LETTER.

To the Congregationalist.

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Subject.

Conversion, What is.

How can I be saved?
Commission, what is

How can I be saved

Letter to the Congregationalist

Feb. 2, 97
Gen'l O. O. Howard.

Feb. 12, 1897

156 College Street,
Burlington, Vermont.

Rev. H. A. Bridgman
Editor Congregationalist
Boston, Mass.

My dear Sir:

You referred to me this question: "How would you answer a man who came to you with these questions: "What is conversion?" and how can I be saved?"

That first inquiry of a seeker, as I take him to be: "What is conversion?" I should answer in a different way to different individuals, as the seeker of a new life or of every shade of intelligence & education;
but the answer would be substantially the same to all. It is this: By conversion I mean the getting into a man's mind (or soul) a fixed purpose to be a Christian. That is conversion when accomplished. Regeneration (the grace wrought) comes from the Holy Spirit. Our Lord & Saviour always takes care of his part in the revelation of a man's mind & spirit. Regeneration is his part. If a man is not a Christian in the actual sense of the term, he must turn around. If he wanted to go from Boston to Lowell & found himself on a train to Worcester, he would get off the Worcester train & take the train to Lowell. As a stranger he would of course make all his necessary inquiries of those who knew
just so, a man who has no sign
in his consciousness of love to
Christ & his fellow men, must
seize strongly upon a purpose
not to let himself rest till he
gets on the train where he
will have love to Christ & his
fellow men. The Lord Christ, never
omits to do his part. every man
can trust him for that.

The second question is already
answered: "How do I be saved?"
Often the seeker has but little
knowledge, and has considerable
pride: I generally talk as pleasantly
as I can with such a man, and
try to turn his mind away from
his prejudiced notions. Very
often he says: Oh! that I had faith!
I say perhaps: let faith alone. Begin
a Christian life at once as you
understand it. Only Christ's precepts as you read them. Pray to the Lord, asking help and guidance. Go as far as you know & keep like the traveller in Europe, looking in your Guide Book. It will not be long before an obedient spirit will, by God's help, help never withhold, be in unison with his Almighty Friend, and be at peace in his own breast.

My brother, Rowland, who had found the Lord & was regaining strength for 15 years ago, measured with the first brother who was blindly seeking light. “Oh, didst think anything necessary to come to Christ, anything you ever thought necessary. Only give up surrender!” As a soldier of understanding that surrender to Christ! Very truly yours,

(O'Connor) Oliver D. O'Connor
My dear sir:

You proposed to me this question: "How would you answer a man who came to you with these questions: 'What is conversion? and how can I be saved?'" That first inquiry of a seeker, as I take him to be, "what is conversion?" I should answer in a different way to different individuals, as the seekers of a new life are of every shade of intelligence and education; but the answer would be substantially the same to all. It is this: By conversion I mean the getting into a man's mind (or soul) a fixed purpose to be a Christian. That is conversion when accomplished. Regeneration (the grace inwrought) comes from the Holy Spirit. Our Lord and Saviour always takes care of his part in the revolution of a man's mind and spirit. Regeneration is His part. If a man is not a Christian in the active sense of the term, he must turn around. If he wanted to go from Boston to Lowell, and found himself on a train to Worcester, he would get off the Worcester train, and take the train to Lowell. As a stranger he would, of course, make all the necessary inquiries of those who knew. Just so, a man who has no sign in his consciousness of love to Christ and his fellow men, must seize strongly upon a purpose not to let himself rest till he gets on that train where he will have love to Christ and his fellow men. The Lord, Christ, never omits to do his part. Every man can trust him for that.

"All, the second question is already answered: "How can I be saved?" Often the seeker has but little knowledge, and has considerable pride: I generally talk as pleasantly as I can with
such a man, and try to turn his mind away from his preconceived notions. Very often he says: "Oh, that I had faith!" I say, perhaps: "Let faith alone. Begin a Christian life at once as you understand it. Obey Christ's precepts as you read them. Pray to the Lord asking help and guidance. Go as far as you know and keep, like the traveller in Europe, looking in your Guide Book." It will not be long before an obedient spirit will, by our Lord's help never withheld, be in unison with his Almighty Friend, and be at peace in his own breast.

My brother, Rowland, who had found the Lord and was rejoicing beyond measure, forty years ago, wrote me, his brother who was then blindly seeking light, "Oh, Otis, don't think anything necessary to come to Christ, anything you ever thought necessary. Only give up; surrender!" As a soldier I understood that.

Surrender to Christ!