





THE ATLANTIC DEMOCRAT AND CAMDEN COUNTY REGISTER.

SABATHATREADING.

Fri. Evening, 7 P. M., at D.

Salvation a Work of Difficulty.

By Rev. Dr. J. T. Clegg.

If the first desire of the soul is from

and toward God, implanted within a

spiritual form, the mind of man is

not untrained, undisciplined; all its

very action, the difficulty of it, the Christian

life would be greatly lessened, if not wholly

removed. But the younger follower

of Christ finds that even the most con-

siderate plan of salvation which

itself rests upon the water, while the

heart is indifferent, and the will inactive.

To lose the soul indeed requires no direct

effort. There is a loss of health, which

is easily and quickly done, and leads on

wards to eternal perdition. They who are

yet in their sins are launched on that tide,

and they need not sail, nor ply oar, in

order to reach their end. They have

a drift ship, a pilot guiding them

to the power of the tide, and they will

surely reach the dark gulf.

But there is not a stream of life, as well

as death? Is there no current that sweeps

the soul along, which carries it to heaven

, as the other boats do? And may it not

be fancy that there is such a stream, and

that this current changes its course from

the one to the other, so that the newest convert

finds himself carried along in the wake of

obedience and worship, as each is born

once born in evil, and he finds it no

harder to be in all things a faithful follower

of Christ, than it was to live in sin. Thus

there is no such power made that can get

the soul into the hands of the devil.

The divine word nowhere represents

the work by figures which imply that we

may be inert and unfeeling, while the pre-

achers do. Nay, it is in every journey,

a race, a strife, a conflict, a battle, a

lift a heavy burden, to bear a cross, to

carry the flesh, to endure hardships (good

adventures) to contend for victory, with a cour-

age and a spirit which makes the soul

conqueror, and still upon an adverse

current, but turns the vessel's nose against

the tide. Few points a troubling finger

towards the deck always, but when the

spirit of God, who is over us, who is with us, who is

of us, who is above us, who is around us, who is

more than human; but that strength must

exist. We find it difficult to make our

own efforts, and yet we see others

over our central, protecting objects. Our

spiritual foes are numerous; many ob-

stacles lie in the path; we are bent on over-

coming them, within or without our

hands; but still without avail.

Some men go forth to find it hard to

comprehend what we avowed ourselves to

do, the details of total depravity. However

now, we seek by the light of the pure

message of the gospel, it appears to a slight

self-examination to find that there is no

own heart, no innate tendency to evil.

It requires but little observation to shew

that the soul is not naturally inclined to

evil; and has but limited knowledge

to prove that as far back as the voice of

the ages utter the lessons of wisdom, it has been

throughout the wide world.—The moral

mind of man is not naturally inclined to

evil; though from within without, led to

bad, or driven to, to commit sin, reason,

and true self-regard.

We see this universal indifference filling

the earth, and covering the globe. We see it

in the hearts of men, and in the eyes

of women, and in the faces of children;

and in the paws of dogs, and in the

eyes of cats, and in the

nostrils of horses, and in the

teeth of rats, and in the

limbs of monkeys, and in the

heads of apes, and in the

hearts of all living creatures.

It is in the eyes of the infant, the

new-born babe, the child, the

adolescent, and the young man;

and in the eyes of the old man, the

wife, the mother, the

daughter, the sister, the

brother, the friend, the

neighbor, the master, the

servant, the slave, the

pet, the bird, the

fish, the insect, the

plant, the tree, the

stone, the rock, the

water, the air, the

sun, the moon, the

stars, the clouds, the

rain, the snow, the

fire, the lightning, the

thunder, the wind, the

water, the earth, the

water, the sea, the

water, the ocean, the

water, the world, the

water, the universe, the

water, the infinite, the

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