

The Charlotte News

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SATURDAY, JULY 29 1911

RELIGIOUS EDITORIALS.

The Greenville Piedmont makes the announcement that hereafter it proposes to discuss, editorially, religious topics. Here is what it has to say on the subject.

"Most secular papers devote miles of editorials to political matters, but have very little to say editorially upon religious subjects. This is strange, too, in view of the fact that a far larger portion of their readers are interested in religion than in politics. This is especially true of the female readers of a newspaper, and advertisers know that the more interesting a newspaper is to its women readers the greater the results they obtain from using space in its columns. Moreover, religious topics are always timely, whereas political dissertations are not much sought after except during campaigns.

"The Piedmont intends to frankly, freely and fully discuss religious—not sectarian—topics from the standpoint of the layman interested in the spread of Christianity and not concerned over denominationalism. A denominational controversy will never be permitted in the columns of this paper so long as the present management is in charge. There is nothing more profitable or more mischief-making than a quarrel over sectarian divergences conducted in a secular paper. In our opinion it is questionable if such controversies are ever beneficial, no matter where conducted.

"What the world needs is more Christians and more real practice of Christianity by those professing it. That is the essential thing."

In matters of a material nature the newspaper is supposed to take the lead, and it usually does. It fights the battles of the educators, of the good roadists, of the farmer and the mechanic. It is usually to be found in the front ranks of the progressives, no matter what channel of human activity you may consider.

It is, as The Piedmont, observes, strange that the greatest subject of all, overtopping in importance the status of crops, the personnel of municipal administrations, the excellence of roadways, or the financial condition of a commonwealth, receives scant notice from the editor.

The Piedmont is right when it says that what the world needs is more practical Christianity, the kind which if felt in the contact of daily life. It is not necessary for the editor to turn preacher, for the world is not in need of more sermonizing. He can, however, use his influence to encourage better living; towards the stimulation of a deeper interest in questions which pertain to Christian living.

Not every newspaper is published merely for the money it can make. The aim of most publishers and editors is to benefit the world, to uplift and brighten, and to spread an influence which shall make its part of the world better. No higher aim could be aspired to than this.

It is true, as The Piedmont says, that the great majority of readers are not interested in politics and sensations so much as in religious affairs. The editor, then, could lend a good service by bringing into prominence those stories which tell of the triumph of right, which picture the brighter and better phase of life, and which tend to leave a good rather than a bad influence.

One of the governor's critics declares that none of his (the governor's) statements is worthy of belief. Such silly folderol as this only strengthens the cause of the man under attack. There are too many little fellows who find no time in a debate for anything except personal abuse.

Just suppose the good roads movement in North Carolina could corral all that surplus energy expended on politics! Could it do so the state would be a whole lot better off.—Kinston Daily Press Press.

We consider this an elegant bit of romancing, considering the heat and the drought.

"A man was found dead in a telephone booth," says the Wilmington Dispatch. Had probably been trying to get in a word for an hour and a half, and finally collapsed because of his failure.

Greenville, S. C., has been enjoying a checkers tournament during the present week. Up Greensboro way the ancient and honorable game of marbles, or as some of them call it "Marvels" still commands popular favor.

Bob Dea! thinks "somebody is lying to beat the band" in the Lorimer hearings. Different ways to express the same conclusion, and this is one.

The Yarkin Ripple has found a cucumber growing on a squash vine. Time for the water wagon to back up.

Bailey has resigned again, and if they will just accept it quietly he will learn better.

Mr. Heyburn of Idaho has gone an entire week without erupting.

LaFollette pulled the wool over the eyes of the Senate.

Bill Was Useful.

A minister was assigned to a small parish in England not long ago, says The Brits, and upon his arrival found his new field of labor all that could be desired with the exception of old Bill Johnson. Old Bill was very much addicted to looking upon the wine when it was red, and the new minister at once announced his intention of bringing him to see the error of his ways.

"Well, of course, we know you mean right, parson," one of the elders said, slowly, stroking his white beard; "but it would be a mighty bad thing for the place if old Bill was to quit drinking."

"Why, what do you mean, brother?" the puzzled minister asked.

"Well, parson, it's like this," the elder explained. "There ain't a more convincing talker nowhere than old Bill. Every time he gets drunk and sobers down he gets somebody to sign the pledge with him, and the other fellow pretty nearly always keeps it."

Wasn't Interested.

Gov. Taylor, of Pennsylvania, says the Cosmopolitan, is an inveterate smoker and choice as to his selection of cigars. Lighting a Havana recently he said:

"The Londoners are indifferent about their tobacco—indifferent and blasé, like an omnibus conductor I saw in Oxford street."

"You know the London omnibus? It is a double-decker. If you sit on top you must go up and down by a very steep salway."

"Well, this blasé conductor pulled up his bus at Regent circus and the ladies bound for Peter Robinson's got out. But one fat lady, who has been sitting on top, came down the steep and winding stairs very slowly. Her skirt flapped around her ankles and at every step she stopped for the fifth or sixth time to thrust down her billowing skirt, and he burst out angrily:

"Now, then, lady, hurry up, can't yer? Figgers ain't no treat to me!"

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SAYS SPOILS SYSTEM HAS "RUN MAD"

Washington, July 29.—Senator Kern, of Indiana, speaking yesterday on a resolution to add several employees to the pay rolls, charged that "a spoils system had run mad" in the senate, where republicans so systematically divided patronage that members were often awarded "half a man." Senator Dixon, republican, retorted that the democratic house had discharged all republican employees.

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Mr. Stewart Protests Against Action of Aldermen With Regard to Street Paving

Mr. Plummer Stewart, a former member of the board of aldermen, thinks that the board acted too hastily at its meeting Thursday night in regard to relieving the Southern Power Company from paying for certain street improvements. Mr. Stewart's idea on the subject is as follows: "I think the board of aldermen ought to have deferred action on the question of relieving the Southern Power Company, rather, the street car company, from paying some of its part of the street improvement, until the private citizens could be heard. You see, Judge Osborne is one of the most powerful reasoners in this country. He is convincing; he can convince you though you know he is wrong. The board had not studied the question, and he had, and consequently he swept them with his way of thinking, and being thoroughly convinced that he was right in his position, they acted. "But they no doubt will now, after thinking over it, give the citizens an opportunity to be heard. "I think it is wrong to relieve the street car company of 16 inches and put that on the adjoining property owners. The adjoining property owners along the line will have to pay extra what the street car company has been relieved of. "When the law was changed so as to make the citizens, property owners,

pay for all the street improvement, and the city none, except at crossings, the legislature thought that the street car company ought to pay for more than it had been doing, since the other property owners had to pay for more, consequently the act of the last legislature net out 30 inches instead of 14 inches, on each side of the track, as the amount for the street car company to pay. This requirement was in the act recommended by the last board of aldermen, which board was never accused of being hostile to the Southern Power Company. It is also the recommendation of the once-famous committee of 10, and Mr. E. T. Candler, the then attorney for the street car company was on that committee. "I do not think as a question of law, that the board has the discretion to relieve the company from paying for the 16 inches and I differ with both Judge Osborne and Mr. Whitlock on that question, but I am agreeing with some other lawyers at the bar equally as eminent. "In the next place if the board has the discretion, I do not think it ought to exercise it in behalf of the street car company and against the citizens. "I do not think 30 inches is too much for the street car company to pay. "I have confidence in the board, and believe it will do the right thing by all, and I have therefore asked the mayor to call a meeting of the board and let the citizens be heard."

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