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EDITORIAL.

It would be well for us to study closely and prayerfully God's definition of wisdom, strength and greatness. "He that winneth souls is wise," "And he that ruleth his spirit (is mightier) than he that taketh a city". "Whosoever would be great among you, let him be your servant."

WHEN a Christian man who, in reply to a question asked by a graduate of a higher institution of learning, What system of ethics do you prefer? says that he prefers that of the Bible is met with the pert rejoinder, "I prefer Dr. Spencer", it is in order for us to proclaim that a Christless education is worse than a failure, and to warn men and women against such.

WE recently saw in a thriving little town two handsome storehouses which were empty and closed. The explanation was objectively made. The storehouses were not near the centre of population, and the proprietors were not able to change the centre. We thought of the fact that many Churches fail of their mission because the buildings are not in the sweep of human currents. The "church builder", build he never so many houses of worship, shows great lack of judgment when he fails to grasp and utilize this idea.

ONE of the hardest things in life to do is to toil in the treadmill of duty with no prospect of an early cessation of the toil. Yet this is the experience of a majority of the real workers in this world. Life flows on in one unbroken current, and the sameness becomes monotonous. We should consider the toil of a life as we consider the toil of a day. We work through the long hours with the expectation of going home at nightfall to enjoy the pleasures of the fireside, and then to fall into the arms of sleep. Just so should we toil faithfully and cheerfully through the years with the expectation of entering at nightfall into the joys of the eternal home.

A FEW days ago we were told by a certain alert and progressive Presiding Elder that he expected to give prominence to religious worship at his approaching District Conference. There is a general expectation on the part of the public interested that there will be much preaching at a District and Annual Conference. The expectation indicates the want. Preaching is expected because it is needed. Where there is an absence of this form of religious worship the people fail to enjoy their privilege and the Conference fails to reach its legitimate end. Let the Word be dispensed, not dispensed with, at our Conferences. May there be no obstacle in the form of the plea that when Conference meets, it is to transact business. We should remember that the prime business of the Church is to preach the Gospel.

COMMENCEMENT OF LITTLETON FEMALE COLLEGE.

Several months ago, we promised President J. M. Rhodes that we would, if possible, attend the Commencement exercises of Littleton Female College, and attempt to contribute to the exercises by making the "talk" on Thursday. We are glad that we have been able to meet our engagement. We saw and heard much that was of profit to us. When we arrived at Littleton on Wednesday May 25, Dr. L. L. Nash had just finished what was pronounced by many a most admirable sermon. The entertainment given by the young people at night was very enjoyable. It showed careful training. The exercises on Thursday began at 10:30 a. m. Two young ladies read essays and received diplomas—Misses Lottie Kelly and Birdie Johnson. This is the smallest graduating class the College has ever had. After the graduating exercises were over we tried to advance some truths which we deemed practical and appropriate. The attention received from the fine audience was inspiring. On Thursday night was the annual Concert. This was highly enjoyable and reflected great credit on those in charge of the music department of the College.

President Rhodes announced that the session just closed was the most successful one in the history of the College. The number of boarding pupils was up to the average. We had occasion to note the appearance and bearing of the young ladies. They showed that dignity and true breeding which always characterize a refined and well regulated household which President Rhodes claims his school to be. The faculty is a well selected one, representing not only the brightest talent but the best training in those schools which offer the best advantages for those taking the post-graduate course. Littleton is a growing town and is in a very fine section of the State. The health conditions are good. The noted Panacea Springs are only three miles distant. Taking everything into consideration we feel no hesitation in commending Littleton Female College as an institution in which any daughter may receive a thorough education resting on the basis of moral and mental development. President Rhodes has done a great work in the educational field, and, from all appearances, we may judge that the best years of his institution are ahead. From it are going forth positive moral, mental and social influences which must play an important part in developing the Christian womanhood of this Southland.

It was our pleasure to meet quite a number of preachers at Littleton—Revs. W. S. Hester, J. E. Underwood, A. R. Goodchild, J. D. Pegram, and J. T. Erwin. Bro. Underwood lives here in a good District Parsonage. He is making a useful Presiding Elder, and the Henderson saints may look for a live District Conference. Bro. Goodchild, P. C. of the Littleton circuit is in favor with his people. He is an active worker, good preacher, and has an eye single to the interests of Christ. He will soon begin work on the parsonage which is to be constructed before Conference. The hospitality received under the college roof and in the home of Bro. Underwood added much to the pleasure of our stay in Littleton.

WHO WILL BUILD THE FIRST PROTESTANT CHURCH IN CUBA?

The following letter from Bishop Candler brings to the attention of Southern Methodism a very pressing need. The importance of the outlined enterprise is so great that we give it a place in our editorial columns. God has opened the gates of a very rich possession. Shall we enter and claim our own for God? Read the letter prayerfully.

WHO WILL WEAR THIS CROWN?

There is not a Methodist Church building on the island of Cuba. There is not, so far as I know, a Protestant Church building. The Baptists, who are the most numer-

ous Protestant body on the island, have their largest congregation (that of Havana) housed in an old theatre!

Our Missionaries are preaching in Chapels provided by adapting the parlors of houses built for residences, which we rent. In these inconvenient and temporary quarters they are having remarkable success. Already, before most of them have worked so long as six months, their quarters have overflowed.

If their work is to succeed they must have proper places of worship. They confront a Romanism entrenched in splendid houses built by the Treasury of the State.

We need at once a suitable place of worship in Havana, the capital and commercial metropolis of the island. There dwell 200,000 people—at least one seventh of all the population of Cuba. In that great city there is not a Protestant Church building! Think of that.

I can buy a suitable property near the centre of the city now for \$30,000. At that figure it is very cheap. The property of the Baptists not so well located, cost I am told \$65,000. The chance to buy this property may slip out of my hands any day. I have not had the money to secure an option on it.

The Board of Church Extension and the Board of Missions have authorized me to raise the money and buy it. Neither board's treasury was in condition to supply the money. I make this statement appealing to all who love the Lord Jesus, and who care for the needs of this unhappy island, to help in this great emergency.

A brother beloved starts me with a subscription of \$500. Who will join him? Are there not a hundred persons in all our Southern Methodism who can give each \$500 to buy this ground and put upon it a commodious church, a good school building and a parsonage? It is large enough for all these, and the buildings now on it would supply material for at least two of the buildings desired.

O that some man or woman would come forward and build the first Protestant Church in Cuba! What a monument it would be!

Sir Christopher Wren is immortalized by St. Pauls, London, the inscription upon it being "If ye seek my monument look around you." Not less honored will be the man who erects the first Protestant Church in Cuba. Who will wear this crown? W. A. CANDLER.

A POINT TO BE REMEMBERED.

THE Orphanage, of course, is an assured fact, and one which has put all the Methodists of the North Carolina Conference in a rejoicing mood. Without obscuring in the least the idea of the value of the institution as a shelter for the orphans we would emphasize a point that some may lose sight of, and it is that the institution will be a home for those superannuated preachers who have nowhere else to go. This fact should appeal powerfully to the people "called Methodists." The "superannuated preacher" is one of the distinctive characters and peculiar products of Methodism. He is one who has given up his right to select his field of labor. He places himself in the hands of God and the people. Faithfulness to his work in the majority of cases precludes the possibility of his laying up anything for a "rainy day"; when sickness or old age comes on, he reluctantly gives up his "loved employ", and often, instead of spending the remainder of his days in quietude of body and of soul, he is tormented with the deprivations of the wolf of poverty. Our new enterprise proposes to give this "superannuate" a home on earth until he reaches his home in heaven. Surely God and all good men and women will smile on our Orphanage and Home.

THE Samoan Commission, of which a great deal has been said lately, had its first sitting on May 16th. Chief Justice Chambers was interviewed in this meeting, and he gave the reasons for his action in the difficulty. It is reported that the Commissioners will uphold the action of Admiral Kautz. Of course this is mere rumor, as the Commission has not yet adjudicated the matter. The spirit in which Mataafa received the commission is highly creditable to him.

Course of Events.

GENERAL OTIS has again been visited by Aguinaldo's Commissioners. It was hoped both in Manila and the United States that this last visit of the Commissioners indicated a willingness to accept the conditions laid down by the American Commander. But what was the surprise of all when it was found that the same old request for an armistice had been made. Of course it was refused. It is difficult to believe that Aguinaldo is sincere in making his propositions. Many believe that he is trying to blind the American forces while he strengthens his position. There is no doubt that the unusual activity of the so-called anti-imperialists is contributing greatly to the prolongation of the struggle in the Philippines. As long as Aguinaldo can receive encouragement from this side of the sea, so long will he dilly-dally in the expectation of gaining his point.

THE Craig Act was ratified by the Legislature on February 10, 1899. This act compels insurance companies doing business in the State to become domestic corporations. The act was passed with a view to removing cases of litigation connected with insurance companies from federal to State jurisdiction. We suppose that no one who is acquainted with affairs in the State can think otherwise. The insurance companies, however seem to fear that they will be subject not only to excessive taxation, but other disadvantages which will practically militate against their success. Quite a number of companies have already become legally domesticated. But there are some companies which say through their representatives that they will not do business in the State after June 1st. It is perfectly natural that these companies should protest and talk about quitting the business in North Carolina. Yet it is altogether unnatural that any number of companies should cease operation as long as other successful companies remain. There may be a test case in the court. But after all shall have been done and said, the insurance companies which are evidently doing a good business in the State will probably be found after June 1st at the same old stand.

THE late meeting of the General Assembly of the Southern Presbyterian Church at Richmond, Va., was an event of no small importance. The Assembly is composed for the most part of scholarly men. The Assembly refused to consider most of the overtures, some of which were of moment. Christian education was considered, and the Bible in schools was magnified. The following resolutions were adopted after some debate:

1. That the General Assembly appoint a Committee on Church and Christian Education, and urge the Synods and Presbyteries throughout the Church to appoint similar committees, the duty of all of which committees shall be to gather and disseminate information and excite interest in Church and Christian education as best they may, and make annual reports to their respective bodies on this subject. These committees ought to be organized as permanent committees similar to those which have charge of other departments of Christian work.

2. The Assembly urges upon the ministers under its charge to preach and instruct the people on the duty and necessity of providing as far as possible, for the education of our sons and daughters, giving special emphasis to the cause of female education.

4. That the Synods, Presbyteries, Sessions Officers and private members of the church be exhorted and encouraged to provide, in every possible way, for schools, both primary and preparatory, in which the Bible shall be a text book.

5. That the Presbyteries be urged to prepare and circulate pastoral letters on this subject, to all our people.

Of all teachings, that which presents a far-distant God is the nearest to absurdity. Either there is none, or he is nearer to everyone of us than our nearest consciences of self.—George MacDonald.

Other Tripods.

In the history of the lives of those who are anxious to know and serve Him, there are times when thoughts of God grow hazy, when it seems as if He were removed from the world and from us. We long for a clearer demonstration of Him and His presence.—*Southern Churchmen.*

The great resolve of any human being's life—the resolve that is greatest in importance—is that which determines his attitude toward God. Many people at some time make it deliberately. Many others never make it deliberately, yet make it as truly and as finally as if they reached a formal determination. Its fundamental importance is not always appreciated, and multitudes make it adversely to their highest welfare, supposing that they are not making it, and failing to realize that it never will be made subsequently. It is often declared that there is more or less of cant in appeals to decide at once to be a Christian, but only he who fails to understand the tremendous importance of the matter says this seriously.—*The Congregationalist.*

It has been interesting to study the course of Bishop Potter. He publishes a letter to a layman who had expostulated with him, for which he has received much commendation from those in his own communion who agree with his views, and from the public at large. It contains, however, one sentence which may be attributed to an extraordinary sense of the authority of his position; but it may be presented as a bad example, for the same reason that it would be unseemly for a judge in pronouncing a solemn decision to shout or hurl epithets when he speaks as the embodiment of power and justice. Concerning the conclusions of Professor Briggs he says, "I do not myself deny all of them, but that any of them denies or impugns any fundamental doctrine of the faith can only be shown by mutilations or perversions of what the author has said, which are as malignant as they are unscrupulous." We shall see whether High Churchmen will accept that as a description of themselves.—*New York Christian Advocate.*

To know God as our Father is to know all things in a fresh and glad enjoyment of them. It is to own them in the broadest and the most real sense. For which most enjoys what the world contains—the man who holds some petty bit of it in recorded title-deeds, or the man who has a heart to feel the beauty, the glory, and the wonder of the earth? Strip the richest man alive of sight and hearing, and what would his ownership avail him? The man who never has been made alive to God through Jesus Christ has never had awakened in him the power to see and to hear the best that is to be seen and heard. He can own only as some band of ignorant savages might be the owners of all that is left of a Greek temple. He is an alien and a stranger, for all his title-deeds, till he comes into his sonship and heirship in partnership with Jesus Christ. Till then he is at the best a servant in his Father's house, wishing for the separate enjoyment of this and that, while his Father is saying, "Son, thou art ever with me, and all that I have is thine."—*Sunday School Times.*

These honest old men of God had a way of telling each other what they saw wrong one in the other very frankly, but without malice. There was no buzzing gossip, mosquito mischief. The lads in the ministry were deeply in debt to their candid seniors for corrections of faults. Criticism by a competent person is of enduring value: Books help, but red-hot ridicule, cauterizing to the quick a silly mannerism or some aping of a great orator or awkwardness eliminates an ugliness (even if it leaves a scar) that might have crippled usefulness. Surgical skill can correct a clubfoot if the knife and rectifying apparatus are applied in childhood. No senior would permit his "helper" to practice any flaw in gesture, tone, or grammar. We can recall a stern but fatherly old fellow privately in the preachers' tent at a camp-meeting, mimicking his youthful son in the gospel, amid the merriment of the visiting brethren. The poor victim blushed and endured, but he was cured. And that was the "Brush College," and its choice curriculum of birching the pulpit faults of the juniors. It was the method of the great school of eloquence at Athens, in which Caesars and Cicero were pupils. It is the only method of worth.—*Richmond Christian Advocate.*