

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.

On June 30, 1896, the total net public debt of the United States was \$955,297,253.70.

The people of Morehead City, N. C., have purchased the Teachers Assembly building in that city for the sum of \$1500.

The late Joseph Wild, of Brooklyn, bequeathed \$92,000.00 for the aid of the different Baptist organizations of America.

During the month of March, 1896, \$7,268,604 worth of property belonging to Christians was destroyed in the principal cities of Turkey.

Maine is being canvassed by evangelists who travel in ornate carriages displaying Bible texts and from which numbers of tracts are daily distributed.

Sculptors are making their way to Galveston to compete in securing the contract for a monument to the heroes of Texas. The monument is to cost about \$69,000.

A paint has recently been discovered for painting vessels and wooden fixtures so that the troublesome and mischievous insects will not injure the wood. It has been tried and found to be a success.

There was a heavy waterspout at San Marcos, Texas, last week. Many houses and bridges were washed away, and several lives were lost. The crops in that section were completely destroyed.

Germany is now producing a new illuminating gas which comes up to the standard test, and costs only twenty-five cents a thousand feet. A plant with sufficient capacity to furnish a hundred lights will cost only \$150.

Prof. Dean, of Columbia University, will lead a party of naturalists and botanists to explore Puget Sound. It is expected that quite a number of peculiar animals and plants will be presented to the museums by this party of explorers.

The Christian Advocate of New York has just celebrated its seventieth year of publication. It published a special twenty-page number, giving the portraits of all the editors who preceded the present one, except one, the portrait of whom could not be secured.

It has been decided to establish a union missionary periodical representing the seven Congregational missionary societies. The first number will be of sixteen pages. The name of the monthly will be "Congregation Work", and will start with the new year of 1897.

Russia aided the Abyssinian ruler in obtaining \$400,000 from Italy to maintain the prisoners and to restrict the limits of Erythraea, and in return for these services she has gained great commercial advantages over her previous condition. Peace has now been restored between Italy and Abyssinia.

Sir Herbert Kitchener and his Anglo-Egyptian forces have for some time been trying to gain possession of the country around the Nile. The British forces at last succeeded in taking Dongola, the chief point. They consider this victory a signal one in driving out the Dervish who are the enemies of the British and the Egyptians.

An organization known as "The United States Church Army" has been established by the Episcopal church, but they also provide for interdenominational co-operation in behalf of the un-saved. The chief work of the Army will be to take the place of the "Rescue Mission" in the work among the churchless and the outcasts.

The North Carolina Section of the Climate and Crop Service of the Weather Bureau has been furnished a complete outfit for printing its own reports. It has before this time had the aid of the Agricultural Experiment Station. Special attention will be given to information concerning climate and to meteorological observations.

During the past sixteen years the United States has imported through the San Francisco custom-house 1,328,000 pounds of opium, or a yearly average of 83,000 pounds. From this source an average yearly revenue of about \$700,000 has been collected, making in all about \$11,200,000. The average price paid per pound was about \$9. This is an alarming state of facts, and something should be done to protect our people from the influence of this drug.

Mr. Tesla, the noted electrician, says that Buffalo, N. Y., is destined to become one of the largest if not the largest manufacturing city in the United States because it is near Niagara Falls, which is to furnish power for the lights of the city, and that the power will be used in manufacturing, making the cost of production much less than can be done by any other power. While few of the cities have increased in population more than fifty per cent during the past sixteen years, Buffalo has increased 130 per cent in population.

At the convention of the trades-unions of Great Britain which was recently held at Edinburgh, resolutions were passed favoring the payment of members of Parliament, the granting of complete amnesty to all political prisoners, important changes in the educational system, and making the taxation of land values and ground rents a test question in the next election. A motion was adopted advocating the nationalization of the land, mines, minerals, royalty, rents, and railways, and the municipalization of all undertakings in connection with water, artificial light, and tramways.

The number of men and women engaged in the principal occupations commanding a salary was 22,735,661 in 1890. These figures relate to those employed in the United States. The increase in the number of males engaged in these occupations for the ten years previous was 27.64 per cent, while the increase in the number of females employed was 47.58, making a total increase of 75.32 per cent. The increase in population for the same period was about twenty-five per cent. Thus we see that the work along these lines has been greatly increased, and that women are becoming much more prominent in the gainful occupations. In 1890 there were 22,486 artists and teachers of art. Of this number 11,676 were men and 10,810 were women. There were 3,989 male authors and 2,725 female authors. Of the 62,155 musicians and teachers of music 27,636 were men and 34,519 were women. There were 96,581 male teachers and 245,230 female teachers. Of the 33,333 stenographers and typewriters 12,148 were men and 21,185 were women.

From Our Contributors.

LETTERS TO "OLD FRIENDS."

NUMBER TWO.

NORFOLK, VA., Sept. 30, '96.
TO MISS HATTIE HAPPY,
Jollytown, Va.:

My Dear Young Friend.—I must not leave you without this letter, the Lord willing, because of the importance of the point I wish to make to you.

In my last letter I tried to show you that the gay and frivolous girl is not the bright and happy Christian. Some think levity indicates happiness, whereas, it is not even second-cousin to real Christian joy.

The young people in many cases have gotten happiness and frivolity badly mixed, but I do not blame them for it—the fault rests on another's shoulders, but it is not the less a serious matter on that account. The teacher of the young people is very largely responsible for this mistake. This is especially true of the preacher, for he is the teacher of the young people in divine things. I know this is so, for I have caught them in the very act. Only a few weeks ago I heard a distinguished preacher who had something like a national reputation, as a leader of the young people in Christian work. He arraigned the "long-faced" Christianity of the day by drawing a grotesque figure with a long, sad, sour, and ugly face, all out of humor with everybody, and this he depicted as "long-faced" Christianity, and then, on the other hand, he put in a plea for a jolly and fun-loving young people whose faces should be always wreathed in smiles, and then he left them without ever intimating that there is any difference between the joy of the jolly and fun-loving and the joy of the truly happy Christian. As we were leaving the meeting in which he had spoken, I heard a bright young lady say: "I declare he is jolly—I like him so much." What a slip that preacher made that night! What an opportunity he lost for doing good! He left those young people with the thought that to be light-hearted, gay and frivolous indicated the joy of the Christian, and I suppose they will not soon get that "hought out of their minds. Why did he do it? Well, I cannot say, but he did it. But do you not suppose that he meant the joy of the Christian life was more than to be gay, frivolous and fun-loving? Possibly he did, but he did not say so—he made no distinction at all. He did not tell them that there is any difference. It was all right to warn them of "long-faced" Christianity—I approve heartily of that, but it was equally important that he should have drawn a distinction between the frivolous and fun-loving, on one hand, and the truly happy-hearted Christian on the other. I do not admire the Christian whose joy is indicated by his frivolity and fun-loving ways; but I do admire the Christian whose heart is full of the grace of God—who is led of the Holy Spirit, who is filled with all of the fullness of God, and who wears a bright face, is cheerful under sunshine and clouds alike, because he knows he is a child of God—because he knows that he has passed from death unto life, and that his life is hid with Christ in God. Such an one has cause to be happy, and his happiness is so quiet and sweet—so full and complete, because he is in Christ a new creature; old things—his love of the frivolous, of the follies and fashions of men—have passed away, and he lives a new and a joyful life. This happiness, this joy, is worth having, whereas the joy that is born of the fun-loving and the frivolous, the worldly, oh it goes the way of the earth with the first trial—the first burden, the first sorrow, the first loss, the first disappointment—it will not stand a heavy test.

I think I told you in my last that I would show you the difference between the frivolous and

fun-loving joy and the real true Christian joy. It may be clearly seen in this: The joy that is born of frivolity and fun gives you a smiling face only while everything goes well—while the sun shines and the fragrant flowers bloom and the birds sing sweetly and all your loved ones are well.

On the other hand the joy that is born of God—that fills your heart and life because of the presence of the Holy Spirit, because of your humble obedience to His will, because you have consecrated all to Him and His service, that joy abides and upholds you in the time of your trials, in the time of your sorrows, in the time of your great loss, and when disappointment overwhelms you, yea, in your last great struggle with death, it will not leave you, but will fill you and sustain and make you happy in that trying moment. That is what it did for David—he said, "Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death I will fear no evil—thy rod and thy staff they comfort me." It did the same for Abraham, and Enoch, and Moses, and Joshua, and Isaiah, and John the Baptist, and Stephen, and Paul, and thousands of others. Dear Hattie, it will do as much for you, if you will just get it.

Now, do you not see a great difference between being frivolous and full of fun, and being full of real Christian joy? Oh there is a great difference. The valuable always costs, and if you would get it you must pay for it. In my next I will try to show you what real Christian joy costs, and then you can say if you are willing to pay the price and get it.

J. PRESSLEY BARRETT.

SOME MISSIONARY NOTES.

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

A lady sometime ago heard a missionary pleading for means to support men who would go to preach to the heathen. She said she had heard Mr. Moody preach, but she never received such a sense of her own sins as she did when she saw the burning zeal of the missionary for the salvation of the heathen. In speaking of the visit of this missionary she said: "It not only makes our Christianity (mine at least) look like a mustard seed, but it makes one wonder whether it isn't a dead seed at that." And then she said with a marked significance, "I wonder what the Lord does think of us—all some of us anyway." If some of us who are so little concerned about the salvation of the lost, could only know definitely just what the Lord does think of us, we would probably be waked up from a solid nap of indifference, and for once we would be most anxious to get to work in the Lord's missionary vineyard.

How much? Of what? Well, how much have you given to the missionary cause this year? How much did you give last year? Seriously, from this standpoint are you a profitable or an unprofitable servant? Some one has well said: "A dime whispers, I will help save America; a dollar says the same thing out loud; a hundred dollars shouts it. One prayer helps the good work on; two prayers help it on a bit further; a half-dozen prayers possibly make it go faster yet; and only the angels know how marvelously the prayers of a few millions might accelerate it. One man or woman saying a good thing, or doing a brave thing, somewhere, makes America a little better; a band of laborers affects perhaps the development of a whole country; while a host of workers may reap a harvest waving in fields as broad as a prairie, or mine out nuggets of spiritual ore rare and rich as a thousand mountain mines." Looking at the matter, purely from this standpoint, it seems to me that every lover of the Lord would desire to contribute his or her part to the missionary fund for the Lord's work at home or abroad.—Do you? Will you do it? Now?

Do the missionaries in foreign lands have much to do? It is more than probable. Here is a specimen of one day's extras, outside of the regular work with just one missionary:

"A child swallows a coin. Its mother brings it to us. A wife turns obstinate. Her husband comes to us. A husband hates his wife. The wife comes weeping to us. A man in a fit of despair joins the army. We are asked to liberate him. A member of the church loses his character. We have to examine into things and discriminate truth from lies. An educated Christian man runs himself into debt. His advice is to apply to us for higher salary. A woman has two sons—one earning good wages, the other a boy at school. The older son gets into debt. The mother's salary as a Bible-woman just keeps her and her younger son in food and clothing. The younger son, being clever, should receive a higher education. Who is to pay? Not the elder brother, but the missionary. At least that is the result of a discussion that occupies nearly a day. We re-use say. The missionary is then accused of spending over the heathen to the loss of the Christian."

With all that extra work for one day, how do you suppose any regular work was done?

A missionary sends us some good advice. He says: "When you cannot see any bright side, polish up the dark side and look at that." Now, that is a golden sermon in a nutshell. But faith always sees a bright side, because she looks at everything through her confidence in God. If He is, and He is, why He will change the dark clouds into masses of shining glory. It must be so, for he has said that all things work together for good to them that love God. Now, if I love God, the assurance that He gives me that He is making everything work together for my good, that alone turns the dark cloud into a shining mass, and so I do not have to do the polishing—it is well done by my Father in Heaven.

Now, let us act not only on the missionary's advice, but let us go a step further and through faith in Him always keep our eyes fixed on the shining side of His dealing with us.

A SUGGESTION TO THE CHoir.

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

A preacher, so it is said, after concluding the morning prayer gave out a familiar hymn, and said:

"I hope the entire congregation will join in singing this grand old hymn; and I know the choir will, for I heard them humming it during prayer."

Now think of it! The choir humming a hymn while the pastor was praying! Who prayed for the choir?—they evidently did not for themselves. In other days this writer has been disturbed by whispering in the choir during prayer. It is possible that the whispering during the prayer was about the next hymn to be sung, only that they might be ready to sing when the prayer closed, but it was no excuse. Whispering during prayer is wrong, even by the choir.

The Insurgents in Cuba are hopeful of securing their independence in a short time. The Spanish government has made a proposition to the effect that if the insurgents will lay down their arms by Nov. 1st, Spain will grant Cuba home rule, and would also guarantee that amnesty be granted to every man who has been in the rebellion; and that Gen. Weyler should be recalled and the Crown's representative in Cuba be some one who will be favorable to the insurgent leaders. It is not thought that the insurgents will accept the proposition because they think Spain has about exhausted her treasury and cannot in her present condition secure another loan sufficient to carry out her purposes.

Don't talk politics on Sunday.

THE PULPIT.

MIGHTY TO SAVE.

BY REV. JAMES MAPLE, D. D.

Now unto him that is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

Paul was deeply interested in the spiritual welfare of the disciples of Christ in the city of Ephesus, and he prayed most earnestly for them. He writes to them:

For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, That he would grant you, according to the riches of his glory, to be strengthened with might by his Spirit in the inner man; That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God.

Paul commenced praying that they might be able to measure the length and breadth, the depth and height of Christ's love; but as he began to pray it unfolded to his mind and became so vast that he exclaimed, "It passeth knowledge." We cannot understand and measure it in all its fullness now. It will take an eternity to fathom it, and it will always remain a shoreless ocean; for it is boundless and eternity is endless. Paul studied this subject until his mind and heart was so full that it overflowed in gratitude, and he exclaimed, "Now unto him that is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen."

It is true that we cannot fully comprehend what Christ has done, is doing, and will do for us; but we may learn much of his ability and work by the faithful study of his nature, attributes and work. In this study we soon learn that "in him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily;" and he that hath seen him "hath seen the Father."

When enlightened by divine truth and the Spirit of God, men are made conscious of their spiritual needs, and the first and deepest conviction is the need of pardon and deliverance from the bondage of sin. When made conscious of the existence, presence, holiness and justice of God and of their accountability to him men always recognize their need of forgiveness and help to live a Christian life. This has been the experience of men in all ages. Christ meets this want, for he has power to pardon and save from this slavery of sin. One of the first sermons he preached was on that sublime passage of Isaiah where in speaking in the person of the Messiah he said, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the broken-hearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised. To preach the acceptable year of the Lord." This was the mission of Christ, and there is an incident in his recorded history that reveals his deep sympathy for man and demonstrates his power to pardon and save. On one occasion while preaching to a great multitude of people the friends of an palsied man brought him into the presence of Christ, who moved with compassion said to him, "Son, thy sins be forgiven thee." There were some envying Jews present who said "in their hearts. Why doth this man thus speak blasphemies? Who can forgive sin but God only?" Christ read their secret thoughts

and to remove all doubts said to the palsied man, "Arise, and take up thy bed, and go thy way into thine house. And immediately he arose, took up his bed, and went forth before them all; inasmuch that they were all amazed, and glorified God, saying, "We never saw it on this fashion." They had listened to the teaching of the holy prophets, read of the miracles of Moses, Elijah and Elisha, but had never witnessed such a revelation of the love, wisdom and power of God as this. For the first time in the history of the world men realized the presence of one who could save from physical death and pardon sins. This was more than they ever asked for or even dreamed of. He "is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us."

Christ is the great Teacher of the world, and is able to lead men out of the ignorance and darkness of sin into the light of divine truth and the path of life. He is "the way, the truth, the life;" and "in him are all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge." He could justly say, "I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness." Man is spiritually blind, and is walking in moral darkness. The gospel is preached, but men do not see and understand its great facts and truths; for they are blinded by passion and sinful ambitions.

But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

Some men are color-blind, and cannot distinguish colors. There is mind blindness. A very peculiar case of this form of mental blindness is on record. A press despatch from Philadelphia describes a peculiar case which is puzzling the medical staff of the city hospital. A physician from Lawrence, Kan., who was in the city recently, paid a visit to the hospital to see a friend who is on the staff. As he was going through the hospital he noticed among the clerks a man whom he thought he knew. Looking at him more closely he was convinced that he was right, and went to him and greeted him by his name. The clerk did not know him, and said so. Yet the visitor declared that he was positive about the identity, and that the clerk had been a class-mate of his own at college. Inquiries about the man in the hospital elicited the fact that he came there originally as a patient. In March last he went to a policeman on the street and told him that he was lost. He could not remember his name, nor his place of residence, nor any fact of his past history. The policeman took him to the hospital where he was examined. Apart from his utter loss of memory, he was well balanced mentally, and was a man of intelligence and education. He remained five months in the hospital as a clerk and did his work satisfactorily, but no clue to his identity was discovered until the Kansas physician saw and recognized him. A telegram was sent to his parents, who have been in great distress about him since January last, when he left home to go to Washington and was not heard of afterwards. The physicians say that his case is a form of mind-blindness, which is very difficult to cure. That he should be rational and intelligent on all subjects but this one is extraordinary. Christian workers who have to do with souls are familiar with such cases. There are many who are honorable and admirable in all their relations, but are unmindful of their obligations toward God and are unmoved by the love and self-sacrifice of Christ on their behalf.

(CONCLUDED NEXT WEEK.)

The Sun only costs \$2 for a year's subscription.