

Extracts from a Letter.

We make a few extracts from the letter of a friend. They are suggestive, and we hope that others may be profited by them as we have been.

J. H. P.

1. "If a man wished to bestow a title of honor and entail an inheritance on a slave, would he not first make him free? How could a single soul be converted, if not first counted alive in God's sight? 'Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light.' Our freedom, so that we may choose eternal life, is based on Christ's death."

2. "He that hath the bride is the bridegroom." "If Christ could in any sense be called a Bridegroom, without any bride, before the gospel [R70 : page 6] had even commenced, why can he not bear that title now, when he has come as Reaper? Why did the Jewish age belong in a special way to God? Although not 'called the Son until the incarnation' yet Christ as the 'word' created all things.' He is the Beginning as well as the End, the Author as well as the Finisher. Having created all things He sustains and possesses them. 'He came to His own and His own received Him not.' He came in the flesh to a fleshly typical bride. The marriage feast was prepared but those who were invited were unworthy." Matt. 22.

3. "I do not think any truth is vital, nor any error fatal which when believed and obeyed does not affect character. Those who understand the plans of God are called His friends, but the understanding does not make them so, it only proves their friendship. We permit others to become acquainted with our very life, not to make them our friends but because they are our friends. Christ says: 'Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you.'

It seems strange that any can believe that righteousness is other than right doing. ['Little children let no man deceive you; he that doeth righteousness is righteous.']"

4. "It is a relief to turn from the crooked and tangled reasonings of men, to the simple clear word of God. Its statements are full of heaven born power to those who receive them. I believe with all my heart that 'a little scripture is worth a good deal of reasoning,' and I am so glad man's reasoning can not alter God's word. I do not believe God ever put these latter day truths into one man's hands to dispense to the church. It would be too great an honor for the flesh to endure. Whoever makes such a claim, is in danger of becoming bigoted. But can we not afford to be calm, patient and charitable?"

Heaven help you, my brother, not to falter or grow weary. The work God does through us now will stand when controversies shall be forgotten.

"Truth with diamond point shall be written on the hearts of a redeemed race."

page 6

Thank You.

Our request, of last issue met with a generous response for which we extend you our thanks. Very many of the papers returned were liberally underscored etc., and gave evidence of interest and careful and prayerful reading which was very interesting and pleasant for the editor to notice. Although not laboring for the "praise of men" nor "seeking praise one of another;" yet every such indication of your interest in the work we have so deeply at heart, gives us fresh strength and joy.

The kind words received from many of you during the past six months have been duly appreciated also. Although we have not been

able to answer you, they have afforded your editor pleasure and comfort, and that was doubtless your object. We seldom publish letters, of correspondents, because firstly, we have no room to spare, and secondly, they generally contain personal allusion to the writers too complimentary to admit of publication. We subjoin just two, which contain no personal allusions and which represent many received.

Springfield, Mass.

Dear Brother: I send you the paper you requested, but fear it will not be fit to send to your subscribers (The paper received was marked etc., from first to last, I kept it as a memento.) I read them over and over, lend them, but never give them away for they are as choice to me as gold dust. As I read I mark and comment for my own benefit, so you see it is pretty well worn out and defaced. I cannot pay you until warm weather as my coal takes up all my spare money. But if you can, please continue it to me and may the Lord reward you. Your sister in Christ.

V. N. J.

Yes sister you will get your paper, as freely without as with the money. It is published expressly for such as you.

A new reader writing from Vermont says: "A lady friend sent me two copies of ZION'S WATCH TOWER, which came from an unknown source. I then wrote to you and got more, also the little hymn book. I cannot express my gratitude to you for sending them to me. They are just what I wanted. It is meat and drink to read them. I want to introduce these papers into our village if I can. I think they are just what is needed all over the earth. As I am 83 years old and unable to canvas I have secured the services of a young lady to do so for me. Very truly yours."

M. D. W.

So it is, here and there, everywhere, some can say with the prophet "Thy word was found and I did eat it." It is sweet unto my taste.

[R70 : page 6]

THE article entitled "The Holy Bible," crowded out of the December number, and referred to in the "Questions of Correspondents" last month, will be found in this number.
