

ing up. Bro. Swank is now preparing to begin a new house of worship in this community and prospects are bright for a good organization. Several new points joining the Valley Conference might be taken up with good results if we but had the men and means. May the Lord hasten the day when men will present themselves a living sacrifice and consecrate a proportionate part of their means to the uplifting of humanity. Men realize the necessity of a financial basis for everything else but the spreading of the gospel, and yet many either fail or refuse to see any need of finance to accomplish the grandest object for which man was created. Men may claim to love God's cause, but unless there is a willingness to make some sacrifice for the upbuilding of this cause there is but little manifestation of such love. Let all who claim to love the Christian cause, under whatever name they are laboring, measure their love by what they are willing to do to help spread the Gospel, and if there is much love in the heart for God, His people, and the dying world, this will be a bright era in the history of the Christian church.

R. H. PREL, Ambery, Va.

Suffolk Letter.

Rev. N. G. and Mrs. Newman have been visiting in Holy Neck congregation for more than a week. Nothing puts the minister in touch with his people like house to house visitations. As Joseph Parker puts it: "A house-going pastor will make a church-going congregation." There are so many things the preacher can learn in the home that he cannot learn from books. No one has been able to write out a full history of the home. There are colorings and feelings in real experience in the home that cannot be written in words or painted in pictures. "The greatest study of mankind is man." The community is a better school than the library. But both are important. There are some phases of human thought and experience that cannot be found in every age much less in every neighborhood. The great preacher is familiar with books, with painters and sculptors, whose masterpieces breath and speak to the student, and at the same time familiar with the people in all their daily thoughts, complaints, aspirations, trials, and religious convictions. It is as important to know the theology of the people to whom one dispenses the word of life as to know the theology of bishops and councils.

Every face in society is a page and every experience is a great history. The demand of society for pastoral visiting is the expression of great possibilities to the preacher. Here is a secret greater than the secret of untranslated diplomas, or high-sounding titles. Men who wear titles honorably do not succeed because they wear them, but wear them because they succeeded. Real work in the study, in the pulpit, and in the congregation, will bear fruit. I am not lecturing preachers, I am relating facts and setting forth principles. On the other hand, the people may assist the pastor in visiting, by co-operation. They can look out for those who need attention most, inform the pastor, stimulate him to vigorous work, and follow up his visits by visits, sympathy, and prayers.

At the residence of the bride's parents, No. 16 North Street, Suffolk, Va., at 7 o'clock p. m. yesterday, I united in marriage Charles J. Triplett and Miss Lizzie L. Distler. Frank Monell and Miss Annie Murr and Allen J. Powell and Miss Annie Monell attended them to the altar. Prof. Fennimore rendered organ music as they entered and played softly "Nearer my God to Thee" during the ceremony. The house was crowded with guests. A splendid supper burdened the table in the dining room, while keen palates awaited the invitation to enter and enjoy the viands. Many useful and ornamental presents expressed esteem and good wishes. Lives thus blended ought to be useful and happy in God's service.

We will have a regular "Easter Service" next Sunday at 11 o'clock a. m. called "Easter Praises." The church will be decorated and a special "Easter Offering" will be taken by envelopes. Four or five hundred envelopes were given out yesterday. If the weather is good we will have a large congrega-

tion and a pleasant hour in praising God and rejoicing in the resurrection.

Rev. J. T. and Mrs. Kitchen, I am happy to say, are both coming out of their affliction in health and sweeter trust in their Savior.

W. W. STALEY, April 8th, 1895.

Lines From Harvard.

It is now easy to see that the time which remains to be spent at Harvard is entirely too short to learn and hear a sufficiency of what would be so profitable in a life of labor and service. Opportunities: how they fly and are gone! And a hero is he who sees and grasps them while they are; for ere long they are not forever!

Only fragments of the winter's snow remain, and the promise of a new season is now with us. And who can have a nature so blunted with cares, or so absorbed in the acquirements of wealth, or so athirst for fame and honor, or so insensible to the love of God as shown in the beauties of nature, as not to rejoice over the approach of the delightful season of flowers and song. It is not infrequent during this transition period to have rain and snow, sunshine and storm all within the short space of a single day. But in these periods, when the violent powers of winter are so furiously contending with the balmy promises of spring, it is gratifying to catch the note of some summer bird which, braver than the rest of his kind, has ventured on true and living principles, to carol forth the welcome news that spring will win the day.

Likewise in these days of doubts and fears, when truth and error are so mixed as to keep one perplexed and worried, it is pleasant to remember that there is a solid foundation of truth if one will but work himself down to it. In these days in which men are so tinged with self-love and guided by self-interest; when humanity is so treacherous; when the teachings of men are so conflicting; when theories are seen to be so misleading, and books are found to be contradictory; under such circumstances it is indeed pleasant and profitable to go out on some hillside where the violets and forget-me-nots grow, and there converse for a while with nature in its purity and beauty. Ask the sweet little messengers of love where they have been all the cold, dark winter; and why it is they are not changed but are just as they were last spring, and if they will be the same after another period of gloom and death. Their silence tells you that the same Power that cares for the planets, cared for them through the gloom. Their beauty reproaches you for asking why they have not changed, for they are pretty enough as they are; and their sweet odor which can not be explained tell of the inexplicable love and wisdom of him who doeth all things for his children well. After such a conversation you will say that even if the things that men have a part in are partly false and contradictory, yet there is truth and harmony of which God is the author, and which the true intelligence can but see. Commune then with nature, and talk with the flowers; for conversation with men is often hurtful, but a talk with the flowers never.

J. H. JONES, Cambridge, April 5, '95.

The progress of events in Cuba continues interesting to on-lookers. The revolutionists are gaining ground. They issued an appeal to Spanish residents, and as a result, many influential Spaniards, who formerly were in sympathy with Spain, have espoused the cause of independence. It now looks as if Cuba is to gain her point, and establish an independent government.

The question of bimetalism is very prominent in the minds of public men throughout the world to-day. It is yet in doubt what will be the action of the International Bi-metallic Conference that is called to meet soon, but it is thought that progress in that direction will be made, which may finally result in the double standard.

The former Spanish minister to the United States has been recalled, and a new one appointed. This time it is Depuy de Lome. Minister Thurston from Hawaii was obnoxious to the United States government, and has gone home; but it is not yet known whether or not it is permanent.

We trust that every pastor will arrange for "THE CHRISTIAN SUN DAY" mentioned in our editorial columns. We have good friends in every church, and we trust that these will see to it that the day is appointed.

Is there a home in the Christian church that cannot pay one dollar for the CHRISTIAN SUN a whole year? If we can be assured that there is, we believe we can arrange to supply it free.

It is said that ex-Queen Liliuokalani seems to enjoy her confinement. She has been sentenced to five years' imprisonment, and is whiling away the time with music and dancing.

The fact that Hood's Sarsaparilla, once fairly tried, becomes the favorite spring medicine, speaks volumes for its excellence and merit.

WASHINGTON LETTER.

OUR REGULAR CORRESPONDENT.

"This is a Christian nation" was the positive assertion of Rev. Dr. Edward Thompson, general manager of the Sun day League of America, in a strong sermon preached in the Metropolitan Presbyterian church. And Dr. Thompson proved by citing numerous historical facts that the makers of the United States intended it to be a Christian nation, notwithstanding the constant repetition in certain quarters of the hackneyed assertion that the absence of God from the constitution was the result of deliberate intention on the part of its framers. Among the proofs cited by Dr. Thompson were the following:

"That although there was no national flag during the first two years of the Revolution Gen. Putnam used one on which was inscribed: 'An Appeal to Heaven'; that when Washington was sought to lead the armies he was found on his knees praying to God for the success of our arms; that the men, women and children of the colonies constantly prayed to God for success; that when Washington tendered his resignation he commended the country 'to the protection of Almighty God'; that Washington, who said those who made the Constitution borrowed none of the principles of law from Solon, Lycurgus or Numa, but from Moses and Christ, and that 'it was the first constitution to recognize the brotherhood of men'; that the constitution recognizes a Sunday law by saying that the President shall have 'ten days, Sundays excepted, in which to consider each bill'; that Justice Story called the could have been no successful attempt to abolish legislation as to Sabbath observance; that the chief executive takes the oath of office on the Bible; that Congress in 1812 spoke of the 'God of battles'; that the judiciary requires men to swear or affirm 'by the help of God'; that Judge Cooley in an important decision affirmed that the religion of the United States was Christian, a decision afterwards confirmed by Justice Brewer, who said: 'This is a Christian nation,' and the government stamps on its coins: 'In God we trust' Surely this was evidence enough, if evidence were required to prove that this is a Christian nation.

In church circles the seven days just ended might appropriately be referred to as Methodist week. The Baltimore Conference (Justice Story called there Washington conference in last week's letter) of Southern Methodists came to a close to-day. Its ministers have filled many Washington pulpits during their stay and all of them have added new friends and admirers to the old ones they had in this city. The reports showed all the churches in this conference to be in a fairly prosperous condition notwithstanding the 'hard winter.' There was much talk before the conference net of the probability of an attempt being made to have the conference substitute the Epworth League for the Christian Endeavor Societies in the Southern Methodist churches and considerable feeling was aroused in connection therewith, but no such attempt was made, and so far as can be learned none was ever contemplated. The Epworth Leaguers do want their organization to be represented in this conference and steps have been taken by which they hope to accomplish that purpose, but they say they are not seeking compulsory members.

A memorial service in honor of the late Rev. Nathan Sites, D. D., who was for thirty-four years a missionary of the M. E. church, at Foochow, China, was held in Metropolitan M. E. church Sunday afternoon with Bishop Haret presiding. Dr. Baldwin, of N. Y., who was for nearly twenty-two years associated with Dr. Sites in Chinese missionary work, made the principal address, and Bishop Ninde of Detroit, who preached a powerful sermon on faith from the same pulpit in the morning, and has just returned from China where he spent last Christmas day with Dr. Sites, paid a glowing tribute to his work among the Chinese. The family of Dr. Sites are and have been for many years members of the church in which the memorial service was held. During the service Dr. Johnston, pastor of the church, read letters of condolence from Bishop Andrews, Bishop Mallalien, Dr. A. B. Leonard, the missionary secretary, George Lansing Taylor, the poet, and others.

The Anti-Saloon League is making a strong effort to interest the colored people in the work of the League and one of the ways it proposes to do it is to hold mass meetings in the colored churches and have them addressed by our best temperance orators. The first of these meetings is to be held on the afternoon of Sunday, April 21, in Zion Baptist church, which is in a locality where temperance work is needed among the colored people very badly.

The young man who just takes an occasional glass of beer should take warning from the experience of several young men of Washington who are now in jail awaiting trial for highway robbery, just because of the bad company they got into by just taking an occasional glass of beer.

Naturally fair complexions would be the rule rather than the exception, as unfortunately it is at present, if the ladies would wholly abandon cosmetics, and more generally keep the blood pure and vigorous by the use of Ayer's Sarsaparilla, the only reliable blood-purifier.

We hear so much nowadays of the New Economics that some definite writing on the subject is both valuable and timely. In the April Arena Prof. Frank Parsons begins his discussion of a very important series of articles outlining the scope of the New Political Economy, and showing wherein it differs upon social and ethical grounds from the orthodox economics of the Manchester school. Prof. Frank Parsons is one of the most able and thoroughly equipped writers on the new economic order of the day. He has devoted his life to the study of law and economics, and he is recognized as one of the most scholarly and authoritative writers on the law in the United States. His text-books are familiar to students all over the country. He is one of the law lecturers in the Boston University.

The present series deals with "The People's Highways," and it should be carefully studied by all who realize the importance of a settlement of the railroad problem.

The general scope of the series will be to deal directly with the great modern economic problems of the day. It will cover monopoly in transportation, commerce, manufacture, property, finance, and the making of law. The specific topics will be: "The People's Highways," "The People's Lamps," "Trusts," "Immoral Dollars," "Wealth Diffusion" and "Government by and for the People."

Died.

At the home of her daughter, Mrs. Sarah Griffin, near Iron, Va. about the last of February, 1895, Sister Mary Rawls, the beloved wife of the late Rev. Robert Rawls, about 50 years of age.

She and her husband traveled the journey of life together for quite a number of years, until some years ago he was called from labor to reward. Since that time she lived with her children, she did everything, and endeavored to make life pleasant. During the early part of my ministry, it was my privilege to visit that Christian family and all ways to be found in her home, a most interesting Christian lady. She was one of the best Christians I ever met. I had great confidence in her religion, and I feel sure that she is resting in peace. She was a most worthy and consistent member of the Christian church, and greatly loved by all her children, who are all now in heaven, five sons and one daughter, and many devoted friends. Farewell, mother, we hope to meet you where no farewell word is said and where no farewell tears are shed.

J. T. KITCHEN.

Another Sad Home in Israel.

On the 14th of Feb. Little Louren, a daughter of Brother J. H. Boyd and wife of Pleasant Grove, Va. after an illness of about 40 hours, went to be with Jesus. She left this world with the desire to know anything about the little experiences so common to this life. Sister Boyd said that she was such a sweet child (even at the age of ten months) that the doctor caused such a wide space in the family circle that could never be filled. May the absence of that little angel who was just budding into life, prove to the rich means of grace to the bereaved ones. The death angel has visited this home twice within the last twelve months. But dear parents this is no mark on our hearts. We have loved and reared up your minds that whereas the dear one cannot come back to live with you, you can go to live with her.

In the Spring

Nearly everybody needs a good medicine. The impurities which have accumulated in the blood during the cold months must be expelled, or when the days come, and the effect of bracing air is lost, the body is liable to be overcome by debility or some serious disease. The remarkable success achieved by Hood's Sarsaparilla, and the many words of praise it has received, make it worthy your confidence. We ask you to give this medicine a trial. We are sure it will do you good. Read the testimonials published in behalf of Hood's Sarsaparilla, all from reliable, grateful people. They tell the story.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.

International Lesson for April 14, 1895. -The Wicked Husbandman--Mark 12: 1-12. (Specially Arranged from Parables a Notes.) GOLDEN TEXT--They will reverence my son. -Mark 12:6. THIS SECTION of our study includes the whole of Jesus' experiences and discourses in the life of the temple on Monday and Tuesday, April 3 and 4. A. D. 30. largely in Mark, chapters 11 and 12. Monday (1) The cleansing of the temple on Monday, Mark 11: 15-17. (2) The fig tree withered, Mark 11: 18-20. (3) The fig tree withered, Mark 11: 21-24. (4) The fig tree withered, Mark 11: 25-27. (5) Questions asked and discussed, Mark 11: 28-37. (6) Denunciation of the Pharisees, His last public discourse, Matthew 23: 1-38. (7) The widow's mite, Mark 12: 41-44.

TIME--Tuesday, April 4. A. D. 30. Two days after our last lesson. This was Christ's last great day of teaching in Jerusalem. PLACE--In the temple at Jerusalem. CIRCUMSTANCES--On Sunday He had offered alms to the Jews in the temple, King, by entering the temple in triumphal procession on Monday He had with kindly authority driven out from His Father's house those who were defiling it with worldly rites, and performed miracles worthy of the Messiah, thus presenting His claims again for their acceptance. Once more He presents His claims and makes known the great opportunity offered the people from God for earthly and spiritual salvation: and brings home the truth to them as clearly as if with a pencil of light on the sky by means of three parables, one of which is given in to-day's lesson. These parables are severe and threatening, "but the spirit of the love" in the deepest scenes He spoke them not against the Pharisees, but for them.

LESSON NOTES. God has intrusted to each of us a blessed and fruitful vineyard, which we are to culture for Him. He has planted His new life in us. He has given us our life, our soul. He gives us each a portion of all those things He has committed to the church as a whole. He makes us fruitful by His Word and His Spirit. He gives us every means of grace by which to cultivate the vineyard. He gives us defenses. He is our watch-tower. He gives grace for every time of need. He furnishes the armor against temptation. The body is a vineyard that is intrusted to our care, to be well treated as an instrument for doing God's work. A good workman always takes good care of his tools. The mind is still more wonderful, and should be educated, trained, kept pure and bright, that it may bring forth fruit for the Master. The soul, the very self--the citadel, the dwelling place of the moral nature, the fountain of character--is a vineyard that should be kept with all diligence, "for out of it are the issues of life." The fruits are gratitude, love, obedience, worship, consecration of time, talents and property toward God; and all the fruits of the Spirit toward men; intelligence, generosity, character, growth. Note that, as the cultivator of the vineyard was to enjoy the fruits of his labor, and the more fruitful it was, the more industriously he cultivated it for the owner, the more abundantly and delightfully will God reward us; so it is with those to whom God has intrusted His spiritual vineyard; every fruit God requires is best for themselves. Sending for the Fruits.--Every special call to love and serve God, every service at the church, every opportunity to do good, every providence of God, every season of revival, the voice of the Holy Spirit, the Sabbath, the Bible, conscience--all are servants whom God

sends to us for the fruits that are due Him. The Fruits Refused.--The behavior of these husbandmen is only a picture of the way impatient men still treat God's messengers of mercy--the Holy Spirit, the Bible, the influences of religion. What greater meanness in the universe than our rejection of God's messengers while we are actually enjoying the vineyard He gave us? The unspeakable love of God to us is shown in the sending of His Son (John 3:16). He is the wisdom and power of God for salvation. God has done all that infinite love can do to save us. He comes of His own accord with special influences to lead us to accept Him. Everyone at some time comes to the valley of decision. If we reject Christ for this world we are lost for this world. Those who reject Christ from their lives and plans, in order that they may keep possession of themselves, their pleasures and hopes, have taken the shortest and surest way to lose them. The righteous shall inherit the earth. If we refuse the source of righteousness we reject our earthly inheritance. How much more is this true of the future! Those who reject Christ cannot be saved. They refuse eternal life; they reject the very principles which make Heaven what it is. They rebel the strongest influence that can lead them to a holy life.--They throw away their last hope. Though miles of God grind slowly, yet their grind exceeding small; Though with patience He stands waiting, with exactness grates He all.

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