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EDITORIAL.

IMMORTALITY.

Foiled by our fellow-men, depressed, outworn,

We leave the brutal world to take its way,
And, Patience! in another life, we say,
The world shall be thrust down, and we upborne.

And will not, then, the immortal armies scorn
The world's poor, routed leavings? or will they
Who failed under the heat of this life's day,
Support the fervors of the heavenly morn?

No, no! the energy of life may be
Kept on after the grave, but not begun;
And he who flagged not in the earthly strife,
From strength to strength advancing—only he,
His soul well knit, and all his battles won,
Mounts, and that hardly, to eternal life.—
Matthaeus Arnold.

HE who enjoys that liberty found in
Christ will never close the mouth of his
own conscience or that of another.

EMERSON says that "each man is a
hero and oracle to some body." This
may not be true. But we know that
"each man" who is faithful in the least
things is a hero in the eyes of God.

"IF THE Methodists decline, what
Church is safe?" This pertinent ques-
tion is asked by the *Southern Churchman*,
which is one of the most ably edited ex-
changes coming to our office. There is
a high compliment bound up in this
question. Yet there is no room for self-
complacency. The question should cause
us to think calmly and prayerfully.

IT is often said that when the Lord
calls a man to preach he calls men and
women to hear him. This is true, but
the fact does not prove that the preacher
with a small congregation may not be
doing just as great a work as the preacher
with a large congregation. Many who
are called to hear do not respond as
readily as the man who is called to
preach.

THEY are now saying that the so-called
imperialistic policy will finally close the
doors in heathen lands against the Amer-
ican missionary. The point is, that the
missionary will be suspected of having
imperialistic motives in preaching Christ.
If this be true, it is strange that the same
thing has not already happened in the
case of missionaries of England, whose
expansive policy is a matter of history.

WE notice that the *New York Chris-
tian Advocate*, in giving the statistics of
the Christian denominations in the United
States for 1898, reports a decrease of
9,009 members in the Methodist Episcopal
Church, South. We believe that this is
a mistake. We believe that our Church
had a gain in membership for 1898. But
the clerical mistake will never be cor-
rected. It has acquired a momentum
which will drive it through all statisti-
cal tables for years to come. How care-
ful we should be in writing letters and
figures!

"A COMMENCEMENT OUTING."

A promise to preach the Commence-
ment sermon at Buie's Creek Academy
on Sunday, May 14, carried us down into
Harnett County on Saturday afternoon,
May 13. It was our privilege to travel
for the first time on the Cape Fear and
Northern Railroad. This is a new road,
of which B. N. Duke is President and J.
C. Angier, General Manager. Mr. H. E.
Norris, of Apex, who showed us great
kindness on our trip, is Attorney for the
road, which is fortunate in having such
an astute, well-equipped legal adviser.
The two termini of the road at present
are Apex and Angier, twenty miles
apart. The route is through a country
which, to the onlooker from the car win-
dow, seems uninteresting, but which,
nevertheless, is full of undeveloped re-
sources. The whole country along the
line seems to be awakening from a long
sleep. The roadbed of the Cape Fear
and Northern is in splendid condition,
and the speed and comfort of the loco-
motion were a great surprise to us. The
road is strictly first-class, and is destined
to play an important part in the material
life of the State.

At Angier, in Harnett County, we were
met by Mr. Lee, of Buie's Creek Acad-
emy. He proved himself not only an
expert driver, but a most agreeable com-
panion. The roads were rough, but it
was glorious to come in contact with na-
ture once more, to hear her sweet voice,
and catch the perfume of her myriad
chalices of beauty. The fragrance of the
wild grape blooms loaded the air. Even
the tall-plumed pines, scarred with the
hand of trade, seemed to bow us a wel-
come. The white bells of the huckle-
berry, forming the sweet bridal-wreath
of the forest, rang chimes which the in-
ner ear could catch as we drove through
swamps and forest. God seemed nearer
to us during that ride.

It was our pleasure to find a home with
that genial Baptist preacher, Rev. J. A.
Campbell, Principal of Buie's Creek
Academy. He and his interesting family
know how to make it pleasant for a
stranger who, however, cannot remain one
under their roof.

We preached Sunday morning to a
large congregation in one of the best
auditoriums in the State. It can seat
fully two thousand people. Rev. W. M.
Forbes, preacher-in-charge of Dunn Cir-
cuit, was present. He had an appointment
near at the same hour, but generously
brought his congregation over to hear us.
We appreciated the presence of so many
of his members from Dunn, twelve miles
distant. They are enthusiastic in their
praise of Bro. Forbes.

It was our pleasure to meet and make
many friends, among whom was the
mother of Rev. C. W. Byrd, of the West-
ern North Carolina Conference. She is
growing old, but the freshness of her
spiritual life seems phenomenal.

On Sunday night we preached again.
The service was a sweet one. The talks
of some young men were inspiring. Quite
a number expressed a deep concern for
their souls, and one was converted. Quite
a happy closing to a Commencement Sun-
day.

The past session of Buie's Creek Acad-
emy has been very successful, both in
point of patronage and quality of work
done. When a young man of no experi-
ence, and no capital save a high and con-
secrated purpose to serve his day and
generation, goes into a section, sparsely
settled, and remote from the railroad, and
succeeds in establishing a school with
ample buildings, and with a patronage
of nearly three hundred students, repre-
senting nearly every section of the State,
he does a work which is worthy to live
in history. Such a work has been done
at Buie's Creek by Rev. J. A. Campbell.

The value of property in that section
has been enhanced several hundred per-
cent. The parents are educating their
children, and the moral life is sweet and

strong. In the last six years there have
gone to college from Harnett County a
larger number of students than during
all the years previous to this time. Prof.
Campbell has a select faculty, represent-
ing the different denominations. The
instruction is thorough, and what is best
of all, the spiritual interests of the stu-
dents are as closely guarded as is the in-
tellectual life. This is one reason why
a religious service on Commencement
Sunday was revivalistic in its nature.

Several students from Buie's Creek will
go to Trinity College next session. We
have already mentioned the fact that Mr.
P. D. Woodall, who has been a member
of the faculty the past year, and Mr. W.
R. Royall, a former student, will apply
for license to preach at the District Con-
ference at Brown's Chapel.

THE PASTOR'S ERA.

The revival fires began to burn early
in the year. They continue to burn.
The most pleasant news published in the
RALEIGH CHRISTIAN ADVOCATE is in the
reports from the preachers, telling what
great things God has been doing for them.

It is very evident that the evangelistic
wave which has lately swept over the
land has receded. Many of those that
were washed upon the shore have gone
back with the wave. We would not un-
derestimate the great work which has
been done in the evangelistic movement.
But we would emphasize the fact that this
is preeminently the pastor's era. It is
less possible than ever before for him to
divide his awful responsibility and throw
the burden of souls on some one else.

There are hundreds of congregations
over the land casting about in their minds
for the best men to conduct their meet-
ings for them. In their anxiety, they
are ready to go to unusual expense in
securing some preacher of unusual power.
In the majority of cases, there will be a
failure on the part of the "preacher of
unusual power." By this failure God
will attempt to teach these congregations
that their pastor is the only one who can
successfully lead the thirsting soul to the
"fountains of living waters."

God is trying to teach also the lesson
that the burden which rests upon the
pastor rests upon the congregation. No
longer can evangelistic, prestige and pow-
er cover the congregation's lack of spiritual
life and activity.

When a faithful pastor feels the bur-
dens of souls and realizes that he can look
to none save God, himself, and his congre-
gation; and when the congregation feels
the same burden and looks to the same
source for succor, these is a revival near,
and the Holy Spirit is preparing for his
convicting, regenerating, and sanctifying
work.

Let no pastor despair of having a rich
work of grace in his charge this year. He
may have a poor idea of his abilities.
His field may be a Sodom. External
evangelistic aid may not be forthcoming.
But he should remember that it is
under such circumstances that God
delights to magnify His grace in sending
glorious spiritual showers. God grant
that our religious papers this year may be
filled with reports of conversions to God
and accessions to the Church.

WHEN it was stated by the Associated
Press that General Wheeler had been
snubbed in Charleston, and certain editors
were fulminating their indignation, we
felt sure that it was all a mistake, and
that a snubbing of the little General who
sustained so gloriously Southern pres-
tige on the heights of San Juan, is im-
possible. Col. Robinson, of the
Adjutant General's staff, says that "Gen-
eral Wheeler was not in the parade be-
cause the negro boy who was sent to
carry his horse to him, through inatten-
tion or natural stupidity, carried the
horse to the wrong number, and remained
there until the procession was over."

Course of Events.

CONSTERNATION has been caused in Brit-
ish and German diplomatic circles by the
news of the arrest at Johannesburg of seven
men who claimed that they had been in-
structed by the British War Department
to enroll troops, seize Johannesburg Fort,
and hold possession of the town until the
arrival of the British troops. This looks
exceedingly revolutionary. But fortun-
ately the matter is more smoke than fire,
if certain representations are correct. A
number of prominent South Africans,
connected with the largest business enter-
prises of South Africa, state that the affair
is trumped up, and that the arrested men
are irresponsible parties. President Krug-
er, the Governor of Cape Colony, and
the High Commissioner of South Africa,
Sir Alfred Milner, are to have a meeting
soon. Affairs in South Africa, however,
are in a very unsettled condition, and the
sheet lightning can be seen in the sky.

WITH characteristic and inimitable
sang froid, the powers have proceeded to
take charge of China. The "spheres of
influence" have been outlined and sanc-
tioned by the red tape of diplomacy and
so-called international law. But it seems
now, changing the figure somewhat, that
the "worm has turned." The famous
obesity of the celestial kingdom has not
robbed it of all spirit. The latest news
is that China will resist further invasion
by the Powers. Orders have been sent to
all the Mandarins and Taotos of all the
Districts, urging them to concentrate all
their fighting men and prepare for war.
The Chinese navy, it is said, is unusually
active. This looks ominous for Germa-
ny who is advancing from the North.
Our opinion is that if China makes a
move at once, this action will disperse the
Peace Conference at The Hague more
effectively than if a peace of dynamite
were thrown in the midst.

AMONG recent events in the ecclesias-
tical world on this side of the sea the two
most important, perhaps, were the ordi-
nation of Professor Briggs by Bishop
Potter and the acceptance of Dr. Whitsett's
resignation. It is remembered that Pro-
fessor Briggs, found himself in an uncom-
fortably narrow position, from which he
was relieved by summary action, in which
his own volition played a very small
part. When it became known that he
intended applying for orders in the
Episcopal Church, there arose in certain
quarters an opposition which caused us
to think that perhaps after all this
Church has been wrongfully called a
"City of Refuge" for all theological
recalcitrants. The opposition, however,
was fruitless, the gates were flung open,
and the errant Briggs was led inside by
Bishop Potter. The whole ecclesiastical
world will now have a season of rest from
trouble on this question. Dr. Whitsett,
who advanced the idea in the *Independent*
that the early people called Baptists
were not immersionists, and proved his
point by genuine records, met consider-
able opposition, not only among the lead-
ing Baptist preachers, but among the
great mass of Baptists all over the South.
After so long a time Dr. Whitsett handed
in his resignation as President of the
Theological Seminary at Louisville, Ky.
His friends were not willing to accept the
resignation. The other portion demanded
that it be accepted. The warring was
so warm as to disturb not only the peace
of the Church, but to threaten the integ-
rity of the Southern Baptist Convention.
Serious trouble was expected at the late
Convention at Louisville. Providence,
however, is watching over the affairs of
this great Church, and all disturbing
forces were eliminated in the acceptance
of Dr. Whitsett's resignation and the
election of his successor in Dr. J. P.
Green, who, we have no doubt, is fully
equipped for his new and responsible po-
sition. We are glad that the Baptist
skies are clear once more.

1 Other Tripods.

In a business letter to the editor the
other one of our most faithful
preachers said: "Brother, there are so few
men true to the core." How sad it is to
be compelled to admit that he speaks
truly. Sharp tricks, underhanded ad-
vantage of a brother, misrepresentation
of facts, more the result of a zeal without
knowledge than a deliberate purpose to
be false. And yet the whole transaction,
though performed apparently in the name
of the Lord, a travesty on truth, and on
religion as well. That is using the livery
of heaven in which to do the devil's
work. Until the Church is freed from the
contaminating influence of such men
she cannot hope to prosper.—*Central
Methodist.*

That influential paper, *The Daily Mail*
of London, has published a dispatch from
one of its correspondents in Rome, assert-
ing that "the heads of the religious orders
in the Philippines have presented a peti-
tion to the Pope in which they protest
against the 'American atrocities.'"
"Never was there such a brutal war,"
says the address, adding, "Hatred of the
United States will live forever in the
hearts of the Filipinos."

While many of the letters of soldiers
to their friends bear the marks of that
kind of sensational writing in which ex-
cited boys indulge, some calm and well-
considered statements show that not a
few acts of superfluous cruelty have been
perpetrated by men wearing the uniform
of this country. Though this is natural,
it is none the less deplorable, and those
who perpetrate such acts should be re-
primanded or punished, according to the
gravity of their offence.—*New York
Christian Advocate.*

The dignity of the service depends al-
most wholly upon the minister. He de-
termines and imparts the temper of the
hour. To make a service what it ought
to be, he should bring to it an evident
spirit of profound reverence. He should
be prepared perfectly at every point, so
that the people may feel restful, confident
that everything will come exactly into
into place. For this it is necessary that
he should have the order of service be-
fore his eye, should have every place
found in Bible and hymn-book, and
should have settled in mind the way in
which the words he speaks ought to be
spoken. He must be careful, brief, and
prompt without haste. It degrades the
service when the minister neglects the
portion in which the people happen to
be engaged, in order to hunt out what
comes next. He himself should be
worshipping, should share in what he is
supposed to be leading. If one were to
construct a series of ministerial "Don'ts,"
it would include, don't be colloquial in
the pulpit, or use slang, or raise a laugh;
don't plan your service as though you
did not know at what hour it is supposed
to end; don't forget some notice in its
place and drag it in at the announcement
of the closing hymn to dissipate the
spiritual impression you have labored
hard to produce.—*New York Observer.*

It must be confessed that many of our
members rarely do anything for the great
enterprises of the Church. Judging them
by their acts, they really seem to take no
interest in her great movements. Yet it
is inconceivable that any one should
join the Church with such a feeling—or
lack of feeling—as this. We must look
for it in influences which began after the
"happy day that fixed their choice." That
day will forever stand out to them as
sacred. All was honest with them
then, and it had never occurred to them
to be untrue to the Church. They felt
that they were coming into a great family
where all would be on an equality, and
where anything they could contribute in
money or service would be "accepted ac-
cording to what a man hath and not ac-
cording to what he hath not." Their
experience proved to be different from
their expectations. They soon found
that when great Church enterprises were
inaugurated only the few having money
were really expected to take a part; they
saw that fashionable clothes, wealth,
social position, and education commanded
recognition in the Church pretty much
as they did in the world. Little by lit-
tle they became sensitive, and ended by
adopting the rule of not doing anything
until they could make a creditable show-
ing by the side of their more pretentious
fellow-members.—*New Century Educa-
tion.*