

Facts, Fables and Fancies

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Written for the Courier.

Church Federation.

I am aware that some writers uphold denominational divisions in the church. I propose to show that divisions have been and are a depression and a deterioration; or rather, that division is the legitimate offspring of deterioration in the church.

Early Church Unopposed.

Some nineteen hundred years ago Jesus Christ, the founder and head of the church, went to His home in the sky leaving unto the Apostles the work He had begun; the found- ing of the Christian Church. They took to the work willingly on account of the sincere love they bore their Master. They established many churches, not in the names of John, Peter or James, or Paul, but in the name of Jesus, the Christ.

Those of us who take time to think, know that this movement set on foot by Jesus, the son of a Galilean carpenter, was in the time of the Apostles, exceedingly unpopular. When the ministry of Jesus had been at its height He and His teaching had been popular among a vast number of people who had temporary motives; who delighted in Him so long as all went well, and He dispensed healing and comfort to them. But, who, when the shame and disgrace, the suffering and seeming defeat fell upon Him, promptly forsook Him, to the cruel mercies of an unjust tribunal. And the little band of faithful followers were disorganized, defeated, disgraced, broken-hearted. They were exceedingly unpopular, and the things they rallied their scattered forces and went bravely, as we know, to the work their Master left them. They endured every hardship. They were tried before courts as unreasonable and dishonorable as the one which tried Jesus. They were stoned, bound, imprisoned and crucified.

Pioneers Were Plain Christians.

The pioneers of the Christian Church worked without thought of selfish glory. They had one end in view—to believe in God and save men from their sins through the blood of Jesus, their lately crucified Master. They were concerned about religion alone—just the turning of hearts and wills to their Lord and not about having the new converts go over to Ephesus and join in with the body of Christians there, because the rites they observed were a little safer to lead to ultimate salvation than those observed at Corinth or Antioch. All were just plain, ordinary Christians, Christians, if you please.

Church Because Popular.

At time passed the church grew in numbers and in influence. It flourished and waxed strong. And, in influence came popularity. Worldly men sought its shelter for worldly good. Influential people saw the wisdom of getting favor with the Christians. Many claimed the outer cloak of righteousness for the sake of the cardinal word. And with this insincere element in the church, arose the question of the "how," "why," and "wherefore" of religion. And the phenomena of the Christian religion gradually became more popular than religion itself. Insincerity usually find expression in meddling, and so the purity of the church was contaminated.

The Beginning of Division.

This invasion, the exact date of which it would be hard to ascertain, marks the beginning of the differences which have split the church (visible) to its very core. The beginning of doctrines and creeds over which people have disputed until they have been spiritually starved,

Reading Books.

Trying to unravel the mysteries of why God is the Father, and Jesus the Son, why shall we believe in Him, and how is He infinite is not religion. To such reasoning is to put the spiritual body upon a diet of husks. And it does not always take a philosopher to do this hasty reasoning. Among the humbly educated it is found as well. Any person who hangs over his back fence for an hour disputing with his neighbor about the particular meaning of some scripture passage, or whether it is really true that a big fish swallowed Lazarus, is eating lyeas in his way as truly as the philosopher when he disputes about the nature of God.

What Is Christianity.

To believe, to know and accept the truths of God, without just is

GEO. KINNEY KILLED.

Fatal Wreck Near Danville—Passenger Train Crashed Into a Freight.

Another week occurred near Danville, Va., last Saturday morning causing the death of Engineer George G. Kinney, and George Ford, fireman, was fatally injured.

The passenger train, being run by Mr. Kinney, dashed into a freight train while running at 35 miles an hour.

Engineer Kinney, who was killed, has been in the employ of the Southern Railway, and is a brother of Engineer W. L. Kinney, who was manager of No. 27 when it ran into the rear of Lester's locomotive, and killed Lester Spears, chief engineer of his company.

AN OLD-TIME MELODY.

Come Home, Distance
and a numerous lesser numbers.
These constitute your logs with me.

The log in the distance and
you always come along right home from
the shop.

Accompany me on my home.

Chorus.

Distance, distance, distance,
Come home, distance.

Distance, distance, distance,
Come home, distance.