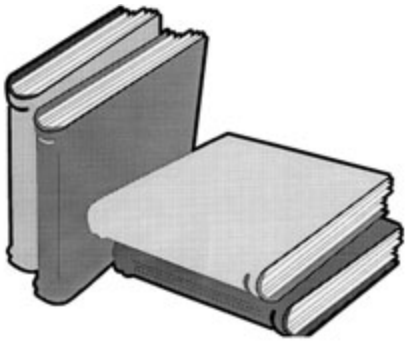
The Rock and Pit

Look unto the rock whence ye are hewn,
and to the hole of the pit whence ye are digged.
Isa 51:1

Selections from the Christian's heritage in print,

collected by Dean Brown



Issue 1029

The Great "Except", III.

> **John 6:44, 37 (KJV)** 44 No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day. 37 All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.

What does "coming" mean? It means that movement of the soul which takes place when a man, feeling his sins, and finding out that he cannot save himself, hears of Christ, applies to Christ, trusts in Christ, lays hold in Christ, and leans all his weight on Christ for salvation. …

What does our Lord mean by saying, "I will in no wise cast him out"? It means that he will not refuse to save anyone who comes to Him, no matter what he may have been. His past sins may have been very great. His present weakness and infirmity may be very great. But does he come to Christ by faith? Then Christ will receive him graciously, pardon him freely, place him in the number of His dear children, and give him everlasting life. …

There is an infinite readiness in Christ to receive, pardon, justify, and glorify sinners. The expression "I will in no wise cast out," implies this. It is a very powerful form of negation. "So far from casting out the man that comes to me, I will receive him with joy when he comes. I will not refuse him because of his past sins. … I will keep him to the end by my grace. I will confess him before my Father in the judgement day, and glorify him forever. …"

The one point we should look to is, "whether we do really come to Christ." Our past lives may have been very bad. Our present faith may be very weak. Our repentance and prayers may be very imperfect and poor. Our knowledge of religion may be very scanty. But do we come to Christ? That is the question. If so the promise belongs to us. Christ will not cast us out.

J. C. Ryle, *Expository Thoughts on the Gospels*, 1865.
In the church library.