. Every man should choose his work prayerfully, and when once entered into it should not be lightly laid aside. They who can go from house to house and tell the glad news of how Jesus saves and helps them, ought not to spend nine tenths of their time over the matter of "what shall we eat or what shall we drink." Plain clothing, more simple food, less business and property would greatly multiply the power of all our Christian workers. Ed.

AN EVEN BALANCE.

A minister of the Gospel was once deliberating regarding a change in his field of labor. The question was, whether he should remain where he was, in a comfortable position, or whether he should leave the place where he was preaching and go away, trusting in the Lord, and proclaim the glad tidings of salvation in the regions beyond. He was unsettled as to the right course, and consulted his friend, the tailor, who put the case somewhat in this way:

"If, on weighing the matter, you cannot decide what the path of duty is, it must be because there is something in one side of the scales that ought not to be there. You take that out and it will be easy to decide the matter."

The minister promptly accepted the suggestion, and admitted that there was something in the scales; the question of salary was there, and it was this that made him undecided. When that matter was laid aside, he found it very easy to make up his mind as to the path of duty.

It is very important that we weigh our motives in an even balance. Self must stand aside; and if we seek to serve the Lord, we must be willing to endure trials, privations, and losses, if we may but win Christ and be found of him in peace.

Let us weigh our acts in an even balance. Let self-will, pride, and self-interest stand aside, while we seek to stand in the counsel of God, and walk in his commandments, laboring to work his work and do his will. We cannot well do much for the Lord until we abandon our own desires, and yield ourselves servants to obey that One Master, who hath bought us with his blood.