

The Central Messenger

ISSUED MONTHLY

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THE BAPTIST WORLD ALLIANCE.

It was our privilege to attend the meeting of the Baptist World Alliance in Philadelphia June 19-24. This was the second meeting of the Alliance, the first having been held in London in 1905. The Philadelphia meeting was said by some to be the greatest meeting ever held by Baptists and one of the most important meetings that have ever been held in the interest of the work of the Kingdom of God. There must have been ten thousand people present in attendance on this meeting, and they came from all quarters of the earth. One or two stated on the floor that they had come more than 2,000 miles to be in this assembly of God's people. Any description of the meeting that we might undertake would be so entirely inadequate that we would not think of attempting any such task. A few notes gathered in the meeting are sent out in this issue of the Messenger. In addition to these we shall record here only a few observations, and advise our people to buy and read the bound volume of the proceedings. This volume will contain all the addresses and proceedings, together with much valuable information on Baptist affairs in general. The volume can be had for \$1.15 post paid, from the American Baptist Publication Society, Philadelphia, Pa.

With these general remarks we proceed to append a few observations:

1. There is coming to be a world consciousness among Baptists such as has never been seen before. This is well. Baptists of all people stand for the sovereignty of the individual soul, and the independence of the local church, but this by no means shuts us out from cooperation. This cooperation has too long been hindered by lack of knowledge of what is going on in other parts of the world. We may read about it in the papers, but that is not like seeing the men and women from all parts of the earth who are following the plain, simple commands of Jesus in the New Testament in the same spirit and with the same motive and purpose that we are. This meeting has given us a sort of world consciousness that we have not had before.

2. The world is in great need of Baptist principles. Who could hear the pleas from Italy, Austria, Bohemia, Poland, South America, &c., without feeling that Jesus Christ is just a truly being persecuted today as he was when he put the question to Saul of Tarsus, "Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?" Paul counted it a great joy that he was counted worthy to suffer affliction for Christ, and if the work of a spiritual kingdom is carried out somebody must suffer for him yet. Who will it be? Through the centuries the Baptists have been "the sect spoken against," and the people who have endured all manner of suffering for the cause of Christ. The Spirit of the world is the same today that it has ever been. Who is willing to suffer hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ? Let us not shrink, but rather give ourselves—soul and body to Him who gave Himself for us. The world still needs mar-

tyr witnesses for God and His truth. Baptists have stood the test in the past. Let us be faithful to our heritage.

3. The world is opening up and getting ready to receive Baptist principles in a way that is marvelous to behold.

To be sure the organized powers of darkness are not going to yield without a struggle, but enlightenment, the spirit of brotherhood and the conscious sense of dignity of each individual soul are taking such deep and strong hold of the common people in all the earth that the powers of darkness, entrenched as they are behind their organized systems of superstition and error, are beginning to tremble. This was clearly manifest in the Alliance by the testimonies of men from both the Roman and the Greek Catholic world, and also from such pagan countries as Japan, Africa, and China. When the common people begin to cast aside the authority of the priest and to think for themselves, the day of Baptist opportunity has come. In the great meeting of which we are speaking nothing was more manifest than that just this situation is before us today. Will we go in and possess the land for God? or, will we hesitate at the difficulties and sacrifices as did God's people of old when only Joshua and Caleb said, "we can take the land?"

Let us get close together and catch step for a forward march, and a march all together in behalf of the truth of gospel. Let us pray God to give us a fresh baptism of his Holy Spirit that we may be prepared as was His church in the beginning for the tremendous task that stands out before us.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CONVENTION—CENTRAL ASSOCIATION.

Our annual Sunday School Convention will be held with the church at Bay Leaf, July 29 and 30. All the churches of the Association are urged to send representatives to this meeting, and we hope these representatives will come in at the beginning and remain to the close.

Following is the program for this meeting:

Saturday, July 29.

10:00 o'clock—Song and prayer service.

10:30—Diagnosis of our Sunday School Situation: (1) Address, by C. E. Brewer; (2) Reports from the Schools.

11:30—Sermon, by T. W. O'Kelly, D. D.

1:50—The organized Class, paper, by Mrs. C. H. Chamblee.

2:15—Taking the Measure of the Sunday School, W. R. Cullom.

3:00—Teacher Training, G. P. Harrell.

Sunday, July 30.

10:00—The Bible Lesson for the day, W. J. Ferrell.

11:00—The Home Department, E. F. Sullivan.

11:30—Is the S. S. Worth While? E. W. Sikes.

1:30—The B. Y. P. U. in the Country Church, paper by Miss Tilly Ranes.

2:15—The Work of the Superintendent, Johnnie Williams.

3:00—The Cradle Roll, paper by Mrs. W. A. Smith.

The address or paper on each subject is not expected to consume more than twenty-five or thirty minutes, leaving some time for general discussion. We hope those who come will be thinking about the subjects and be prepared to participate in the discussion.

PROF. J. B. CARLYLE.

By Dr. J. H. Gorrell.

The daily press has for the past few days abounded in recitals of the work wrought by Prof. J. B. Carlyle for the cause of education. We have told of his inspiring teaching of Latin, of his fruitful campaigns throughout the State in behalf of the education of the masses, of his wonderful abilities in winning endowment for his Alma Mater. Not all the praise bestowed by a grateful people can fully be equal to the merit of this great and good man who has just passed from us.

It is our purpose, however, in this place to say nothing of these things but to give an account, inadequate though it may be, of Professor Carlyle as a Christian.

In early youth he gave his heart to the Lord and his life was devoted with singular whole-heartedness to all causes connected with religious work.

The two striking characteristics of his religious life were faithfulness and enthusiasm.

For over twenty years he was a Deacon of the Wake Forest Church and no member of the Board was more regular in attendance, more alert in planning and executing what he believed to be for the best interests of his Church. His wisdom in counsel was acknowledged by all, for although none of his fellow-deacons was more zealous than he to maintain true discipline among his brethren, yet there was always observable in him a beautiful spirit of sympathy with ignorance and weakness and an uplifting spirit of Christian charity. The thoroughly practical nature of his mind made him also a most valuable advisor and his name was always prominent on every important committee.

As a teacher in the Sunday School there was no one to compare with him. For twenty-one years he taught a class of students averaging a hundred men. Is there any one of his contemporaries who ever approached this splendid record? The character of his teaching was purely his own. There is no doubt that large numbers were attracted by his eloquence, but mere eloquence will soon wear out. There was in his lectures something so virile, so strengthening and inspiring, so full of simple goodness and yet so abounding in lofty ideals that the hearer was delighted by the spell of his eloquence and unconsciously stimulated to noble endeavor. The effect of his teaching was far reaching. It was a clarion-call to a high, clean, sincere, and useful life. Hundreds of young men in this State are today making their lives count for high morality and good citizenship, led into this higher life under the influence of Prof. Carlyle's Sunday morning talks.

He loved "his boys" with intense devotion and every member of his class knew that this brilliant teacher was his best friend in time of trouble. I have heard him say that at a time of dangerous illness he felt more satisfaction in the work of his Sunday School class than in anything else he had ever done. To the very last he stayed with his class. Even on the last Sunday he spent here before his trip in search of health, the faithful teacher dragged himself wearily to his accustomed desk and addressed a farewell word to the boys. "Well done, thou good and faithful servant; enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."

As a leader among the Baptists of this State Professor Carlyle occupied an exalted place. His voice has been

heard in almost every Association and wherever it was known that he was to speak there was always an eager and delighted audience. The denomination honored him by electing him for two consecutive sessions as President of the State Convention. There is no doubt that he could have held this position indefinitely, but he evidently declined reelection. His well-known mastery of assemblies made him an ideal presiding officer and the marked success of these two sessions was due in great measure to his wisdom and tactfulness.

I shall not speak of his work in behalf of Christian education. Every one in North Carolina knows of it and honors him for it. I shall simply state that in his own private life, in his intercourse with his fellow-men, he showed the same spirit of true religion that characterized his public life. There was no hypocrisy or religiosity in him. He did not profess to be better or worse than his fellows, and yet by precept and example, by faithfulness to all his religious duties, by generous contributions to all good causes, by a pure, candid, happy and useful life he made himself a power for good among his brethren and left us a hallowed memory of good deeds and far-reaching influence. May we follow him as he followed Christ.

A poor Arab was traveling in the desert when he met with a stream of clear, sparkling water. Accustomed as he was to brackish wells, to his simple mind it appeared that such water as this was worthy of a monarch, and filling his leathern bottle he determined to present it to the Caliph. The poor man traveled a long distance before he reached the presence of the Caliph, and laid the offering at his feet. The Caliph did not despise the gift, but ordered some of the water to be poured into a cup, drank it, and thanking the Arab ordered him to be rewarded. The courtiers pressed round eager to taste of the wonderful water; but, to the surprise of all, the Caliph forbade them to touch even a drop. After the poor Arab had left with a joyful heart, the Caliph said to his courtiers: "During the travels of the poor man the water in this bottle had become impure and distasteful, but it was an offering of love, and as such I received it. But I knew if I suffered another to partake of it he would not have concealed his disgust, and, therefore, I forbade you to touch the water lest the donor's heart should have been wounded." All that sinners can present to their King is like this water. Imperfection mingles with our best service, but He will not reject the little offering of love and faith. Even a cup of cold water, given in the name of a disciple in nowise shall lose its reward.

The Baptists have had a mission in Korea, carried on in a little shop and under conditions of severe simplicity. Good has been done in the mission, and as always, the news spread that God was with the people, and others were led to go with them. One poor woman, living outside the town, heard the report of the mission, and walked into the town to attend the services. Not knowing where it was situated, or by what name it was known, she inquired for the place where they cured the "broken heart," and she was directed to the Baptist mission. How delighted it would be if every preaching place were entitled to this description.

Come to the Sunday School Convention at Bay Leaf July 29-30.