THE CHRISTMAS SERVICES

THE CHARLOTTE CHURCHES. the Christ—Impressive and Alactive Sermons by Local Preachers mopsis of Several of Them.

The Christmus services at the variinteresting and attractive. Unusually large congregations attended worship at all of them regardless of the bad weather and much gratification has been expressed at the appropriateness, scope and beauty of almost all of them. Following are synopsises of several of the most impressive and notable of them:

CELEBRATION OF CHRISTMAS AT ST. PETER'S CATHOLIC CHURCH. The feast of the nativity of our Lord. occurring on Sunday, was celebrated with extraordinary solemnity this year. ust before the first high mass was begun at 6 a. m., the crib, representing he birth of Christ, was filuminated, whilst the grand pipe organ gave forth the Christmas carols, reminding the theeling worshipers of the first Christmas day, when Jesus, the Son of God, was born into this world, for the sal-vation of mankind. After the chimes were rung the altar boys and priest en-ered the sanctuary and the first high nass was begun. The choir was never n better training, than when they rendered La Hache's Mass. Mrs. Emily Hall Ray, Mrs. C. A. Williams, Mrs. P. P. Hanley, Miss Louise Cobb. dessrs. George M. Meyer and George Van Echop rendering the soloes most devoutly. The "Et Incarnatus Est," by Mr. Van Echop and Mrs. Ray was especially well rendered. At the first

ass the pastor. Father Francis, read the Gospel and preached a very effective sermon, wishing all a very merry Christmas. At the last mass, at 10:30. he pastor preached a powerful sermon from the text: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men of good will." In part, he sald: "The ircumstances of the birth of our Lord lesus Christ give the highest glory to God and the greatest peace to the sincere and upright man. What is the greatest glory which God can derive from man? It is, clearly, that man should give Him his heart. And what s this giving his heart? It is the sinere and full acknowledgment on man's part that God is the All Wise and the All Good; that He is nothing in himself, and beholden to God for all that he has. God does not care for money not outward temples, nor human efforts of any kind for their own sake; they are of no consequence to Him apart from the love which has offered them or produced them. If He needs money does He not possess all the gold hidden away in the earth? Can He not erect by our word the earth full of churches, if He wants them? Of course He accepts these things because of the good will which accompanies them, and for no other reason. When Jesus was born, some hepherds were feeding ...eir flocks in the dead hours of night. They were

in thinking of their Creator and aiming to please Him in every thought and action and word of their lives. God revealed the birth of His Son not to the King or the high priest, nor to the nobles and rich of the country; but to these innocent, pure-minded shepherds. How astonished these poor men must have been at this brightness and glory suddenly breaking forth before themglory and splendor surpassing all that this world could produce! The shepherds went to Bethlehem and beyed and adored. All should learn the lesson that Jesus is the perfect model of good will. How perfect an example of His good will to d the Father does he afford as He lies in the manger, a little helpless in-fant! He seems to say to us: "My show your good will and take, as I did,

not wise men as the world reckons

wisdom, but they were simple-minded men; their wisdom consisted not in

knowing a vast number of things, but

which he sees fit to send you. I ask nothing extraordinary; only that. people of good will, and you shall en-joy peace in union with God in this world, and in the eternal world hereafter.

been visited by crowds to behold the crib, as also the sanctuary decorations. The electrical display is indeed wonderful, and the high altar is a marvel of The electrician, as also ladles of the sanctuary, society and the sisters deserve great credit for the handsome appearance of the church.

TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH.
At Trinity Rev. J. A. B. Fry
preached as follows:
It is not a very easy task to select a present and to properly adopt the present to the person who is to receive it. The first thought I want to present I think is a very significant one, and is found in the statement already made, I went up street this past week to se-lect two books, one for a little child and Necessarily I sought the counter that in view: First—the need of the recipient, and secondly, the power of the recipient to appreciate the gift. The present that you make is your make the recipient to appreciate the gift. The present that you make is your make the recipient to appreciate the gift. The present that you make is your make the recipient to appreciate the gift. The regular control of the present that you make is your make the recipient to appreciate the gift. The regular control of the present that you make is your make the recipient to appreciate the gift. you have something that you apply to visions, money or toys. great scholarly statesman as was Mr. Gladstone. You would not select a toy

of the recipient. God's conception of the human soul God's estimates of man we are transformed to become new creatures. I want to say first this morning that very few people really come into ap-preciation of themselves in the proper preciation of themselves in the proper spirit. I have as little time, I suppose, for a conceited man as any one, but I do say in the proper and highest sense there are very few men who have come into a proper appreciation of themselves, and no man has a right to measure the value of a soul by any other standard than the gift of the Son of God. I have no right to measure that little boy in the cotton factory by a money standard. I must measure that little boy in the cotton factory by a money standard. I must measure him by the standard that the eternal God would, and should that be my standard he is of infinite value in the wight of God. Now God Almighty could have made you a great many gifts of the could have made you a great many gifts other than His Son. He rould have

to give to the capacity of a Frances Willard. If you wanted to make pres-ents to people of such capacity your present would be adapted to the abil-

ity and the masterfulness of the brain

fingers; it would have been a small thing to put millions in the hands of every man, but I ask you what would be a million dollars to any mar pared with the wealth of the gift of the Son of Ged. If He had wanted to He could have sent an arch-angel to be the companion of every man on the earth, so that as he walked the muddy streets

or tolled in the store he could have been shadowed by the wing of the arch-angel every hour, but what would have been the arch-angel as compared with the privileges of the companionship of the Son of God, and being a joint heir with Him in glory. Oh what a standard God has measured the vale of a soul with. Yet we do not know ourselves, we have never come into possession of a proper understanding and value of a man. God gave, His only begotten Son. Now, take up the second thought. First, His gift was adapted to men because it revealed man to himself. The proper apprecia-tion of the value of man never came false and without justification. until the gift of the Son of God, and as a man, for He was a man of sor-rows and acquainted with grief. He

perfect subordination of His will to the fathers in the salvation of men. Brothers, is there any place where you can find the dignity of a man and the possibility of a man more than in the suffering of Christ? Do you want see a picture of the sublimest manhood? You will not go then to some great theatre of action where the world lifts a man or its enthusiasm, but it you want to see the sublimest picture you follow the Christ into the garden of Gethsemane, and then to Calvary, where was the scene of such a tragedy that you can't describe, and then you have man revealed to you. In the life of that Galllean at whom birth angels. stars, shepherds and wise men came into play, there was something to awake men to the consciousness of

out into the cold frozen garden, the picture of death, flothing green in it. Do you see anything in that soil? One day as the spring comes in that frozen spot where you saw nothing but death omes the fragrance of a delicate flower and the rich green of a beautiful foliage. The sun has seen something in that soil, and when the Master came as God's gift He saw in the frozen wicked heart of man something you and I have never seen, and out of the thing in a rising sun that drives darkness away, that impresses any man, but no man ever had God revealed to ishes you and it seems a very unwholesome thing to you at that time, but remember that you knew that at the Or, if we could see only word. nature with the sun that sometimes searches, and the sea that oftentimes drowns and the pestilence that brings death, if I saw only those I could not ever reach God, but when my Master hind all, I learned that just as that mother punished men when a child, loved me and prayed for me. I learned cause.

all that you can ask, there may be a comfortable chair for you to sit in, and too apparent to need proof want some living eye, some warm son that you want to sit with you at fireside, and look with you at the pictures. After all it is the person with you that makes it what it is.

My thought to you this beautiful Christmas morning, brother, is that in the gift of Christ is God's morals of the valuation upon your own life, that is God's evidence of your need and your capacity. My Lord looked into the human heart and gave Himself to make known to that heart the gift of the Father, and that ought to lift it into a new world. We shall never get through learning the meaning and the value of

FIRST BAPTIST. lect two books, one for a little child and the other for a mature scholarly man. church, throughout the day, were full of interest. The music was of a highcontained fairy tales and childish order, both in the church services and poems for the child. When it came to in the Sunday school. In addition to in the Sunday school. In addition to selecting the book for the mature and the choir, led by Mrs. Alexander scholarly man I went to another apartstephens, Miss May Oates assisted ment of the book store. Why? Bemorning and evening. A very elaborment of the book store. Why? Because it was my wish to adapt the book to the conditions and needs of the one to receive it. And in the fact that one to receive it. And in the fact that fine pieces. Mr. Harry Asbury gave a fine pieces. Mr. Harry Asbury gave a great sinner who need the forgive-solo. Mr. Don Richardson a violation of the solo. Mr. Don Richardson a violation of the solo. Mr. Don Richardson a violation of the solo. Mr. Don Richardson a violation of the solo one to receive it. And in the fact that God gave His only begotten Son, is fine pieces. Mr. Harry Asbury gave in flute solo, Mr. Don Richardson a viocontained one of the sublimest truths flute solo, Mr. Don Richardson a viocontained one of the sublimest truths flute solo, and Mr. Harvey Overcarsh lin solo, and Mr. Harvey Overcarsh The room was beautiful-

recipient to appreciate the gift. The present that you make is your measure of the needs and the power of appreciation of the one to whom you give it. And when you get that thought you have something that you apply the properties of the poor which the scholars have been asked to bring—either pro-

the great God that is enough to lift a soul into a new world. The gift you make is your measure of the needs and Matt. 2.2: "Where is He that is born capacity of the one that receives it, king of the Jews?" He said in part: When God Almighty took the Son of Who these men were and whence they His own bosom and made that gift to men it was God's measure of man's capacity, that fact is with theenough to lift my soul. You would not select an A-B-C-book for a country, but tradition is not authoritative. They belong to the great army of nameless ones, who come for a more and whence they came we are not told. There are many traditions as to their age, position and country, but tradition is not authoritative. They belong to the great army of nameless ones, who come for a more real wholes we have the came were and whence they came we are not told. There are many traditions as to their age, position and country, but tradition is not authoritative. ment into the white light of Christ's presence, render Him service and then pass off the stage of action. But they come asking the great questions which are ever uppermost in the minds of men. Where is He? Who is He? What is He? These are the questions which concern us to-day and will till He shall come again. The world wants to know about Christ.

These men were Gentiles and had studied only the propecies of their master Daniel, and so they come asking, Where is the King? The shepherds with clearer knowledge came saying, Where is the Savior? We must know Him first as Savior, then as King. It is very suggestive how all through this incident interest centers "in Him." this incident interest centers "in Him."
The personal pronoun is repeated over and over—"He-Him"—"the child," showing unmistakably that these wise men come worshiping Jesus. They might desire better knowledge of the kingdom and its laws, but the king himself alone could satisfy. And so to-day men can never find rest and peace except at the feet of Christ the Lord. Pomp, show, wealth and even power, cannot attract and hold the Divine Person—Jesus.

ure to give, but we may give ourselves to God and others, and this is far better than money. We may catch the Christ spirit of this day and go out irom this place to do good—as did the Christ—and glorify God. The following is a synopsis of what

Rev. Dr. M. D. Hardin said at the second Presbyterian church: Jesus Christ, the potent factor in all the world's best thought and wisdom has the incarnation ideas which, furnished us, cast out

He comes to us with the assurance the Master Himself revealed and He that there is a God of limitless love alone has revealed man to himself. He above us, whose purpose is to make showed first that a man should have a all men realize in every fact this size. great unselfsh object to live for, and vine worship and eternal inheritance when you think of Christ while you think of His divinity also think of Him claiming that life is not an unsolved. unsolvable riddle, but the gift of the Allwise God-a gift that all should treasure as of infinite value. He comes felt the same trials that you feel, and yet He showed that a man may have a to us saying that these human powgreat unselfish object, and that an un-selfish one for the good of his fellowers of ours are not mean and indiffer-ent, incapable of performing the men, and that object with Him was the again upright and live, sustained by everlasting truth the word of the livne God.

Jesus Christ is the direct negation of everything that destroys the freedom, beauty, value and joy of human Or, if you prefer another figure, look He is the incarnation and eterlife. nal affirmation of God and of the divine dignity and worth of man. However much our theological ideas may change in some points, this truth, I believe, will live forever and even find a larger acceptance in human life, that Jesus Christ is the word, the living epistle from the heart of the eternal to all the sons of men. In him God has declared himself. In him God has declared himself. God has said to men what he could frozen soil He produces men like have never have said merely through Peter, John and Paul There is some- ordinary human speech. God spoke to Christ. man through the through his uttered human words, but for him this he spoke in a universal Him through nature. The mother pun- human tongue, known and read of every race under the sun in life, in the character of Jesus Christ,

However destructive criticism may other end of that hickory was a hand in the future prove to be, it will never that had wiped your sorrows away; blot out the truth of this revelation. you knew that from that hand was a sympathy going out, that hand loved of God, uttered in and through the you through every stroke of the man Christ Jesus. You and I, my hickory, and with every stroke was a friends, may rest our lives, our desprayer that the punishment might be tiny upon what we learn from that

At Tryon Street Methodist church yesterday 1tov. Dr. preached a powerful sermon and in the evening Rev. T. F. Marr, the pastor, spoke about "Paul as a Christian." came with a great father's heart be- His sermon, in part, was as follows: Thoughtful men never see effects without endeavoring to ascertain the

spoken to this old earth was when Jesus Christ said, "Our Father."

You may have a hourseful for the course of Paul is a subject that involves much serious thought. Large as were his endowments by nature and order to be a subject that involves much serious thought. To account for the course of Paul You may have a beautiful home, it cannot account for the impressions may be well built, and there may be he has left on the world. That he had large natural gifts is

beautiful carpets on the floors and pictures on the walls. But one day there goes out from that home what is nearest to you and then what does it with aversion as something condemnmen? What is it to you then? Do the comfortable room, the carpets and the beautiful things satisfy. No, you yearn for the touch of another, you if he had not become a Christian, for the corp. he was cast in nature's noblest mould. hand to shake, you want another heart in that home, and after all it is a per-

consecrated to him.

Neither has belief in a set of principles the power to produce such an effect. Other men of decided genius have died for what they believed true who did not change the current of human tory to any appreciable exhuman tent. 1. derns of fidelity they may be; but master-builders they were not. Nor can it be accounted for on the ground of true patriotism. Love for man only stimulate our powers at best. But to say that Paul had all these in

a very high degree does not account for his wonderful life. There was evidently a greater power added to those he already possessed. What was that power? To say it was education is equally tame. His culture was eminently necessary for his position, but this alone could not have so impressed the world. His connection with Christ alone can ex-plain it. Paul was above everything else a Christian. All gifts and graces TAKE PISO'S CURE FOR CONSUMP-TION for Coughs, Colds and Consumption.

of his life from an evil career to Christ.

Him-hot Mary, but the child Jesus.
Like them, we must first give ourselves to Jesus, then our treasures will be acceptable. They make a terrible mistake who think to buy off God with money. Thy money perish with thee," said Peter to one who thought his.

After we have given ourselves, then we may offer our treasures, as did these men their gold, frankincense and these men their gold, frankincense and myrh. Some of us may not have treasured to persuade him that he had no tried to persuade him that he had no troubled about his ain the contessor tried to persuade him that he had no cause for such trouble. But he would spend whole nights in prayer. (Wesley.) The penitence of Wesley is also yell known. That Christ had redeemed his life from an evil career. "By the grace of God I am what I

It may seem strange that Paul considered his pre-Christian life a fail-ure; but so he did. And this despite: The fact that he was a moral man, he says he was blameless. He had attained to a high order of culture and had been recognized by the nation as a person of distinction. Paul means beyond all doubt to say that natural ability is useful only as it is influenced by Christ. To see the force of this we have only to note the many brilliant lives wasted from lack of such consecration. There are useful men in every community who would have been nothing but for Christianity. The second great element in Paul's Christianity was his conversion. The two notable features of his conversion was the gulf it ent, incapable of performing the work that has been given them, but are good and worthy if we will only learn of him how to employ them. He that had taken place. All conversions comes to us claiming that God has may not be so marked as Paul's, but not left us in hopeless ignorance, to all that is genuine will be distinctly struggle in the dark with monster dif-ficulties and fin by he destroyed by was his acceptance of Christ. To us them, for he houself is God's eternal it may seem strange that he had any word, attered to all mankind he him-self is light to this world. He incar-must remember (1) Christ was of nates a message that all may read, a very humble human origin, while message of such entrancing beauty and promise that a file the heart with Christ came from no institution of hope, the mind with truth, the word learning, while Paul was brought up with strength. Through him our poor at the feet of Gamaliel. (2) But prostrated persols are able to stand when on the way to Demascus Christ appeared to him in glory, Paul's oppo-sition ceased. Hence it was Christ who saved him and not his own righteousness.

These two elements must enter every genuine conversion. The conversion that does not perfectly draw the life from the world and to Christ is not very marked. After Paul's conversion his whole life comprehended in one word-Christ. "To me life is Christ." Christ became the governing principle of his life. He never did anything without first getting or-ders at the Cross. Christ became the supreme Object of his love. Paul could never forget the love that made the cross a possibility. Christ was also enthroned in his intellect.

There is that in Christianity to command respect from the greatest minds. It is the only explanation of the prov-idence of God. It shows that all these seemingly contradictory influences are working out the grandest and noblest results. It is the only satisfactory explanation of the end of man. life is a picture of ours. It began in obscurity and wended its way through sorrow and suffering to the Cross and the grave. But see him standing on the other side of the grave and know what man is to be. We therefore have religion that can satisfy every power of the human soul.

When the Bank Failed. New York Tribune.

When the Afro-American Bank falled on angry depositor met the president demanded his money. Where my money? money. I don't keer fur de bank. I des want-my money. "How I know where yo' money?" aid the president contemptuously. "Where de money when de white folks' bank fail? You ain't posted. Wat you know bout business? When de bank fail hit des explode, and dey

Capt. Sam Kirkland Dies in South Carolina.

Edgefield, S. C., Special, 24th, to Charleston News and Courier. Major S. S. Kirkland, formerly of Hillsboro, N. C., but who has resided here for the last twenty years, died at his residence in town this afternoon, after a lingering illness. He served with distinction in the war between the States and 'was a man of sterling worth and noble impulses. His body will be carried to his old home for in-

Oldest Cftizen of Lancaster, S. C., Lancaster Special, 24th, to Charleston

News and Courier.
Mr. W. Wiley Clanton, Lancaster's oldest citizen, died here to-day in his 90th year. He was a good man and had served his country gollantly in three wars-Seminole, Mexican and

It is The Paper.

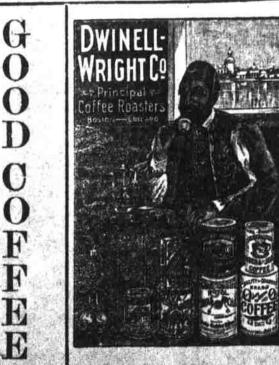
King's Weckly, of Greenville.
The Charlotte Observer deserves all the good things that may be said about it. It is the paper and 20,000 an hour! it. It is the paper—and 20,000 an hour! What will the other dailies do? Truth, honor, absolute fairness and independence are its leading characteristics, and it can only lead.

Miss Annie Young has returned from Washington, D. C., where she spent five months

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******* CHRISTMAS

Another year is fast drawing to a close with its sunlight and shadows-its withered leaves and fragrant flowers.

Joyous time, happy hearts, cheerful homes, made bright by the glorious anticipation of expected pleasures.

Kind hearts, loving remembrances, tender recol-lections of "Home, sweet home." It's Christmas time. Let every heart be merry.

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