

The Christian Sun.

BY EMMETT L. MOFFITT.

IN ESSENTIALS, UNITY; IN NON-ESSENTIALS, LIBERTY; IN ALL THINGS, CHARITY.

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The Christian Sun

The Organ of the General Convention of the Christian Church (South).

CARDINAL PRINCIPLES.

1. The Lord Jesus is the only Head of the church.
2. The name Christian, to the exclusion of all party and sectarian names.
3. The Holy Bible, or the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments, sufficient rule of faith and practice.
4. Christian character, or vital piety, the only test of fellowship or membership.
5. The right of private judgment, and the liberty of conscience, the privilege and duty of all.

Editorial Reflections.

Senator Tillman opens his mail with a little silver pitchfork, the gift of an admiring constituent.

Col. J. S. Carr sold over \$5,000 worth of butter from his Oconeechee Farm last year. Col. Carr deserves success—he gives a great deal of money for charitable purposes.

It is said that Russia will soon adopt electricity as a means of warfare. No doubt it will prove to be a great destructive force. We have been depending upon Mr. Edison to provide means for the protection of our coast lines.

Mr. Gladstone has been and is now doing all in his power for the relief of the oppressed Armenians. Civilized people of all nations should come together and stand up for the right in all such matters of vital importance.

Three of the largest piano companies in New York have gone into the hands of receivers. While music is attractive to the ear, it seems that it did not attract a sufficient amount of money to keep all the companies in operation.

The Southern and Cotton States Exposition has been pronounced a success for the South. All the debts have been paid off in full, and the South is better known to-day than ever before. We may now hope for foreign capital to flow in.

During the month of January Winston shipped 1,600,417 lbs. of manufactured tobacco. The Government realized therefrom \$96,025 gross. This means a large sum of money in somebody's pocket, and a large amount out of the pockets of others.

A party of western men have bought several thousand acres of land in Mississippi, and will divide it up into truck farms. It is their purpose to make a colony of western people. The old doctrine, "Go west, young man," seems to be dying out. There is no place better suited for all conditions of man than is this Southland of ours.

The Liberty Bell made a safe tour to and from Atlanta, and is now resting unmolested in its old stand. There was a large crowd to welcome it at the Guilford battle ground on its return trip. We cherish the name Liberty Bell; we fought for independence; we boast of our "liberty," and yet we are among the worst slaves (to habit) of any people living.

Mr. Edison is again to the front. He has now invented a means by which he can separate the iron from the ore with magnetic force. The ore is blasted out and ground, and then it is let fall near several magnetic poles, which check the iron in its downward course and collect it upon the surface of the poles. Every few minutes the charge is taken from the poles and the iron taken and put in its proper place. It is said that this invention is of great value to miners of iron.

The North Carolina Labor Statistics show that for the year 1895 there were 235 papers published in North Carolina, an increase of 17 over the year 1894. Of the number now published, 20 are daily, 170 are weekly, and 32 are monthly. Some of the other States are far ahead of North Carolina in the number of publications, hence it seems that the American people can get any kind of periodical and as many of them as they want.

The Venezuela boundary dispute has not yet been settled, but it is thought that the matter is now getting in the right channel for an amicable settlement. The Queen is in favor of arriving at a peaceable solution of the question. Great Britain will furnish any information it can as to the facts involved in the dispute. Venezuela will send a representative to London to look into the matter and to open direct negotiations for a complete and final settlement.

A bill has been presented in Congress to appropriate money to several of the Roman Catholic charitable institutions, but we are glad to know that our people were wise enough to reject it. There were twenty-five members who were willing to vote for the bill and see our American institutions suffer, and at the same time see our own children, especially those of the poorer classes, drawn away from the true doctrine and placed under the Pope. The Catholics are carrying on their destructive work too rapidly now, and it behooves our citizens to suppress rather than encourage their movements.

An invention of Mr. Richard B. Paiton is being successfully managed by Mr. F. A. Anderson, a former citizen of Raleigh. They have substituted electricity for steam as a propelling power to boats. It is thought that by this means the Atlantic may be crossed in three days. What wonderful power of the Creator has been transmitted to nature. Nature's storehouse is full of force and substances useful to man; and it remains for him to unlock the door and apply the contents. Nor should we fear that the supply will be exhausted, for experience shows that the more there is removed, the more there comes to view.

The gold bugs are no doubt glad to know that the yield of gold is increasing. In one of our Western States in 1892 \$5,000,000 worth of gold was mined; in 1895 the yield was raised to \$20,000,000. This is not alone true of some parts of the United States, but is especially true of South Africa, South American colonies, Canada and other places. It is said by some well posted and close calculating men that the annual yield of gold will be between \$200,000,000 and \$250,000,000 within two or three years. Let the good work go on, and see that the gold is put to proper use.

The Advocate states that 111,100,000 people speak English, while only 75,200,000 speak German, and only 51,200,000 speak French. Five times as many people speak the English language now as at the beginning of the century. The English classics are everywhere studied, and the great wealth of literature is in English. The Anglo-Saxon race sends more than one-half of all telegraphic messages. Three-fifths of all the railroad tickets sold in the world are used by the English-speaking people. This race now possesses a third portion of the earth, and rules 400,000,000 of its inhabitants. Notwithstanding the fact that the English language is fast becoming the language of the nations, our people do not endeavor to become as thorough as they should. Until recently a thorough English scholar was hard to find. They are always in demand in our own institutions, as well as in foreign countries.

From Our Contributors.

"SOUL TALKS."

BY REV. J. PRESSLEY BARRETT, D. D.

I have in the last twenty-five years seen many persons, including "No. 1," who had apparently some ambition, or desire, to lead—to be leaders of other people; and in a large per cent. of these individuals, they failed on the one point which is an absolute necessity to make the most successful leader of men, viz.: Be good followers of Christ, for till we follow Him we are poorly qualified to lead others. If you have any purpose to lead men, try your fitness by this standard of following Jesus closely in your own life. Do you see?

The Ram's Horn says: "Do business for the Lord and there will be no danger of bankruptcy." True, but why is it so hard for most of the business men of our day to see it? Answer: Because they are blinded by self-interest. They think if they should do business for the Lord they would not get their share. However, the opposite is true, for they would then get a larger and a better share than they now get. Do you dispute it? Better not, unless you can prove the Ram's Horn to be in the wrong, and that would be quite an undertaking for any ordinary man. Better try it, humbly and patiently, and see what the Lord will do about it in your case.

We so easily excuse ourselves from following Paul as in Heb. 6: 1, 2—we do not go on to the perfection of the blessed life that is hid with Christ in God, because we say we do not know the way. Elijah P. Brown, the converted infidel, says: "In seeking Christ go as far as you know the way, and he will meet you." I have no doubt that is a gem out of his own experience, and if so, it is only the clearer, for if that is true of an infidel, it must be equally true of others who seek Jesus. Beloved, try it, seek to find Jesus, and go as far on the way as you can learn it from the Spirit's illuminations, and see if Jesus does not meet you.

We do need more deep and lasting conviction as to religious truth. We need to be fully convinced of the truth that Jesus is the way, the truth and the life. It has been said that a strong belief is a necessary foundation for good work. Really, if you want something done for the glory of God in the spiritual uplifting of our fallen humanity, you will do well to call on men who believe something, for when men do not believe, they most likely will not work, and if they would, it could not be worth much. Let the church concern itself quite as much about what men believe as about what they do—the one leads to the other.

Do you wish to be a worker for the Lord? Are you willing to go into the vineyard in the early morning and labor on faithfully through the heat of the day and do so simply on the promise of the Master to give you what ever is right? But do you say you do not know what to do? That is a poor excuse for one who really wishes to do—to work for the glory of God. The world is so full of opportunity. The lazy man always says he cannot find work when he is ashamed to own that he is lazy, but the man who is really anxious to work will be apt to find something to do sooner, or later, because he loves to work. So it is with us who work to lead souls to Jesus—if you really love it, you will find many opportunities. Now, isn't it so?

It is said it is easier to be happy without riches than with them. Few, I suspect, believe it, except those who have tried both, and not all of them. As a matter of fact, riches have no inherent happiness-giving power.

Rather the opposite is true—they have an inherent happiness-destroying power, and upon many who have been cursed with riches has this power made war. Not all men suffer from the possession of wealth but many not only get no happiness from their wealth, but they get much of the restlessness of the flesh. It is easier and safer to make the journey of life seeking God and depending upon him for our happiness rather than upon riches.

How shall I spend my time? This question troubles some people. It ought not, if we have learned the way in the school of Christ. In His school we learn to spend each day, so far as right and wrong are concerned, as if it were our last day on earth—spend it in such a way that if it should be our last day on earth we would not have regrets for what we had done. Perhaps you may think this would be a difficult matter, but it is not, as to do so only requires that we do right, and we shall never regret doing what is truly right. Let right be the standard of every action on your part, and then through Christ, who makes our poor, but sincere, efforts to do God's way, a complete success, we shall meet the Lord in peace. Yes, do right and that will please God.

LEADERS.

BY REV. J. T. KITCHEN.

There have been leaders in every enterprise, without which nothing could have been accomplished in the world. The world wants good leaders, it wants Christian leaders, it wants safe leaders, it wants honest leaders. Some of the leaders have been faithful and true in everything they undertook to do; but some of them have been false, deceptive, ignorant, tyrannical and misleading. Many, very many, plans and institutions have failed on account of incompetent planners or leaders, thereby causing irreparable loss and ruin to the cause they represented. Every one who wants to be a leader—every one who tries to be a leader—is not qualified for such an important and responsible position, but it is very difficult to get such persons to see their incompetency as others see it. Judging from their thoughts and works their greatest inspiration has been to gain influence, to get praise and honor from a flattering world. Their retiring prayers and waking thoughts were, "Lead me to the front and keep me there all the time until my terrestrial glory is ended and I grope in the dark night of death." Some I have known who were selected, elected, and appointed by the people as leaders: while others I have known to be self-appointed and self-acting, taking every advantage and every and any by-way so as to get there, with a conscience ablaze with the lurid fire of guilt burning them all the time.

Corrupt leaders are an abomination to any country, to any church, and to any community. Unless the grace of God sustains the leadership it will, in time, amount to nothing. The church needs God-sent Holy Ghost leaders. Yes, it needs more of this kind and none of those who are working for self and selfish motives. Fine houses of worship may be built, eloquent preachers may preach in them, opulent and fashionable leaders may control them, but it will all amount to less than nothing unless the Spirit of God is with them and in them. Seek first God's kingdom, let righteousness dwell in the soul, then he who is qualified may lead on to complete victory.

There has never been but one thoroughly competent leader in the world. That was Jesus, who leads in the right way. He has said more than once, "Follow Me." If every one who professes Christianity can feel that "He leadeth me," the following must be happy. I do not think we are happy unless Jesus is leading us.

MISSIONS.

BY DR. W. T. HERNDON, MIS. SEC.

The Divine Law requires the effort of man combined with the power of Deity to procure both temporal and spiritual salvation. Therefore, what man can do, God will never do; hence, the results of our lives depends upon our efforts. "In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread" is the Divine injunction; and he who does not obey the injunction if left to himself will not obtain and does not deserve a living. It is equally true in spiritual salvation: "for we are to work out our salvation with fear and trembling." This being true, our success in both temporal and spiritual life depends upon the amount of well-directed effort expended. For man has but to do his part and the work is done—God always doing his part. The same law applies to churches and denominations, for the church is only God's organized force for bringing the world unto Himself; hence no church or denomination will prosper, only in proportion to the amount of well-directed missionary effort it puts forth. The denominations that succeed are those engaged in intelligent missionary effort. This applies to the Christian church as well as to other denominations, but we have been slow to comprehend it. Just a few years ago we commenced to do missionary work which has proven quite satisfactory. In that short period perhaps grander results have followed our efforts in proportion to our numbers than that of any other denomination. This has proven quite a stimulus to the church. In consequence of the necessity of extending our borders and performing the great work assigned us as a denomination a missionary association has recently been established, the modus operandi and constitution of which has been published in the Sun and also in the Annuals. This is one of the most important enterprises connected with our work, and claims the attention and hearty support of the entire church. As Mission Secretary I earnestly appeal to all, both ministers and laymen, to give it their hearty support. A list of those who have been appointed local agents has been announced in the Sun. I will be glad to give any information or answer any question I can.

Nothing but praise is heard in official and Congressional circles for that portion of Queen Victoria's speech at the opening of the British Parliament, dealing with the Venezuelan trouble. Her language—"I have expressed sympathy with the desire to come to an equitable arrangement, and I trust that further negotiations will lead to a satisfactory settlement"—is confirmatory of assurances, official and otherwise, which have reached Washington of the desire of the British government to meet the government of the United States halfway in a peaceable settlement of the trouble. Officials in Washington have never doubted that a peaceable settlement would be reached, notwithstanding the efforts of a few men in this country and in England to make such a settlement impossible by indiscreet and foolish utterances which aroused all of the latent prejudice in both Englishmen and Americans.

At a meeting of Christian Endeavor Committee of '96, in Washington, this week, the subcommittee on Music reported a list of hymns to be used at the convention, and it is ordered that 4000 copies of a leaflet containing the words and music of these hymns be printed. A vote of thanks was returned to Congress, for its action in allowing the erection of tents on the White Lot during the convention. The subcommittee charged with getting the railroad tickets extended reported progress and expressed hope of final success.

Congress has passed a bill prohibiting the sale of liquor in pool or billiard rooms in the District of Columbia.

THE PULPIT.

THE PROPER IMPROVEMENT OF TIME.

BY REV. JAMES MAPLE, D. D.

And that knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. Rom. 13: 11.

[CONCLUDED.]

Most young men are reckless of time. They do not realize its value, but the time comes when they do. They are like some men who have inherited money and spend it recklessly. They do not realize its value until it is nearly all gone. Then they begin to economize. They may save what they have left, but the bulk of the fortune is lost beyond redemption. This brings regret and sorrow. Thus many let the precious gems of time slip away as long as they think they have almost any number of them, but when they find but few are left they awake to a realizing sense of their value; and this sometimes brings a burning sense of remorse. A dying soldier expressed dissatisfaction with his past life, and fear for his future. He said, "I will not be so mean as to drink the devil's wine all my life and offer the settlements to Jesus." He often exclaimed, "If I could only get back again to boyhood! But such is a vain wish." He died while expressing that wish.

Wasting time is sinful, and few greater crimes are committed than this. The gifted Cato and other heathen philosophers held that man must give an account not only of his labors but also of his leisure. He must answer not only for what he has done, but also for what he could but did not do. "God requireth that which is past." Time is given to us to use for God, and to let it run to waste in idleness is just as sinful as to spend our money in carnal indulgences or our lower passions. Sooner or later men are made to realize this. A young man of twenty-five years, who had spent his life in the pursuit of "the pleasures of sin," was brought under the redeeming influence of divine truth and the spirit of God; and was happily converted. He rejoiced in his redemption. Soon after this he was taken sick and died. A few days before his death he was alone in his bedroom, and his mother, who was in an adjoining room, heard him exclaim, "Lost! lost!" She was alarmed; went into his room fearing he had lost his hope, and asked him what he meant by saying "Lost." He said, "Mother, I have not lost my hope in Christ, but I was thinking of the years that I have lived in sin, doing nothing for him. They are lost. It was a sad thought to him.

The things of this life are all good and valuable in their place. God intended them for our good, and we should carefully look after them. Not to provide for our own is worse than infidelity, but these things are temporal. They belong only to this life. We are destined to live forever, and our permanent interests belong to eternity. This is why Christ said, "Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth to everlasting life, which the Son of Man shall give unto you." The things of time should be made subordinate to spiritual and eternal (Matt. 6: 19-23).

The things of time are objects of sense, and we are influenced directly by them; but spiritual and eternal things are objects of faith, and we are influenced by them through faith, we cannot see them with the natural eye as we do the things for which we live here. For this reason we are becoming absorbed in the business of this life, and lose sight of eternal things; and are uninfluenced by them. In the scriptures this is represented as a state of sleep. When a man is asleep he is insensible to and uninfluenced by his surroundings. He lives as though they did not exist. This was the condition of those to whom Paul was writing. They were uninfluenced

by spiritual things and the sublime prospect embraced in the Christian's hope. Hence he says, "Knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep." They had grown indifferent too, and were uninfluenced by the things of eternity. Paul desired to waken them to a realization of the supreme importance of these things. One reason he urged upon them was that their salvation was nearer than when they believed. Every step in life brought them nearer to a full realization of all the blessings of "eternal salvation." They were already saved from sin and its cruel slavery, but there were infinite blessings in reservation for them in heaven. A glorious inheritance awaited them there (1 Pet. 1: 3-5). There they should have spiritual bodies fashioned like the glorious body of Christ (Phil. 3: 20, 21). There we shall be fully transformed into the image of Christ (1 John 3: 1, 2). There we shall be the companions and equals of the holy angels (Matt. 22: 24-30; Luke 20: 30-36). There they are free from all sorrow and affliction (Rev. 21: 4).

As the years roll away our physical being wears out. Our sight grows dim, our hearing dull, our step feeble, and our capacity to enjoy the physical blessings fails. Our animal life is not what it was to us in our earlier years, but our life of loving obedience to Christ grows richer, sweeter, broader, and grander. "The path of the just is as the shining light that shineth more and more unto the perfect day." "Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their father." "And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that have turned many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever."

The Youth's Companion says: "In round numbers, 220,000 steerage passengers arrived at the port of New York during the year 1895. 43,000 of these immigrants, over fourteen years of age, were unable to read and write. Furthermore, 120,000 had less than \$30 each when they landed."

This is no good news for our good citizens, especially when we consider the fact that most of this number are worthless, comparatively penniless and ignorant. Many of them are left to the charity of our citizens, many more are only re-enforcements to aid in carrying out depredations and crimes. It we could take those foreign into our borders and make of them good, loyal citizens, the fight against admitting them would not be so strong, but they seem to be careless and indifferent as to everything else but themselves. They, as a rule, do not take any interest in our institutions or in our industries.

This indifference is strikingly illustrated in the St. Louis Christian Advocate. It says: "An illustration of the evils of immigration and of the indiscriminate naturalization of ignorant foreigners was lately given in New York. The "subject" in question was a man who was on trial for eight weeks on a charge of incendiarism. He admitted under oath that he did not know what the tariff was; that he had never heard of the American Congress; that he could not tell whether the United States was governed by a president or a king; he did not know the name of the national capital. And this in spite of the fact that he had been a citizen of the United States for four years."

Such a man as this is not fit to be one of our citizens, and we are glad to know that the authorities are becoming more strict in regard to naturalization. The applicant must now be able to read and write the English language, and to understand something of the Constitution of the United States. We hope the evil may soon be remedied to a great extent.

Senator Quay's name is to be presented for the Presidential nomination by the Pennsylvania delegation.