

The following valuable letters were written by the Rev. EDMUND B. BOSFOSD, Pastor of the Baptist Church in Georgetown, to a female correspondent in Philadelphia, and were first published in the "Religious Remembrancer," a valuable periodical paper of that place. In the productions of this excellent man there is little to please the taste of those who have not obtained "like precious faith" with himself. His uncommon turn of thought, the quaintness of his style, but, above all, the depth of evangelic fervour, the ardent piety, and the rich *experience of the heart*, can be relished by none but those who in the highest sense of the word, deserve the name of true Christians.

[*Publisher*]

THE WANDERING JEW.

DEAR MRS. * * * * *

I AM now going to prove your confidence in me. I am about to relate strange things; I mention this, lest you should, as some hasty ladies have done, throw my letter in the fire before you finish the reading of it. No doubt you have heard of the "*Wandering Jew*" The story is, that a person attending on the ministry of our Lord, in the days of his flesh, was so irritated at something he said, that he spat in his face. Our Saviour looking mildly on him, said "Wander from place to place on the earth till I come again." When I was about twelve years of age, an old man with a very long beard came in to the town in which I lived, and asserted he was this "*Wandering Jew*," and imposed on many. He no doubt was an imposter: but I have in reality seen and conversed with the *real Wandering Jew*. "Oh Mr. B—, is it possible?" Yes, dear madam, it is! I tell you I have seen the *real Wandering Jew* in Georgetown S. Carolina, since I last wrote you.

Although I believe he is as old as he professes to be, I never was in the company of a person more cheerful and lively. There are many who think him an imposter, but I am one among a few in this place who give credit to all he says, al-

though some things are truly of the marvellous kind. He must have been very old when our Saviour was on earth, as he relates several things known to him before our Saviour was born. He was present when John baptized him in Jordan, heard him preach, saw him perform many miracles, was present at his trial, saw him on the cross, and declares he saw him more than once after his resurrection, and was present at his ascension into heaven. He was familiar with the apostels, and describes them as plain, honest men ; as for Paul, he speaks very highly of *him*. I asked him a number of questions ; in his answers he shewed great knowledge of human nature, beyond any person I ever conversed with. At certain times his conversation is so engaging I could sit up all night to attend to it ; though I must confess at other times it appeared to me quite dull and uninteresting ; but what at the time appeared very strange to me, several in company declared they were never more pleased ; hence I conclude, at such times the fault was in myself. You know we are not always in a good mood either to hear or speak in company. He is generally cloathed in a leathern doublet, but when he visits some of the great folks, he wears a suit of scarlet and gold : I saw him one day in blue or purple, with a large silver cross † on each side of his coat. Another day I saw him all in tatters, that I could scarcely recognize him as the same person.

“ My dear sir, are you not too credulous ? Is it possible for a person who was on earth two thousand years ago, to be still in existence ? ” It is not only possible, but a real fact. “ My dear sir, some people to hear you talk thus, would think you were beside yourself. ” Some not only think so,

but have told me to my face ; but you must know I think the same of them, and believe my self in my right mind I am fully convinced the Wandering Jew is no imposter. There are very few places where all the inhabitants cordially receive him ; true, there are some so offended with him, that they would kill him if they could, but he is invulnerable, or he would have been slain long ago ; this my dear madam, is one reason I put so much confidence in him ; another reason is, generally speaking, those who dispute his word are wicked persons. I do not know how it may be in every place, but I assure you there is not one good person, either male or female, in Georgetown but what is pleased with his company ; and truly it is no wonder, for he explains many things that no other person can.— Sometimes you would be almost ready to conclude he was acquainted with your very thoughts. I do declare he has caused me some times to think he is more than man. A few days ago he revealed some things to me, that had such an effect as really to cause me to wish myself out of this world.

I heard a person the other day, say, he verily beleived God was with him, and that by him great wonders would be performed. Hence you may perceive I am not the only one who believes him to be no imposter. I do assure you he is no flatterer. I have heard him speak to a large congregation of men, women and children, among whom were masters and servants, husbands and wives, parents and children, rich and poor, old and young, white and black, saint and sinner. There was not a person present but whose true character was exposed to view, and their duty urged home upon them. When he speaks to those who are pleased with him, he wears a smile on his countenance

that has a peculiar effect ; but when he addresses those who ridicule and despise him, he speaks the language of terror, and his countenance is awful and truly terrible. He fears no man or set of men, but speaks his mind freely to all. Some one informed me he was about visiting the kingdoms of the east again. It is many ages since he traveled in some of them, and it is probable he may meet with much opposition, but he is so much used to that, he will not be discouraged. Indeed, I have heard there are great preparations making for his reception in foreign countries ; for my part, I think he will be a blessing wherever he goes, and have united with a few generous souls towards the expence of transporting him from place to place. Shall I give him a letter of recommendation to you and the dear Philadelphians ?

But what can I say more than I have, except it be to mention his real name. He goes by several names, but that which is most familiar to people at large is, *The Bible*. Yes the Bible realizes the Wandering Jew. The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, indited it. Moses and the Prophets who wrote it, were all Jews ; Jesus Christ the sum and substance of it was a Jew, the Apostles who finished it, and sent it into the world, were Jews ; all who believe it, and cordially receive it, are circumcised in heart.

Could I then recommend a subject of greater importance to your consideration. It is the life of my soul ; yes, THE BIBLE I esteem my richest treasure on earth ; I hope I have ventured my eternal all on the truths it contains.

“Not all the books on earth beside, such heavenly wonders tell.”

I trust I am writing to one who has heartily welcomed MY WANDERING JEW.

Yours in gospel bonds,

E. B.

THE SECOND SIGHT.

DEAR MRS. * * * * *

I SUPPOSE you have heard of what in Scotland is called the "second sight." The person who possess this faculty, had, at certain times, paroxisms, something resembling convulsion fits or a kind of trance; when he came to himself he uttered his prognostics, from what he had seen, or what had been revealed to him; some of these were very extraordinary. However, of late years, this notion of second sight has been pretty much exploded. I do not wish to revive, in this country, the second sight as above described, but I must inform you that I conceive myself possessed of a second-sight that is *real*, by which I can prophesy of things that will certainly come to pass, and which also affords me much comfort in my declining years. Say you, "Pray Mr. B. how long have you been in possession of this secret?" It is nearly fifty years. As you are an old friend, I will relate to you how I came by it. I was put in possession of it by one of the most extraordinary, wonderful persons that ever visited America. If I mistake not he was a native of Asia, I think he was born somewhere about Jerusalem. The most surprising account of him I ever heard was from the Wandering Jew. He spoke of Him in such an astonishing manner, as possessing such extraordinary qualifications, that very few people at the first report believed him, nor did I; but when I became acquainted with him, I found all that the Wandering Jew said of him was true. My first acquaintance with him was in this wise: When I arrived in Charleston S. Carolina, which was in January,

1766, in my twenty-first year, I heard that this wonderful person was there on a visit. Sometime after my arrival, every thing seemed to make against me, and I was plunged into poverty and distress.

I had left my native country in search of riches, and behold I was now in poverty ; I expected happiness, but behold distress. I had lost my parents at an early period, so that I had no home to go to, and if I had, I had not the means to convey me there, I was a stranger in a strange land. I frequently thought I was in a worse state than even the prodigal son ; I felt myself a poor forsaken, distressed orphan. I frequently used to retire to lonely places in the out-skirts of the town to bewail my deplorable situation. I continued in this distressed state a considerable time ; at length one day an angel appeared to me. " O Mr, B," say you, " you were under a delusion, *you* saw an angel ! and pray what did he say to you, were you not frightened at the sight ?" No Madam, I was not frightened at the sight ; he appeared in such a manner that produced no fear, but such a kind of reverence and awe that till then I had never felt. He spoke so kind, yet as earnest, that my attention was never before so taken, he pitied my case and directed me to the wonderful person I have described, assured me that he would relieve me from all my distress, yea he told me the great Man had observed me in my solitary walks, and had sent a note to me to assure me of his kindness. I was induced to believe his words, and in a short time after, I prevailed on myself to venture, and that too in all my rags, to knock at the great Man's door, and related to him, in my simple way, all my wants. He very condescendingly listened to

my pitiful story, and granted me full relief from my distress. His kindness melted my very heart. O it was a day never to be forgotten, I was filled with joy, it was such as I cannot describe, it was one of the sweetest, sorrowful, joyful days I ever experienced, the recollection of it at this time causes tears of gratitude to trickle down my aged cheeks. It was then he presented me with what I term "the second sight." It consists of a curious glass which is very difficult to describe to those who never possessed such an one.

By the help of this glass a person may discover a thousand things which those who are unacquainted with it can have no right conceptions of. It presents such views of the heavenly glory that causes a person to be willing to leave all, wife, children, friends, possessions of every kind of an earthly nature, to inherit it. It affords the best view that can be obtained on earth, of Jesus Christ, of the way of life and salvation through Him. It likewise discovers the nature of sin and holiness. Hence you may perceive it is of service in a religious point of view. And what is very extraordinary, when properly used, it produces such contentment of mind, even under adverse providences, that causes the person possessed of it to be thankful for them. I have even heard of some, who in the agonies of death have been made to rejoice, by what has been presented to them through this glass. I, myself have seen several poor wretches, who by their wickedness were nuisances to society, before they were presented with this glass; but no sooner were they in possession of it, than they became useful members of society and as agreeable as before they were disgusting. Several who were very poor, who became rich by the possession of it; in-

deed it was my own case, I was as poor as I could be, but now am I rich, yea possessed of durable riches that will not take wings and fly away. If you wish to see the best description of this glass, I cannot refer you to a *better author* than he, whoever he was, that wrote a letter to certain people called Hebrews; it is certainly an antient piece of writing, but I believe it to be a fine and true description of this glass; there are other writers who very clearly treat of it, but if I mistake not, the person I refer to, writes the most upon it.

Do you not wish for such a glass? What am I saying? I doubt not you have been in possession of it several years. Yes, dear Madam, I trust you have been favoured with the faith that worketh by love and purifieth the heart. That faith which is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. That faith which enables you to cast your burden on the Lord and to rejoice in tribulation. You will then permit an old friend to rejoice with you on the acquisition, and to remind you and himself that we should often pray “Lord increase our faith,” and also observe to you that there is nothing the devil begrudges us so much as this glass. He would break it if he could—but the Great Man has and does pray that our faith may not fail. Although at times we can see through it darkly, by and by we shall see without it. If a glimpse by faith now and then is so delightful and encouraging what must naked vision be! This we cannot conceive, but of this we are assured, we shall see Jesus in all his glory, be where he is and be made like Him. O the happy state of those persons who are in the possession of this Jewel, happy now and will be happy forever.

Yours in Jesus,

E. B