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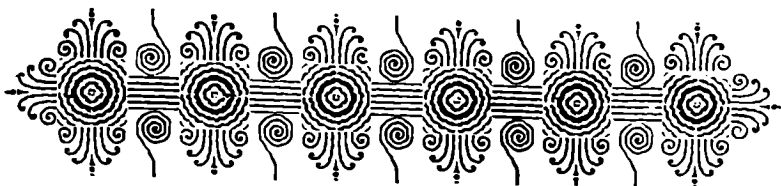
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THE
Sword and the Crowel.

APRIL, 1896.

“Nothing to Say.”

AN ADDRESS AT A TABERNACLE PRAYER-MEETING, BY C. H. SPURGEON.



DEAR FRIENDS,—When I stood up, a few minutes ago, and tried to think what I should say to you, I discovered that I had—

NOTHING TO SAY.

I have often found the theme for a brief address while meeting with you here on these happy Monday evenings, and my experience to-night has suggested a subject on which I think we may profitably meditate for a few moments, and then return to the holy exercise of prayer, in which we always like to spend most of the time. Perhaps some of you are wondering whether I ever before felt that I had “nothing to say.”

Yes, more than once in my life has this been true; and first, it was very specially the case with me *when I was under conviction of sin*. Through the Lord's restraining grace, and the holy influence of my early home-life, both at my father's and my grandfather's, I was kept from certain outward forms of sin in which others indulged; and, sometimes, when I began to take stock of myself, I really thought I was quite a respectable lad, and might have been half inclined to boast that I was not like other boys,—untruthful, dishonest, disobedient, swearing, Sabbath-breaking, and so on. But, all of a sudden, I met Moses, carrying in his hand the law of God; and as he looked at me, he seemed to search me through and through with his eyes of fire. He bade me read “God's Ten Words” the ten commandments,—and as I read them, and remembered what I had

“Utterly Discouraging !”

AMONG the many interesting pages in *The Sword and the Trowel* for February, none was more interesting to us than that which contained the Statement of Receipts for the Pastors' College Missionary Association. The names of donors and collectors told of practical and prayerful sympathy, of true friends, and of new friends, in a way which both cheered and strengthened our hearts. Moreover, since then, gifts have also come for medical needs, so that we are constrained to gratefully thank our friends at home, and to praise our God from whom all blessings flow.

During February, 378 visits have been paid us, including 242 by patients who have come for the first time. The attention at the services has been good, and often the listeners have been *apparently* receptive of the truth. Scriptures have been sold, tracts given, lodging for 107 nights has been afforded to those from a distance, and several surgical cases have been put up in my own house for lack of other accommodation.

“Nothing seems to me more utterly discouraging than work among Moslems.” So writes an earnest Christian lady, visiting North Africa, and I think I would endorse the statement provided the emphasis is put upon the word *seems*. See how it works out on the *medical* side. Here is a patient, for example. I enquire, “How long have you been ill?” “Forty-eight years!” Another answers, “All my life!” A third says, “Oh! I am tired of doctors; I have tried them all.” How “utterly discouraging!” you say. Yet not if I have a sure cure for every one of them. I rather rejoice in the difficulty, and am only anxious that the sufferer should take the remedy, and be blessed.

A deaf man came to us last week; he could not listen to the gospel, for he could not hear us speak. How “utterly discouraging!” we think; but on looking into his ears, we found them filled with wax. Long and tedious was the softening and syringing, but at last there came relief; and as he left the house, his hearing all restored, he said, “I came a beast, I go forth now a Moslem.” So, Satan has stopped the Moslems' ears with lies; a false bible, a false christ, and a false hope, have made them deaf indeed. Be it ours, in God's name, to rid them of all these; then shall they have the hearing ear, and hearing they shall live. *Now*, they are earnest in faith and hope and love of things which are but lies; how much *more* earnest shall they be when JESUS CHRIST has made them free!

Sousse, Tunisia.

T. G. CHURCHER.

Notices of Books.

Any Book reviewed or advertised in this Magazine will be forwarded by Messrs. Passmore and Alabaister on receipt of Postal Order for the published price.

We regret that, quite unintentionally, a wrong impression was conveyed to our readers by the review in last month's Magazine of Mr. Spurr's book, *The Exiled God*, published by Messrs. Marshall Bros.

As soon as the Publishers' attention was drawn by Mr. Spurr to the review, they called in all the copies to which they could obtain access, and withdrew the matter from them. The Editor desires to unconditionally re-

tract the statements which appeared, and to express his deep regret that they were given to the public. He assures his readers that the review was written without malice, and he hereby heartily apologizes both to Mr. Spurr and to Messrs. Marshall Bros. for the appearance of a notice which was calculated to do injury to a Christian brother's work; and he asks his readers to assist him to make any reparation that may be possible.