

BEAUTIFUL THINGS.

Beautiful faces are those that wear— It matters but little if dark or fair— Whole-souled honesty printed there.

Contrast of Dr. Ely. The contrast is given in different columns of the book to which the reader is referred.

Dr. Ely was a man of commanding appearance, benevolent feelings, generous emotions, and possessed of a mind habitually active.

Dr. Ely was an affectionate pastor, and delightfully situated in Philadelphia. He was in the midst of an intelligent people.

THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST.

The latter-day glory of the Church will begin at the time of Christ's second coming. This proposition may be considered as proved.

On this passage, Bloomfield says, "What particular period is here designated, expositors are not agreed. It must, of course, be at the coming of the Messiah."

The peculiar phraseology "He shall send Jesus Christ," would seem to indicate that God the Father would send his Son in person.

The seven churches in Rev. ii, iii, we see that He makes a steady decline, beginning from Ephesus, till we at last reach the nauseous indifference of Laodicea.

Verse 2 We take "every branch in me," to mean any real Christian. No other meaning accords with the frequent use of the phrase "in Christ."

Among the Corinthian believers there was sin in regard to the Lord's Supper, and not judging themselves, God had judged them, and many among them were weak and sickly.

The passages of Scripture which foretell Christ's first coming to suffer, and those which foretell His second coming to reign, are oftentimes so blended together in the same chapter or sentence, that it is not easy always to separate them.

THE VINE AND THE BRANCHES.

1. "I am the true vine and my Father is the husbandman." 2. Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away.

This precious passage of God's word is extremely simple and clear as to its form, but as to its depth of meaning much of it is unfathomed in ordinary Christian experience.

When the Lord says "I am the true vine," we suppose He has reference to the failure of Israel, which is called God's vine.

At the request of a distant friend I have recently put in writing what I believe to be revealed on this subject, and as it has been rather recently a matter of some interest.

This is a subject about which there have been different opinions, and yet as "all Scripture is given by inspiration of God," what the Bible teaches must be true.

Some maintain that the thinking, reasoning, willing principle in man, which we call the soul, is just as mortal as his body.

Others contend that when a human being dies, his soul not only dies, but will continue in the sleep of death until the resurrection.

Again, from Deut. xxiv: 26, we learn that Moses while on his way from Egypt to the land of Canaan, died upon Mt. Nebo.

There are still others who contend that although the soul does neither die nor sleep when the body dies, it does not go directly to either hell or heaven.

But he puts it on different grounds. He is "faithful and just to forgive us and to cleanse us." Faithful to His covenant with the Son, just to Him who bore our sins in his own body on the tree.

Now as all Scripture is profitable, that to the man of God may be perfect, what motives have we here to study the word of God, to study it simply, the whole of it, to study it for personal benefit to ourselves, to let it search us through and through, and let it place and keep us ever in the light as God is in the light.

THE LESSER SERMONS.—It is not the great sermons that accomplish the most beneficence for the world. They are good in their places, but for practical effect the earnest heart-instruction that is given in a more familiar ministry is that which, in the long run, produces the best result.

WHAT IS THE STATE OF SEPARATE SPIRITS?

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SECRET THING, WHETHER IT BE GOOD, OR WHETHER IT BE EVIL?

secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil." Eccl. xii: 14. Why then would He try to ascertain what He already knew? John xxi: 17, Col. ii: 3.

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If men were tried in secret only, and condemned no matter how justly, it would occasion very great and very general dissatisfaction.

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IN THE NAME OF CHRIST.

An illiterate country-man sold a lot of firewood to a gentleman in the city. When the wood was delivered the gentleman gave him a check upon a certain bank.

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