

THE PREACHER'S PROBLEM
DIFFERENCE HIS OBSTACLE

A Man of Words and a Church Worker Engage in a Conversation—The Task of the Minister Discussed—The Per Cent. of Churches Small—In Order to Keep Afloat the Preacher Must Be Able to Do Good Work in the Streets—The Canon of the Pulpit—The Indifferent Man Studies the Record of the Man Who Would Preach to Him—He Puts His Moral Character in the Balance With That of the Pulpit—

"Do you realize that the minister of the Gospel is faced with a great problem?" asked an indifferent man of faith. "Yes, I do, and I think of it every day," said the church worker. "What per cent. of the people in this city attend church—consider well before you answer, for this is a church-going town?"

"Why, I could not say without time to look into it." "I have investigated far enough to discover that it is very small—yes, alarmingly small. I should say that somewhere between 10 and 15 per cent. belong to the churches of the city and about three-fourths of the members attend regularly."

"I have been afraid to search for the truth on that point, yet I have known for a long time that the preachers were not reaching the majority of the people." "As I see it," said the man who brought up the subject, "the South is in a transition stage. The people are pouring into the towns and cities from the country and are quitting the farm for the factory. Take for example Charlotte, Concord, Gastonia, Salisbury, Thomasville, Lexington, High Point and Greensboro, all within one hundred miles of here. What do you find? The last Federal census shows a falling off in some rural townships in this county. None of the strictly country precincts have held their own. What does this bring about?"

"Let us imagine a rural township for the sake of argument. In that farming community land-owners and tenants, both white and colored, make up the population twenty years ago. The sons and daughters of the land-lords were brought up to attend church at least once a week, to go to Sunday school and to read the Bible. Every home had its Bible and most of them a Shaker Catechism. The negroes had small churches or attended white churches. The non-laboring white man rarely ever saw inside of a church. What man raised in a community like the one described does not recall an occasional poor white man, as he walked down the path to the house of worship, slipped in, as it were, dropped in a back seat and listened to the preacher? It was a rare thing to see such persons at church."

But, these people—the three classes—the landlord's children, and those of the white and colored tenants are filling the cities. Are they attending church? We shall drop the negro. I do not know whether he is making religious progress or not. Let us consider the white man—the landlord and his former tenant. When ever these two classes get to town the gulf between them closes and in the struggle for existence the bottom rail may get on top. Why, look about you, and count the instances of that sort. I see the grandsons of wealthy slave-owners serving as clerks for the grandsons of former tenants. The family distinction is passing with the years.

It, he might have taken pride in it, but if those who built it had waited for him to build it, he would not have moved.

"The preacher who carries here and sees the grand parade of church people on Sunday says that Charlotte is a church-going town. But the man who looks into the facts and compares figures believes differently. "Our people will go anywhere to be entertained. The Sunday of the 20th of May celebration a year ago two baseball nines of the detachment of United States Cavalry sent here met at the diamond at Latta Park and started a game. The news came to town and by the time the police officers could go out and stop the playing the grandstand was full of men and women and every park-bound car was packed and jammed."

"The preacher who says funny things and makes local dig can draw the crowd. But the plain man of God who preaches the Bible, cannot attract. Therefore, the hired choir, with its many soloists, fiddlers, cornetists, and other specialists is employed to attract. It is not an unusual thing to hear a man who has been to church say that he enjoyed the singing, but took no interest in the preaching."

"The preacher has a problem. He must reach the indifferent horde and interest it. If it is a sin to sell soft drinks on Sunday, it is a sin to buy them. The preacher must appeal to the consumer. Convert him and then there will be no need of a Sunday law."

HE IS A LITTLE HUFFY.

Mr. Bradford, of Gandersburg, If You Please. Mr. W. B. Bradford, assistant postmaster of Charlotte, walked into the observer's office yesterday afternoon with a begrudging expression on his countenance.

"I'm not from Ferreltown," he ejaculated suddenly. "Well, who said you were?" inquired a member of the local force. "The Chronicle did," he answered, with an air of injured innocence. "And I have come in here to have that statement corrected. I am not from Ferreltown. I am from Gandersburg. Yes, Gandersburg—up here in Cabarrus county. After having gone to all the trouble of being born in Gandersburg, The Chronicle comes out this afternoon and refers to me as having come from Ferreltown. Not that I have a word to say against Ferreltown—it is a community for which I have the highest respect, but at the same time, in the interests of accuracy I want it stated that I am from Gandersburg and not Ferreltown," continued Mr. Bradford.

"I am proud of having been born in Gandersburg," some of Charlotte's most prominent citizens came here from Gandersburg. Besides myself, there are Mr. Charles W. Johnston, of the Highland Park mill; Mr. J. A. Sims, of Dilworth, and and—and—well, there are several others, but I can't think of them just now. Anyhow, just because that statement 'The Chronicle made corrected, will you?" The correction is made herewith. Henceforth let all parties take warning that Mr. W. B. Bradford is from Gandersburg, not Ferreltown."

MISS NINA BROWN DEAD. Daughter of Mrs. Jennie Brown succumbs to Typhoid Fever—Was a Popular and Efficient Telephone Operator—A Member of East Avenue Tabernacle—Interment to be at Amity.

FARMS IN FINE SHAPE.

A Fine Crop Certain and a Fair Yield of Cotton Expected—Farmers in Prosperous Circumstances. The corn crop in Mecklenburg county this season is considered by many the best in recent years. It is strong and healthy looking, well fruited and hardy and bids fair to produce an unusual yield. With propitious seasons from now on, the production will be abundant enough to satisfy the most pessimistic farmer.

On the whole, it is the belief of those who are accustomed to watch things, that the farmers are in tiptop shape and that the prospects are bright for a prosperous year.

Report of Presbyterian Hospital. Following is the report of the Presbyterian Hospital for the month of July: Number of days patients spent in hospital, 1,025; number of patients in hospital July 1, 38; number of patients admitted during July, 51; number dismissed during July, 33; births, 9; deaths, 7; operations 25; private patients admitted in July, 28; ward patients, 15; charity, 8; number of days given to charity patients, 153; number of days given to semi-charity patients, 383; given by hospital to support of charity over and above outside donations, \$421.57; number of outside cases treated, 38.

Report of Good Samaritan Hospital. Following is the report of the Good Samaritan Hospital, colored, for the month of July just closed: Patients in hospital July 1st, 7; patients admitted during July, 13; patients discharged during July, 11; patients in hospital at present date 7; deaths, 2; operations, 6; number of days' treatment in hospital, 202; outside cases, 5. The report is signed by Anna Buchanan, matron.

Mrs. Lillian Holmesley Bott. Mrs. Lillian Holmesley Bott, formerly of this city, is making quite a reputation as a singer in London. Recently she was invited to sing on a programme with Caruso. She has a sweet, lyric soprano voice. Mrs. George Holmesley, her mother, will join her in London soon and they will go to Berlin for a visit.

Salisbury Young People Run Away to Charlotte and Marry. At the residence of Rev. Hugh K. Boyer, pastor of Tryon Street Methodist church, Mr. James R. Belt and Miss Daisy Lee Kesler, both of Salisbury, were married at 8 o'clock. Mr. Boyer officiating. It was a runaway affair, there being objection to the match on the part of the father of the bride. Present at the ceremony were Misses Hattie and Ruth Moser of Greenville, S. C. The party left immediately after the marriage for Greenville, S. C., where the bride and groom will make their home in the future.

Baseball To-Day at Latta Park. The mechanical force of the morning paper and a baseball team composed of local talent, respectively, since it is self-imposed in the poetic and classical appellation of White Socks will meet on the diamond this afternoon at Latta Park. An admission of 25 cents will be charged. The players are amateurs not commercialists. In the strictest sense and charge money only because the grounds must be paid for, but the article of ball promised will be worth it. Both teams have played fast ball at times this season and will probably do the same thing to-day. Ladies will be admitted free.

Two more solid trains of troops of the State of South Carolina passed through Charlotte yesterday en route from Jamestown. It was a fine looking set of men.

A MEMORABLE DAY. One of the days we remember with pleasure as well as with pride in our health is the one on which we became acquainted with Dr. King's New Life Pills and Pills for the bowels. It cured my headache and biliousness and kept the bowels right. 2c. at all drug stores.

PAYS GOOD DIVIDENDS ADMIRALTY SHORELESS COAL. PROMPT SHIPMENTS FROM OUR OWN MINES LARGEST AND BEST EQUIPPED COLLIERIES CHESAPEAKE & OHIO COAL & COKE CO. M.O. BROOKS GEN. MGR. RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

STANDARD ADDING MACHINES. Highest in quality, durability and efficiency and lowest in price. Model B \$185 Model E \$250. J. E. CRAYTON & CO. General Agents, 217 South Tryon Street. CHARLOTTE, N. C.

For Sale! SHOW CASES and COUNTERS. Owing to the rearrangement of our store we are offering for sale four handsome 8-foot Show Cases together with their counters. B. A. Southerland JEWELER

The Tate - Brown Co. Extreme Price Reductions IN Mens' Straw Hats. Without reserve, we have subjected every Straw Hat in the house to a reduction of one-half. There is "character" in any Straw Hat from this store, and right materials and sterling workmanship. All Straw Hats one-half original price. The Tate - Brown Co. No. 6 S. Tryon Street. "Just a Whisper Off the Square."

MOSQUITO NETS. Do not lose a night's rest by the worry of mosquitoes and flies. Come to this store and get a Dixie Canopy. The Dixie is the best—it insures comfort, and where the Dixie is once used no other will do. We carry the Dixie frames to fit either wood or metal beds, price \$3.00, and we attach them to the bed pithout extra charge. We carry the cheaper Canopies, including the Climax or the turn-over kind, which swings from the ceiling. Prices range \$1.75 to \$2.50. If not convenient to call, phone your order in; all phone orders receive prompt attention. New lot of Porch Rockers just received and we will be pleased to have you call on us when in need of anything for the porch. W. T. McCOY The Home Furnisher.

A coat is not such a valuable article these hot days, so we tell you to buy TROUSERS. We have a complete line of summer weight Trousers; all the fashionable patterns and fabrics. If you buy from us you are making a selection from the finest line to be seen. Goods sent on approval returnable at our expense.

LONG-TATE CLOTHING CO. Give Me Some Thin Underwear. We're hearing this cry constantly these days, and we never fail to respond to the call at once. Our line of Breezy Underwear is very comfortable. We've the Balbriggan, Lisle, Gauze, Nainsook, Mesh, etc., etc. 50 Cents to \$1.50 Per Garment. It's our variety of underwear materials and our unusual range of sizes, coupled to our reasonable price, that brings us such a large Underwear business. We want your Underwear business.

Yorke Bros. & Rogers. Roll Top Desks Flat Top Desks Single and Double Desks. Office Furniture of all kinds is what we carry in stock all the time. The office is the home of the business man and the professional man. You cannot have things too convenient around you. Modern office equipments are the best investment you can make. They should not be viewed as an expense but as an investment that pays.

Parker - Gardner Co. Roll-Top-Desks \$20.00 to \$100.00 Flat-Top Desks \$15.00 to \$75.00 Office Tables \$3.50 to \$40.00 Typewriter Desks \$5.00 to \$60.00 Book-keepers' Desks \$18.00 to \$25.00 Copy Press Stands \$12.50 to \$20.00 Index File Cabinets \$1.00 to \$8.00 Vertical Letter File Cabinets \$15.00 to \$25.00 Legal Blank Cabinets \$10.00 to \$20.00 Insurance Blank Cabinets \$10.00 to \$20.00 Document Cabinets \$3.00 to \$15.00 Letter Files, Index Cards, Office Supplies of all kinds to suit any business. We are exclusive agents for the Macy System Book Cases and Filing Cabinets of all kinds. Equip your office with the Macy line, and you have the best.