

The Gazette-News

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Wednesday, December 20, 1911

CONCERNING CHURCH NEWS AND VIEWS.

A greatly esteemed friend of The Gazette-News, who often offers helpful suggestions, out of an abundant experience and deep wisdom, and because of a desire that The Gazette-News may neglect no opportunity in its field of public service, asks if the paper cannot, on Saturdays, publish a sermon by one of the able Asheville ministers. It is suggested that this is the more desirable, since printed sermons regarded as unorthodox are regularly accessible to the people. The unorthodox teacher does manage to keep things in more or less of a stew and has caused some good ministers and laymen tribulation of spirit. However, in a community as large as Asheville, there are a certain number of people, many of them excellent citizens and earnest men and women, who may be described as naturally prone to the unorthodox. They prefer to receive their spiritual sustenance from some remote source, rather than to accept the teachings of men whom they know, and know to be of good repute, and educated in theology. In a time of personal crisis it is conceivable that most of them might be glad enough to have the comfort and counsel of Dr. Byrd, Dr. Campbell, Mr. Waller, Mr. Saumenig or whoever is the duly ordained shepherd of the flock to which they belong, rather than the utterances of what might be called, from the standpoint of orthodoxy, a quack theology; however, in good health, and with no cloud on the horizon, there is a superior value and special virtue that attaches to goods that have come from afar—they stir the imagination. Before someone objects that these are not matters a newspaper is qualified to discuss, let us look at the subject. Some years ago a formal tender of the columns of The Gazette-News was made to the Ministers' association. It was pointed out that when the association had anything to say to the general public, here was a platform from which they might address an audience much larger than that of a great many churches put together. Circumstances existing at that time prevented the acceptance of this tender, there was then about to be undertaken the publication of a journal which should not only convey to the public messages from the clergymen in a purely ministerial relation, but was to address itself generally to conditions from the points of morality and citizenship. However, the tender was received with the most cordial expressions, and a relationship was established between this paper as a newspaper, and some of the ministers as individuals which has proved of mutual satisfaction and has resulted in good.

We pass our friend's suggestion up to the ministers. This paper does not on Mondays usually carry reports of Sunday's sermons for two reasons: first, a longhand report of a sermon, as often as not, carries little of the sermon as delivered, and often carries matter never contemplated by the preacher as part of his sermon. Second, this is a secular newspaper. It undertakes to print the news of the world, and advertising—as much of these as three linotype machines can set. Things move in such a whirl nowadays that the six-days-a-week paper finds itself with a vast task on hand the morning after the day in which no paper is issued. We trust our position in this matter will be understood. There are religious publications, and the members of every denomination ought to take some of their church papers.

In addition to all this, however, there is always some local religious concern that ought to be treated of in the local press from an authoritative point of view. And many of the readers of this paper, including those who are unable to go to church, would like to have the privilege of reading a sermon by an Asheville minister each week. The Gazette-News would like

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precipitate the opportunity to present such a sermon; with time for composition in advance it could be published on Saturday, or Monday, or perhaps it would have to be deferred another day.

As we suggested to the Ministers' association before, here is a field and an opportunity. The sermons that are delivered in the churches could be supplied, or shorter sermons, specially prepared for the larger and more diverse congregation.

As to church happenings and the doings of the various organizations in the churches, these things are new; the sort of information for whose publication the newspaper primarily exists. This is good news, as opposed to certain other sorts that may properly be classed as bad news, but for which there is public demand. The news staff gather all the chronicles of the churches and church societies that they can. Some of these societies have a publicity organization, some members whose duty it is to furnish the papers with reports of their proceedings such as may be of general interest, and this is an excellent idea. Something of the sort is almost necessary in these days of recognition of publicity value. There is, for instance, the regular and systematic publicity work of the Y. M. C. A.

DEMOCRATS AND THE SHERWOOD BILL

The Gazette-News holds no brief for the majority of the house of representatives who passed the Sherwood pension bill, nor for any of those who voted for it. It was passed as a matter of political expediency, and its wisdom from that point of view must be determined by the future events. There was apparently little difference of opinion among Democrats of the Democratic house, as a whole. Taking their position upon a somewhat indefinite platform declaration, a majority blithely went on record.

Criticism by Democrats and Democratic newspapers, however, cannot with any measure of consistency be directed toward Mr. Guder, or Mr. Clark, or Mr. Lloyd, or any other individual who voted in the affirmative on this measure. The position of any of these as party men is unassailable. Any criticism to them is essentially criticism of the deliberate action and policy of a majority of the party in the house.

It is just possible, for aught all know, that Mr. Guder may be under some obligation to the chairman of his party's congressional committee, or that he may some time need the support of this committee, or the speaker of the house, for some measure that is of importance to his own constituency—that is neither here nor there. The point is that criticism of any member's action in this matter becomes criticism of the party, a fact which is gradually dawning upon a number of the brethren.

The academic question of right and wrong in this particular bill is no longer debatable on party lines, whatever one's individual opinion about it may be.

Berger, the lone socialist in congress, considers the passage of the Sherwood pension bill by the Democratic house a good stroke of political business. And Berger is no mean judge of politics.

Here comes that Christmas weather, right on schedule.

"DANIEL BOONE"

"Daniel Boone on the Trail" was seen by a fair sized audience, last evening, at the Auditorium. It was a melodrama of the most melodramatic type. It is hard for one who knows of Kentucky history to accept Robert H. Harris' interpretation of the life and deeds of the great pioneer, who by his indomitable will unseated the way for the founding of a great state. The mission of the play seems to be, to please those who want blood and thunder. The work of Jack Williams, as "Hastus," a Kentucky legend, is worthy of special mention.

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Opposite Post Office on Patton Ave.

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Bon Marche

Shop this Week at Carolina's Greatest Department Store

Christmas News From the Christmas Store

Monday's express brought us many Christmas novelties, we expect more today. We prepared for this great holiday business with the largest and most complete stock we had yet handled, but we found them insufficient to satisfy the great demand for Bon Marche merchandise. Over two weeks ago we began to order more goods, and they are now coming in fast.

See our windows for suggestions for Christmas presents.

High Grade Leather Bags Received

There has been an unusual demand for the better grade of Leather Bags at this store. Monday a large shipment was received. These added to our regular stock makes a rare assortment to select from.

Prices of Leather Bags from \$1 to \$15 each.
Gun Metal and Silver Mesh Bags are priced at \$1.50 to \$20 each.

The Dolls Are Going

Folks are buying good Dolls for Christmas giving. That is, many of them are buying Bon Marche Dolls. The joy of the child will be enhanced when she realizes that she has a Doll so much better than the general run.

Campbell Kids and Colored Joe Dolls for 50c to \$1.
Dressed and Undressed Dolls are priced at 50c to \$6.

The Royal Gift--Furs

Could anything be more acceptable than a set of warm Furs for winter? Could anything be more useful? Then obey that impulse and buy "her" a Fur Set. Whether "she" be wife, mother, daughter, sister or sweetheart, "she" will enjoy receiving so appropriate a present.

Fur Sets are priced at \$5 to \$150 a set.

Suits Are Selling at Half Price

A clearance sale of all Tailored Suits is now going on. We want to get the winter Suits out as soon as possible in order to make room for the Spring Suits have already begun to arrive. Here is a chance to buy a very valuable present for little money.

\$18.50 to \$50 Suits are priced for quick selling at \$9.25 to \$25