

The Christian Sun.

BY EMMETT L. MOFFITT.

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

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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.

REFLECTIONS.

The yellow fever situation at Soldiers' Home and Phoebus is encouraging. The report still is, "no deaths, and no new cases." All surrounding towns and cities have raised the quarantine against Newport News, Hampton, and Old Point, and no further trouble is anticipated.

Affairs in the Philippine Islands remain unchanged. The fighting continues with the same loss of life on both sides; and there are no indications of a change for the better. It seems that it might be well for the Government to follow the advice of Senator Pettigrew, of South Dakota, who says that, "This Government should recall every soldier in the Philippines immediately, apologize to the world for the error we have made, and turn the islands over to a native government."

Last week a violent hurricane swept over the West Indies and the southern coast of the United States, and great destruction to life and property resulted wherever it struck. In Porto Rico it is said that 100,000 persons were left destitute, and a famine is imminent. The situation is so serious as to cause an appeal to be made by the United States Government for aid for the sufferers. Secretary Root, of the War Department immediately issued an appeal to the mayors of cities of more than 150,000 population for help for the sufferers; and later he sent out telegrams to the governors of the states for a more general contribution from the people.

Every now and then we have unmistakable evidence of the fact that public sentiment is coming more and more to be on the side of honesty, morality and sobriety in public officers. It will be remembered that some time ago a movement was set on foot to impeach the mayor of Atlanta on account of certain public and private offenses of an immoral nature. It went so far as to result in the City Council's asking for his resignation; but, the other day, the Mayor, after going over the circumstances of the case, closed a written statement to that body by saying: "As my indiscretions offend they shall cease. This promise made by myself may be construed also as a promise to your body and to my constituents at large. I make it deliberately, solemnly, with full confidence in my strength and a full knowledge of my weakness." As a result of this promise of reform the Council dismissed the committee appointed to investigate the Mayor's conduct, and all differences have been settled. This speaks well for the efficacy of a high type of public sentiment in Atlanta; and we trust that just such a sentiment may be manifested in all our towns and cities, and in state and nation as well. There is yet room for reform in many "high places," and we long for the coming of the day when an enlightened and ennobled public sentiment will tolerate no form of vice or corruption or dishonesty in public places—when only

good, true, clean and honest men shall administer our government from the lowest to the highest places.

France was again "shaken from centre to circumference" last week by the news of an attempt to assassinate M. Labori, one of Dreyfus' leading attorneys. He was on his way to the court room to defend his client in the new trial now in progress at Rennes, when some yet unknown person slipped up behind him, shot him, and then fled. He was not killed, but at the time of this writing his fate is in doubt. Many have been the conjectures as to the motive of the would-be assassin; but the most plausible theory seems to be that he was only another of the many hot-headed French fanatics who never rest satisfied until they have set the country "all agog" by their murderous threats and executions. At first the French papers took a very gloomy view of the probable effects of the incident, predicting riot, bloodshed, and perhaps, civil war, but they are now becoming more hopeful. Whatever else may result from it, there is little doubt but that the incident will strengthen public sentiment in favor of the unfortunate Dreyfus. France may not have another civil war now; but it she has peace long it will be the result of very careful and judicious manipulation on the part of the Government. In writing of the unfortunate incident the Baltimore Sun closes with the following timely observations:

"While it is conceded that the Dreyfus case is rooted far deeper in the national soil than any political or military incident in French history for many years, and while it embraces many elements that make it dangerous in the extreme, it is altogether possible that the shooting of M. Labori may prove the culminating point of tragedy, and that however sensational or important its political developments and results may be, it may proceed quietly to a peaceable conclusion and one which will reflect credit upon French justice and strengthen republican institutions. It is but natural to expect the cowardly and shameful attack upon Dreyfus' counsel to stimulate the reaction in favor of the prisoner and to weaken the combination against him and free government. His case is no longer that of the individual only, but of the country as well. It is not he who is on trial, but the republic. It has resolved itself virtually into a contest between those who are struggling for popular institutions and those who favor militarism and imperialism. The army has long been the god of French idolatry and it has been worshiped alike under monarchical and under democratic rule. But the Dreyfus case demonstrated that the army was fast becoming not a defender of national honor, but a menace to freedom. It is against the continuation of military tyranny that the champions of Dreyfus are now making their chief fight, and the friends of constitutional liberty in this country can find in the spectacle lessons that they may well take to heart. While intelligent and patriotic Frenchmen are desperately struggling to curtail the power and influence of the army in civil affairs and to keep it in its proper place, republican America is inaugurating a policy of militarism which in the end will bear the same bitter fruits that it has borne in France. There it has been fostered and glorified until the army has become another name for the nation. The people have been comparatively unimportant, the army everything." The result has been the development of a military tyranny, which has been dominant under every form of government. The Dreyfus case in its present stage is, as we have said, a protest and a battle against the tyranny, and in that aspect it is a drama with a meaning as solemn for us as for the people of France. The question is, will we make the application before it is too late?"

CONTRIBUTIONS.

THE PRICE OF SUCCESS.

BY PROF. J. T. COBB, A. B.

To the aged the world is a tomb where many of earth's purest gems lie buried, and where weary hands will soon find a succor from toil and care. To the thoughtless youth its a play-ground or an art-gallery where to while away time in life's fleeting pleasures; but to the young man its an organism full of latent powers which take shape, and by opening up vast fields of usefulness, they invite him where his best efforts may receive that reward, the goal of man's ambition, the crown of success.

What is more noble than a magnificent manhood animated with a cheerful spirit and overflowing health as he starts out in life filled with a high purpose and a laudable ambition to succeed. With energy and determination throbbing in his young blood, he cuts his way through all opposition and forges to the front. In this electric age he who would succeed must not only hold his ground; but make the stumbling-blocks and defeats of the weak and vacillating but his stepping-stones to the glory which his valor seeks.

If he would succeed he must pay the price; start with the fixed determination that every exact truth; that every promise made shall be redeemed; that every obligation shall be kept with the strictest faithfulness; his reputation must be held as a priceless treasure; he must feel that the eyes of the world are upon him; that he must not deviate the least from truth and justice. His energies must not be wasted, his influence must not be simply negative, but a live, burning positive determination to be an honor to himself, to his country and his God.

So that each moment as it carries the thread to and fro in the great loom of time shall weave his destiny from the lustrous warp and splendid woof of each day and every action; thus producing from the loom of life a character, a fabric without blemish.

It has been said, "there is no success in life without great toil." Industry saves each moment of time, gives her heart and her hand to her work; she keeps both the eyes and the ears open, always ready to lay hold upon all occasions that present themselves. It is the weaklings who wait for opportunities to come; the strong man's opportunity confronts him. It is to seize common occasions and make them great to snatch victory from defeat, to turn blighted prospects into noble achievements. If you have true power, the environments which mean call unfavorable cannot prevent its unfolding. From the bleak rocky hills of New Hampshire sprang the greatest of American orators and statesmen, Daniel Webster. From the plain fields and the foggy lowlands of Avon came the Shakespearean genius which has charmed the world with poetic eloquence.

Let a young man count the cost; let him use his reason and take warning from the many wrecks of life made by gaining wealth dishonorably for his wealth however great, if procured by the sacrifice of principle, he has grasped the shadow for the substance, he has given the pearl of great price for a bauble. Better remain in poverty and as the "Immortal Vance" raise our hands to heaven and say "These palms have never been soiled by a dishonest dollar."

You cannot keep a determined man from success. Place impediments in his way and he takes them for stepping-stones and on them will climb to greatness. Take away his money and his poverty urges him to redouble his efforts. Cripple him and he writes the "Waverly Novels" in rapid succession. Lock him up in a dungeon and

he composes the sweetest of all allegories, the immortal "Pilgrim's Progress." Bring him up in a log cabin in an American wilderness inured to all the hardships and privations of frontier life and in a few years you will find him in the National Capitol, the champion of liberty, the President of the greatest nation on earth. True success is born of economy, vigilance and perseverance. Industry and integrity are man's best capital, for there is no true success in life without a spotless character.

James Gordon Bennett said, "It is unfortunate for a boy to have rich parents for if reared in wealth, luxury and splendor and unopposed to the stern realities of life he starts at a disadvantage. With no knowledge of the compass, or currents and gales he sails out upon the great ocean of life and is soon lost for not being well ballasted he sinks with the first gale."

Some not knowing the compass are driven by storms, they drift for a while and perish. Others go down battling bravely with the wild sea waves. While still others keep on a full head of steam driving about all the time aimlessly, and will never make their port unless by mere accident.

But he who would make his destined harbor must not only steer straight ahead when the ocean is smooth and the currents and winds serve but must keep his course in the very teeth of the storm. Though he may be delayed by head winds and counter currents, yet he will always head for the port and steer straight for the haven of his destiny.

Whatever may happen to a man of this stamp, even though his sails may be swept away and his masts stripped to the deck, though he may be wrecked by the storms of life, yet the needle of his compass will still point to the North Star of his hope.

Whatever else may happen to him, he has not lived in vain for even a wreck that makes its port is by far a greater success than a full rigged ship with sails flying and every mast and rope intact which drifts by chance into a harbor.

For thus in life the world's greatest benefactors have met with the severest opposition.

Galileo could not be turned from scientific research by a bigoted priesthood. Though the fires of persecution burned round him, he was content when through his telescope, the product of his own erection, he could see the heavens revealed and the glory of God's handiwork.

Socrates drank without a murmur the poisonous hemlock rather than desert his belief in upright morals.

These men of truth and honor stand as marvels of success in life; rich without money. The world's best men do not work for gold alone; they labor for love, honor, truth and justice.

Paul was never so great as when he occupied the prison cell. Christ stood for truth and right when all had forsaken him. He even dared to face the frowning public opinion of a Jewish populace. He was never so great, so divine, so superior to all that's mortal as when smitten, spat upon, tormented, mocked and crucified by his enemies, He cried in agony, yet gloriously and triumphantly, "Father, forgive them, they know not what they do!"

WOMAN'S WORK IN THE SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR THE NEW CENTURY.

BY MISS NANNIE CLEMENTS.

[Read before the Eastern N. C. Christian Sunday School Convention, and published by request.]

Brighter and brighter grows the horizon as the dawn of a new century draws nearer. A few more days and the 19th century, with whatever good and whatever evil it may possess will be recorded with those now past, and we will be launched upon the 20th century, there to improve from the lessons learned today.

Do we wonder what tasks await us?

America's great statesman, Henry Clay, has said that, "only by the past history of a nation can we judge the future."

During the past century there has been a rushing onward in all the different departments of civilized life.

There has been a wild rush for knowledge—science, invention, and every phase of the intellectual world has made rapid progress. Nor has the moral and spiritual world been without advancement. Every day brings a new work and with it new and great responsibilities.

Here man stands no longer alone, but woman has taken her part of the work, and is doing that which can be done only by her. New fields of labor are opening for her, and as the years and civilization advance, her influence becomes greater and likewise her power for good increases.

In all the different societies of the church she is an important factor, and especially is there a place for her in the Sunday school.

When years ago Robert Raikes, filled with sympathy for the ignorant, ragged, wretched, cursing children, who spent Sunday afternoons on the streets, first formed the plan of a Sunday school, he engaged four female teachers to receive and instruct them. And perhaps to these four women is due the succession of the Sunday school today. For to woman is given a sympathy and manner that will win the confidence of the child, however much he may be scared by the trail of sin.

How much of the success of the men, whose memory we revere and honor so much today, is due to the influence of womanhood will never be known. Washington, Lincoln and Garfield have all said they owed what they were to their mothers—all God serving Christian women. Would Garfield, whose boyhood was spent almost in poverty, have ever accomplished the great work he did had it not been for the influence and training of his Christian mother? There was no Sunday school to which their mother could take her children that they might learn the ways of right from wrong, but she did not despair. She kept the Sabbath holy and in her own home established a Sunday school, reading and explaining the Word of God to her youthful audience. Almost every American child has felt the influence of her labor.

The future rests in the hands of the young of the present generation. What the boys and girls of today learn and live is what the future will be. If they would be true and honest citizens, they must not only honor truth and right, but must imbibe and reflect something of these virtues. Where then shall these principles be learned?

The answer comes, in the Sunday school. Here high ideals are instilled into the mind of the child that will become a part of the child's life. And it is a part of the great work of woman to come to the Sunday school and bring and interest these boys and girls in the things that will fit them for a nobler life.

There is to be a conscience developed within the hearts of the young of our land. Not a conscience that is warped and diseased on account of an evil development, but one that helps to choose between right and wrong without faltering and without fear. Who is to train this conscience and develop it into a principle of right? Again we say, the Christian women in the Sunday school.

Daniel Webster once said, "Only by leading the children to Christ can the future be made secure." This is true in everything that we would have succeed. And only by leading the children of our own Christian land to Christ can we hope to bring to Christ the nations that are still in sin.

Every day we see more and more the great need of a missionary spirit. Every day brings

to us the appeals from foreign lands where a Savior's love is unknown. We hear the cry of the suffering, calling loudly for our support and aid, and although many have heeded the call and are trying to uplift fallen humanity, there is still a demand for others.

This missionary spirit can be learned nowhere so well as in the Sunday school, and here is a grand and noble work for the Christian women of our land. Her heart should swell with pity for her sister living a wretched life in a land where she bows beneath the sorrows and burdens of heathenism; where she knows no loving Savior to whom she may go in the dark hours of trouble. Living a life of degradation, growing old when she is yet in the fresh bloom of life, and at last, having made brighter the path of no other, being rushed into an endless eternity, without a Savior's love. Surely there can be no life more wretched than that in a heathen land.

Hasten the day when every word will be taught to every man, woman and child.

The great work for woman for the 20th century in the Sunday school is to instill into the hearts of the boys and girls, who are to make or mar the world's future welfare, a love for truth and purity, a desire to uplift fallen humanity, and a longing to tell those in other lands of Christ.

And, too, there is a great missionary work to be done here in our own land. Think of the thousands and thousands of little, motherless children in our cities whose only home is the street or doorstep. Bringing these waifs to the Sunday school, winning their hearts for Christ, and teaching them manly and womanly virtues is a work to be accomplished by the women of the new century.

The woman of the new century has a noble work before her. Her power to help will be greater than ever before, and her power to harm will also increase. "Every stage of progress heavenward increases the responsibility of the traveler as a leader and a guide."

Since the woman of the new century will have new responsibilities, she should stay near to God and be guided by him in every step. Then her path will become a shining light, whereby others may enter the pearly gates.

PRIMARY TEACHING.

BY MISS VERA PRITCHETTE.

[Read before the N. C. & Va. Christian Sunday School Convention, and published by request.]

For the right training of children God has provided three great agencies, viz: the family, the Sunday school and the church.

It is the needs and means of Sunday school training we will notice.

"Do little things now," says a Persian proverb, "so shall big things come to thee asking to be done." To the primary teacher in our Sunday schools this should be an inspiring thought. Too often is this work neglected or depreciated on account of its apparent littleness, but we should remember "There is nothing too little for so little a creature as man." Even if the primary teachers "cannot be as rivers bearing great vessels of blessing to the world, they can be as little springs by the way-side of life singing merrily all day and all night and giving a cup of cold water to every weary, thirsty one who passes by."

"God will take care of the great things if we do not neglect the little ones." In the Sunday schools are collected the poor boys and girls who cannot attend the day schools, because they have to work, and also are collected the children from homes where the Bible is not read and taught by fathers and mothers.

It will not be known in this life the good that can be done by giving instruction to children who would be entirely ignorant of Christ and his redeeming love.

With these truths before us would it not stimulate any teacher to greater zeal and love to gather in the children from homes where vice and immorality are withering the possibilities of such children for life.

What a responsibility to form a creature, the frailest and feeblest that heaven has made into the intelligent and fearless sovereign of the whole animated creation, the interpreter and adorer of deity.

The primary teachers need to know more and to know it better than any of the other teachers. Not only does it require more thorough knowledge and greater tact to teach the little ones, but the work is more important.

It is more important because the possibilities in the child are greater than in the adult. Then a false idea is more readily received by the child, and will do greater damage.

Besides having superior equipment, the primary teacher should have great love for the children and take great delight in the work among them.

"Of what use is it?" people asked with a sneer when Franklin told of his discovery that lightning and electricity are identical. "What is the use of a child?" replied Franklin, "may become a man."

How much care should be used in looking after children where there are influences that tend to draw them away from the Sunday school. "Did not Christ shed his blood for them?"

Christians have learned by sad experience that it is much more difficult to reform men and women who have grown up in sin, and lead them to Christ and a pure life, than to take children who have never known the way of corruption and teach them the Bible and the way of holiness.

In order that the best results may follow the efforts of the primary teachers, whose love for the little ones and their desire not to neglect and despise the little things of life, it is necessary that the proper means be used. There are some general principles which should not be forgotten in this work.

I. They must win the child. The teacher who first makes the child entertain an unholy fear of him has lost his best chance for success in his labor of love for the child.

You must by gentleness win a place in the little heart—gain his confidence—and make the child feel that you are a sincere friend. Then you may proceed.

II. They must interest the child. To do this find out what he is interested in and interest yourself in the same thing. If you would teach the young you must appeal to the eye and that continually. The best scientific investigation contends that at least eighty per cent. of what we learn comes through the eye.

Maps, charts and blackboards are invaluable in making the meaning clear and in fixing it in the mind. The blackboard should not be neglected because the teacher claims to be no artist. No matter how rude the representation the children will take it in. The influence and educative power of pictures cannot be overestimated. The Roman Catholic church long ago learned the power there is in the brush and that it has successfully used that power none can doubt.

That the truths of the gospel have thus been perverted should not make us afraid to take the advantage of the power, should only warn us to use them in the proper way.

III. They must interest, train and drill the child in divine life. Instruction makes plain—the lesson taught—it does not mystify the thought.

Explain to them the grand and good characters and the blessed truths of the Bible in the simplest language that can be commanded. Simplicity of language certainly pays in teaching.

Children are more easily led to be good by examples of kindness and tales of well-doing in

(Concluded on Third Page.)