

# 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.

Mr. Bryan has been officially invited to speak at the North Carolina State Fair in October. He says that he hopes to be able to attend and to bring Mrs. Bryan with him.

Up to the present time since the 1st of August the gold deficit in the United States Treasury exceeds the receipts by about \$10,000,000, being \$3,000,000 more than it was Aug. 4th.

The latest report of the Federal Department of Agriculture says that the total number of bushels of wheat this year in the United States is 407,579,000 against 467,000,000 bushels last year.

Our manufacturers are coming to the front. They sent out more goods last year than in any previous years. Twenty-six and a half per cent of the entire exports consisted in manufactured articles.

Though Mr. Gladstone is growing very old he still takes an active part in the affairs of his government, and his opinions are highly respected, even by his opponents. An honest man will be respected by all classes.

A little pest known as the army worm has made its appearance in the western part of New York, and is making its presence felt. Thousands of bushels of grain are destroyed every day and as yet no method has been found by which the pests can be killed without completely destroying the crops.

Mr. Bryan went to New York last week, where he was formally notified of his nomination for President on the Democratic ticket. He was greeted all along the line by crowds of people anxious to see the young nominee. Mr. Bryan made known his acceptance in one of the greatest speeches of his life.

Caterpillars are among the worst enemies of pine forests, a single pest destroying an average of one thousand needles. By scraping a smooth circle in the rough bark near the ground and smearing it all over with tar, grease, and glue, the caterpillar is prevented from ascending high enough to do its destructive work.

A petition signed by more than a hundred persons in the United States was sent to the Red Cross Society, calling attention to the cruelty practiced upon sick and wounded Cubans by the Spanish troops. Spain as a nation promised to respect the sick and wounded and not to destroy the Cuban hospitals, but the agreement seems to have been entirely forgotten.

If the three Italians who are reported to have been lynched in St. Charles Parish, near New Orleans, prove to have been loyal to Italy, and not American citizens, the Italian government will make demands for indemnity for the families. If we expect our citizens abroad to be respected we must have regard for those of other nations who come to our midst.

In Scotland a monument is to be erected to the memory of Robert Burns, the great poet. It consists of a large tower surrounded by a number of little cottages. In the tower will be kept long-gathered relics, and in the cottages will dwell some of the most deserving aged and poor people. The shelter will be furnished the inmates free of charge.

From an experiment by the Biological Society of Washington we see the reason for allowing sunshine to stream into a sick room. A plate of gelatine was sown with bacteria and a portion of it was well covered, leaving the other part exposed to the sun's rays. Upon examination it was found that the organisms were killed in the exposed portion, while the shaded part continued to flourish.

There has been much suffering and many deaths have resulted from the intense heat in some of our cities. On Sunday, Aug. 9, there were sixty-five prostrations in Chicago, and out of that number twenty-one persons died. In Philadelphia twenty-one persons died as a result of the heat. In St. Louis thirteen died Sunday and twelve Monday. In New York seven died Sunday and twenty on Monday. In many sections recent rains and hail storms have brought some relief to the sufferers.

Many interesting and beneficial experiments have resulted from the discovery of the X-rays. Some scientists have made improvements in the apparatus, while others have tried to substitute direct vision for the photograph. It was hoped that by combining both methods the germs of disease, such as consumption, might be totally destroyed, but this plan has not yet proven to be successful. Surgeons are now able to see the heart beating and the respiratory organs at work, thus aiding in the diagnosis of disease. Foreign matter hitherto not located, has been found and removed from the body.

The Populist State Convention met in Raleigh, N. C., Aug. 13th. Col. Harry Skinner was chosen permanent chairman, and Hal W. Ayer permanent secretary. The St. Louis platform was endorsed. Wm. A. Guthrie, of Durham, and Dr. Cyrus Thompson, of Onslow, were placed in nomination for Governor. The vote stood: Guthrie, 797 7-15; Thompson, 321 8-15, and Guthrie was declared the nominee. Senator Butler named Mr. O. H. Dockery for Lieutenant-Governor, and after hard fighting secured his nomination. W. H. Worth, of Wake, was unanimously renominated for State Treasurer. Dr. Cyrus Thompson, of Onslow, was nominated for Secretary of State. Some of the other places were left vacant for the Executive Committee to fill out.

The largest guns used by the United States navy have a thirteen-inch shell weighing eleven hundred pounds, and the charge of powder weighs about five hundred and fifty pounds. The gun itself weighs one hundred and thirty-six thousand pounds. Near the muzzle the shell will penetrate twenty-seven inches of steel, and at a distance of a mile and a half it will penetrate twenty-two inches of the same material. The projectile is sent with an average velocity of 1900 feet a second. Manufacturers and inventors keep busy in the battle between projectiles and armor plate. To-day a shell may be made to penetrate the best plate ever made, and then in a short time armor of such material and construction is made that the most powerful projectile will have no effect upon it. On the one hand we have those working for the perfection of plate, and on the other are those working toward the perfection of destructive power. And thus improvements are continually made.

### From Our Contributors.

#### WHAT MAKES A MAN GREAT?

BY PROF. HERBERT SCHOLZ, A. M.

Why is it that some men have so much more influence than other men? Why is it that some men can generate within themselves so much more enthusiasm, inspiration, cheerfulness, and loveableness than others?

These questions have always been, until recently, rather puzzling to me. Some people say it is on account of their great knowledge of people and things. But that answer is not satisfactory. Some of the most learned men we ever knew had no more influence than an ordinary man; while some of the most ignorant men of our acquaintance had more influence than an ordinary man is accustomed to have.

Some people say that it is on account of their energy and persistence. That answer does not satisfy us. Some of the most energetic and persistent fellows we ever saw never got any praise among mankind, and their lives were such as to merit none from their Creator.

The recent nomination of Mr. W. J. Bryan to the Presidency of the United States has set me to thinking about this question more than ever before. Here is a young man, comparatively poor, who, we are told, has the power to hold multitudes spell-bound by his eloquence; a man whose magnetic power wins friends for him wherever he goes. Why is this? What force is there in the man that can so attract others to him?

Mr. Emerson said that the great man was the man who felt greatly for mankind. It seems to me however, that to make a man great requires more than mere feeling. There must be doing as well as feeling. The world judges a man by what he does. Herein, it seems to me, is the answer to what constitutes a great man. The man who works for humanity is the man who is great in the eyes of humanity. The man whose desires are to help the fallen, cheer the faint, heal the sick, lead the blind, help the world on to something better and higher and grander is the great man.

It was Abraham Lincoln who said, "The world will little note nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what we did here."

The Pyramids of Egypt, built by Egyptian kings to perpetuate their memories, will ere long crumble into dust; but the cruelties which those kings perpetrated will continue to be rehearsed into the ears of the world so long as history shall find an abiding place among the inhabitants of earth. The world does not regard them as great men. Their very names when mentioned were hissed by the people centuries after they were dead. They did nothing for humanity's welfare. But in striking contrast stands Joseph, the son of Rachel and Jacob, who labored to avert starvation from the seven years of famine. People rose up to bless his name and to praise him for what he had done in behalf of their welfare. And his story will continue to be read and admired so long as the Bible continues to be the only rule of faith and practice among the people of God. The truly great man is the man with the great heart, with the great desire to do something for the benefit of some one else, with the love of God actuating him, with the energy and sagacity and perseverance exhorted by divine command to push him forward into the great contest between the forces of right and the forces of error.

The last census shows that there has been a decrease in the birth rate in every State in the Union from 1880 to 1890. In some of the New England States the increase in immigration has made up for the decrease in the birth rate; while in others the birth rate will not exceed the death rate.

### WHY IS IT?

BY I. G. NORANCE.

I have often heard the old adage, "The longer we live, the more we learn", and I have almost reached the conclusion that it is so. At any rate, we never get too old to ask questions. I believe I'm built a little differently from some folks anyhow. Maybe I am too inquisitive; but somehow I could never be contented until I knew the "whys", "why is it", and "wherefores" of everything. When I come to think about it, I am certainly glad that I was born, for if such a thing had never taken place I can't imagine how I ever could have enjoyed life as I do to-day. It was a kind act of Providence that placed me in this beautiful world and surrounded me with such great blessings. I am so glad that life isn't any burden. I believe I enjoy living as much as anybody. The only thing that troubles me (besides the devil) is these "Why is it's".

I sometimes think if I could only understand everything I see and hear I would be one happy soul, but I expect that even then I would be a bigger fool than I am now.

General Clingman once said, when questioned as to his habit of soliloquizing, that he always liked to talk to himself because, when so doing, he was aware of the fact that he was talking to a sensible man. Although I reckon I'm a man of moderately good sense, yet I wouldn't be so vain as to say that that is why I sometimes ask myself questions. Because sometimes when I ask myself questions I get very poor answers.

However, I sometimes find this inquisitive self of mine asking me such foolish questions as: "Why is it that we have some men in our church who seem bent on having their way all the time?" Some people get "so smart" that they begin to think that their opinions and views alone are correct and should therefore be promptly heeded at all times. My brethren, these things ought not so to be. We ought to have enough of manhood and Christ about us, when we are convinced that another is right, to admit it. Some of us have too much of the big "I" in us, anyway.

Again, "Why is it that we have some active ministers in our church who do not even take the CHRISTIAN SUN?" Brethren, this is one of the "why is it's" that troubles me. I did not think that we had a man in our church who would have the audacity to take the pastoral charge of three or four churches without even reading his church paper. Brethren, how can we expect or even hope to have successful, prosperous churches when those who pretend to have charge do not subscribe to the SUN? In my opinion any such man has no business in the pulpit, I don't care who he is, because he evidently hasn't the good of the church at heart. How in the world can a preacher run a local church when he knows nothing of the workings of the church at large. What would you think of me if I was to take my seat at the throttle of a locomotive and start, with a cargo of freight and passengers, across the Rocky Mountains? I don't know one thing about the mechanism of a locomotive, and I certainly would not expect those passengers ever to reach their destination alive; and above all, I should expect to be the first man to get killed.

I wonder what some of our "behind-time" preachers expect as a result of their labors.

Mr. Hoke Smith, Secretary of the Interior has not tendered his resignation, but he has written the President of his intention to do so. Mr. Smith will probably resume the practice of law at his home in Atlanta, Ga.

Mr. McKinley has opened his campaign strongly advocating high protection, but he will make the financial question the main issue of the campaign.

### THE PULPIT.

#### WHY WE BUILD CHURCHES AND PREACH THE GOSPEL.

BY REV. JAMES MAPLE, D. D.

"Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature."—Mark 16: 15.

This is the commission that Christ gave his disciples, and this work is to be carried on until the angel of the apocalypse, "with his right foot upon the sea and his left foot on the earth," shall lift his hand to Heaven "and swear by him that liveth forever and ever" that time shall end. To accomplish this work ministers must be educated and sustained in preaching the gospel, churches gathered, and houses of worship erected where the gospel may be preached, sinners led to Christ and educated for Christian work here and Heaven in the end. This demands a great outlay of labor and money. Fourteen million dollars were given by Protestant Christians for the cause of foreign missions in 1894. This was only a drop in the bucket to what was paid by the church to carry on the work at home. One Protestant church alone builds and dedicates on an average of over one church for every day in the year; and we are here today to dedicate this great auditorium to the service of Christ. Why is this necessary? What is there in the gospel of Christ that makes it worth to the human race all this outlay of labor and money? Infidels denounce the Bible as a delusion, and the outlay of labor and money as a sinful waste; but there is an intrinsic value in the gospel of Christ that makes it worth to man all it has cost to establish it in the earth.

The infinite value of the gospel of Christ to man is revealed in the rich provisions it makes to meet the wants of his higher nature. Man possesses two natures—animal, intellectual and spiritual. Through his physical nature he is related to the animal kingdom; but his higher nature connects him with the angels, with God and the infinite. His animal nature perishes with this life; but his intellectual and moral nature shall outlive the stars. He was created in the image of God and placed by his Creator in a beautiful home, but blinded by the blandishment of sense he fell into sin and lost his Eden home. But this was not the worst result of his wrongdoing; for it cut him off from communion with God, clouded his mind with, conscious guilt, and clothed the future in the darkness of despair—"having no hope, and without God in the world." Let us now enquire what man's real permanent wants are, and see if the provisions of the gospel meet these wants. Man's first great need is a God he can reverence, love and trust in all the emergencies of life; for he is conscious of the need of one who is infinite in wisdom, love and power. Man is a religious being, and he will worship and trust in something. All nations have their Gods, but they are not such as an intelligent being can reverence, love and trust. They are cruel beings, guilty of licentiousness, lying, stealing and murder. We may fear such beings, but could never reverence, love, and trust them. The God the Bible reveals to us is pure, holy, just and benevolent, "for God is love." He reveals himself as our Father. "Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that fear him." When Christ would give us an idea of God's feelings toward us as sinners he takes the heart of a tender, loving, and just father, and lets us look at him through this heart of love.

Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone? Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent? If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?

How beautiful this illustration,

and how near it brings God to us. Now when we think of him it is not as Jupiter, the supreme deity of the Greeks and Romans, seated upon his throne, forging and hurling his thunderbolts at his enemies; not as Mars, the god of war; not as Pluto, with his two-pronged fork; not as Bacchus, with his goblet of wine; not as Dagon, half man and half fish; but as the infinite Creator of the material universe, and the loving Father of all spirits. "Have we not all one Father? Hath not one God created us?" All can have access to our Heavenly Father at all times and under all circumstances. When Lincoln was so besieged with applicants on various errands that it was impossible for him to give audience to them all, many distinguished persons went away from the White House disappointed, unable to see the President. But there was a beloved son of the President, little Tod, that came and went as he pleased. He had access to him at all times. Thus it is with the child of God. The way to his Father is always open.

The scriptural symbols of God are beautiful, and shows that he is just the God we need. David says, "The Lord God is a sun and a shield." A sun to enlighten, to warm into life, and a shield to protect from all danger. The name of the Lord is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe.

When Luther was making his way into the presence of Cardinal Cajetan, who had summoned him to answer for his heretical opinions, at Augsburg, was asked by one of the Cardinal's minions where he should find a shelter if his patron, the elector of Saxony, should desert him. "Under the shield of Heaven," was his reply. This is a sure defence, Moses said to Asher, "The eternal God is thy refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms."

In all ages men have been seeking the God the Bible reveals to us. Job gives expression to the human heart when he exclaims, "Oh, that I knew where I might find him! That I might come even to his seat!" There is a tremendous fact stated in the Bible and confirmed by the history of the human race. It is a humiliating fact, and its simple statement is enough to awaken every soul to a realization of the great need of salvation from the guilt and power of sin. Let me read this statement. "All have sinned, and come short of the glory of God." "The wages of sin is death." "The soul that sinneth, it shall die." Man is conscious that he has sinned against God, and deserves his displeasure. It is morally impossible for him to free himself from this conviction. He cannot shake it off. It clings to him with the consciousness of his own existence. This brings remorse of conscience, and dread of the future. Man may defy the authority and power of God, trample for a time with seeming impunity upon his laws, harden his heart, and rejoice in "the pleasures of sin"; but the day of reckoning will come when conscience will awake, and he realize his relation and accountability to "the Judge of all the earth." This is confirmed and illustrated by human experience. Not only the uncultured and superstitious have suffered the agonies of remorse, but men of the highest intellectual attainments have realized the bitterness of conscious guilt when brought face to face with God. The most gifted and successful of all the kings of antiquity, speaking of his experience when awakened to a sense of his sinfulness in wronging and murdering the noblest man in his arm, said, "The sorrows of death compassed me, and the pains of hell got hold upon me: I found trouble and sorrow." There was no earthly power to call him to an account for his awful wickedness. There was no authority in the government above him; but he was made to realize that there is an infinite being that rules in the armies of Heaven and holds the nations of the earth subject to

his authority and power. The burning consciousness of this fact awakened conscience, kindled the fires of remorse in his soul, and crowded the future with fearful forebodings of the wrath to come. No wonder he "found trouble and sorrow." Tiberius, Emperor of Rome, felt the remorse of conscience so deeply that he protested to the senate that he suffered death daily. He was a terror to himself, and would have hidden from himself if he could, but there was no escape.

Rev. Benjamin Abbott, a very searching preacher of New Jersey, in the midst of a scathing indictment of crime, cried out, "For aught I know, there may be a murderer in this congregation." A large man in the audience sprang to his feet and ran for the door, exclaiming, "I am a murderer! I killed a man fifteen years ago!" At the door he thought he saw two men with drawn swords, who were trying to stab him. He turned back and threw himself upon the floor, crying out in agony.

Out of this terrible condition of man in his abnormal relation to God and the divine government, grows out of his great need—deliverance from the guilt and slavery of sin through the pardoning and saving mercy of God. All the peoples of all ages have realized this, and their anxious inquiry has been, "Is there forgiveness with God?" Where shall we find an answer to this question? All nature speaks to us of God. The beaded dew-drops that sparkle like gems in the light of the morning sun; the bubbling spring, whose waters satiate the burning thirst of the weary traveler; the laughing rivulet that flows in beauty through the meadow; the lovely flowers that shed their fragrance upon the breezes of the morning and the zephyrs of the evening, making life rich and sweet; the beautiful songsters of the bower, which make the air melodious with their songs of praise to the Author of their being; the enamelled plains, rugged mountains, and the glittering stars that deck the Creation arch, all reveal the wisdom, love, and power of God; but they do not and cannot tell us whether there is forgiveness with him or not.

The laws of the material universe know no forgiveness. They are as inexorable as fate. The laws of our animal nature punish the transgressor with unrelenting justice. As transgressors we stand helpless amid the mighty forces of nature, and are held in hopeless subjection in the iron grasp of the laws of our physical being. Where shall we find help and hope? This has been the agonizing cry of man in all ages.

God is revealed in nature, and the providential government of the world; but we have a higher and fuller revelation of him in the Bible and in Christ. There we learn that there is forgiveness with him. There are three remarkable statements made by God recorded in the Scriptures. The first was made to Moses on Mount Sinai. He descended upon the Mount, which trembled under his foot-steps, and was all ablaze with his glory.

And the Lord descended in the cloud, and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the Lord. And the Lord passed by before him, and proclaimed, The Lord, The Lord God, merciful and gracious, long suffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear the guilty; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children's children unto the third and to the fourth generation.

Through the prophet Isaiah the Lord said, "Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon."

[CONTINUED NEXT WEEK.]