

NEWS FROM THE FIELD.

BERKLEY.

A new broom sweeps clean, and new type prints clear. Wonder where the editor got the money to buy all that new type that makes such an improvement in The Sun. Must have bought it on the installment plan. We wish to extend congratulations on the improvement made, and to offer best wishes for increased circulation.

I notice some of our friends are bumping up against the church entertainment proposition. Wonder if they never ate ice cream at a church entertainment and also joined in a necktie and apron party in quondam days—especially Elon college school days. As recollections of the past crowd upon me, there come numerous incidents to mind, very enjoyable ones, that took place at church entertainments. We are not advocating them, though, neither are we crying out against them; we are in favor of direct giving, indirect giving, one-tenth-part giving, as-the-Lord-has-prospered-you giving. If the young folks want to raise some money for the church and at the same time have a good, sociable time, I see no harm in it, because I'm not so far removed from youth as to have forgotten those good, enjoyable times.

I have been very much interested in the accounts Brother Johnson has been giving of his work at Greensboro. It seems to me that his success in raising money has been phenomenal. I would like very much to get him down here to teach me how. The church here has a six hundred and fifty dollar debt on it, that I would like to get paid. I think if Brother Johnson was down here he would soon wipe out the debt. I like to read of the success of others, and wish we had a lot more of them. What we need as a denomination, or religious body, or whatever we may call ourselves, is more men, educated men, common-sense men, working men, men who do not mind doing a lot of hard work for little pay.

The second Monday in January the Christian Ministers' Association met in the writer's study in regular bi-monthly session. The members present were Revs. P. S. Sailer, J. W. Harrell, H. E. Rountree, N. G. Newman, R. H. Peel and the writer. Subject discussed, "The Reformation Period, as given in Fisher's History of the Christian Church." We are sorry that more of the ministers of the Eastern Virginia Conference do not come and take part with us in these meetings. We need to get together occasionally for self-improvement and comparison of notes. The next meeting will be at the Memorial Christian Temple, Norfolk, the first Monday in March, the time having been changed at our last meeting to meet the convenience of some who could not come the second Monday. Brother N. G. Newman will designate to the various members of the association some special work to present at next meeting, and we presume that he will send notices of said work in course of a few days.

The work in Berkley is showing some signs of hope. The prayer meeting and Sunday school have been increasing recently in numbers, at which we are made to rejoice. The prayer meeting is the test of spiritual strength in a church and the Sunday school is the hope for the future. We would much prefer a large crowd at prayer meet-

ing and a small attendance on Sunday than the reverse. But we cannot always have our preferences, and so the only alternative is to make the best of conditions as one finds them. We have some Laodiceans here, and some good, faithful, active workers, but no second blessing sanctificationists.

Mr. Joseph M. Harper, father of Prof. W. A. Harper, died at his home in South Norfolk January 20, after a short illness. Mr. Harper was formerly a member of the Christian church, but withdrew several years ago. His funeral was conducted from Liberty Street M. E. church by his pastor, Rev. S. S. Lambeth, D. D., and the remains interred in Magnolia cemetery. Our condolence is extended to the bereaved family, with the prayer that the Everlasting Arms may be about them as a support in this time of trouble.

HERBERT SCHOLZ.

P. S.—Was pounded by my congregation with a thirteen-dollar purse Christmas, for which I am grateful. H. S.

ANTIOCH.

Sunday, January 17, I was at Antioch. We had a good meeting, and I trust we will be able, by the help of the Lord, to do much good there this year in saving souls and in building up the Master's cause. Everything seems to be alive. I found the Sunday school at work and I believe they are doing much good along this line of work. I find there, like it is nearly everywhere else, many out of the Sunday school who ought to be in it, many young men and ladies who could accomplish much for themselves and their fellow man if they would take hold of the work and consecrate themselves to the Master and His cause. But the great question is, How shall we manage to get them to take hold of the work? We often lose sight of those outside of the church and Sunday school, in the interest of the good of those in the Sunday school and church. Several years ago I visited a home. The head of the family said to me: "You go to see the saved, but us poor sinners you never come to see." I felt the force of his remark, knowing that it was a fact, but I said: "Do you think I act that way? If so I am sure I never would have come to see you." I believe that the successful pastor must visit those out of his church if he would build up the Master's cause. Let's look a little more this year after those who are out of Christ and I believe the harvest of souls will be greater than in any year in our past history.

On Saturday night before the 3d Sunday in January I had the pleasure of staying with Capt. John H. Beaton. Brother and Sister Beaton, like many of us, are nearing their journey's end. But they have been faithful soldiers in the army of Jesus and their faith is strong and their prospects are bright for a home in heaven, with their loved ones gone before and with Him who loved them and gave Himself for them. It is a great privilege as well as a pleasure to visit these dear people of God. May the Lord bless them abundantly and give them many years yet to live with us to glorify God in their bodies and spirits which are His.

ISLE OF WIGHT C. H.

I was at Isle of Wight C. H. in the afternoon. Met a large congregation. Had a good meeting. I

am well pleased with the dear people at this place. It is a working little church.

The Lord help us all in our efforts to do good.

H. H. BUTLER.

Salinas, P. R. Letter.

The old year passed away and the new year came while we were engaged in a series of meetings at Santa Isabel. In our judgment the time was opportune for a large attendance and a good meeting. The moon was large and clear and the people were unemployed. But this great opportunity was lost to all except a very few, the great majority choosing the gambling and billiard tables, cock-fighting and other sins rather than to hear of the blessings of the gospel. This is the hardest town in which to create an interest in religious things we ever saw. If there are to be many souls saved in this town, there must be such careful work and importunate prayer.

But let no one think that our meeting was a failure. A few heard and expressed themselves as being glad. And we believe that in this wicked town we have a young man who, in the future, will make us all rejoice. The following sentences from one of his letters will explain: "This letter is to say to you that I have much joy in Christ. I desire to do all that He would have me to do, and I am willing to be persecuted for His sake. I want you to baptize me just as soon as it is convenient, for I know I am ready. I want to preach, too. I can say something about what Christ has done for me."

This boy has always been faithful in attending all services in his town whenever he could. I believe God has called him to be the messenger of His word to dying men. And is it not marvelous how God calls so many out from among the poor and despised of this world to be the sweet interpreters of His truth? We can hardly think of a greater blessing to the work than to have God call native workers and fill them with His spirit. The obedient minister called of God is a blessing to the church and the world. I had rather be the humble minister called of God, having my steps ordered by Him, than to be the president of the greatest republic in the world. No other office is so high and holy; no other joy is sweeter than that which comes to the minister's heart; and no one has greater responsibility. No wonder that many have spent sleepless nights in contemplating the call.

Our work in Salinas and Jauca continues to be interesting. The mid-week services are conducted by one of the natives. Of course it is little that they can do, but their willingness to do what they can, is encouraging to me. The Wednesday night meeting was conducted here the past week by one of the members. The lesson was from the parable of the Prodigal Son. This is certainly one of the most interesting spoken by our Lord.

The leader spoke chiefly about the younger son, his need, the return and joyful reception given by a loving father. It would have made the heart of every reader of these lines glad to have heard the leader expressing his gratitude to God for being safe in his Father's house. Of the older son in the parable very little was said, but to me it is very suggestive. Our Lord seems to have unfolded the history of the

church with this character. We can see him portrayed in the action of the Jews in regard to accepting the Gentiles into the church, and we see him today in the opposition and indifference on the part of the church toward missionary enterprises. This older son is a good subject for a missionary sermon. He knew about his brother's sins and how he had wasted his substance. How different and admiring his life would have been if he had made an effort to go and tell his brother how his father loved him. He did nothing, and was sorry that he returned. Very different was the father's character! He must have been looking for his son's coming. O that we might have a greater love for our lost brothers! We meet in well-built churches where all is ease and comfort, too often forgetting that our brothers are in want, without churches, and millions without anyone to tell them that God loves them and is anxious for them to come to Him! T. E. WHITE.

Salinas, P. R., Jan. 26, 1904.

Concert of Prayer for Missions for February.

BY REV. EMILY K. BISHOP.

Topics:—Porto Rico. The Bible and missions.

He established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which He commanded our fathers, that they should make them known to their children.

That the generation to come might know them, even the children which should be born, who should arise and declare them to their children.

That they might set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep His commandments.

And might not be as their fathers, a stubborn and rebellious generation; a generation that set not their heart aright, and whose spirit was not steadfast with God.—Psa. 78:5-8.

Sing: "Holy Bible, Book divine Precious treasure thou art mine."

TOPICS FOR PRAYERS

Thanksgiving for the marked progress of our work in Porto Rico.

Prayers that the physical health and spiritual power of our missionaries there may be maintained.

Prayer so money may speedily come to the treasury that Sister Baily may be sent to that needy field.

That the large numbers under Christian instruction may be soon brought to full consecration to Christ.

That the native Christians may be consecrated, Spirit-filled, energetic, faithful.

Sing: "Guide me, O Thou great Jehovah."

BIBLE READING.

Leader:—Give some Biblical examples that make plain what should be the measure of our intercessions for our missions and missionaries.

Responses:— (a) With Faith, Mark 11:24. (b) With Importunity, Luke 18, 1-8; Luke 11, 5-10. (c) Unceasingly, Acts 12, 4-11.

L.—Why should all missionaries and all Christian workers take the Bible as the foundation and inspiration of their work?

R.—(a) Because of its power, Rom. 1, 15-16; 1 Cor. 1, 18. (b) Because it is a light giver, Psalm 119, 130. (c) Because of its excellence, Psalm 19, 7-11. (d) Because it cannot fail in results, Isa. 55, 10, 11.

(e) Because of its everlastingness, Isa. 40, 8; 1 Peter 1, 24-25; Mark 13, 31; Psalm 119, 89.

Sing:

"Sing them over again to me, Wonderful words of life."

Five minute Papers and Talks—Bible authority for missions. Our Porto Rican mission. (See October-November number of The Christian Missionary.) The needs of our Porto Rican mission and the church's obligation to it.

Men's Churchgoing.

So you are not going to church this morning, my son.

Oh, yes; I see. "The music is not good." That's a pity. That's what we go to church for, to hear the music we demand.

"And the pews are not comfortable." That's too bad; the Sabbath is the day of rest, and we go to church for repose. The less we do through the week the more rest we clamor for on the Sabbath.

"The church is too far away, it is too far to walk, and I detest riding in a street car, and they're always crowded on the Sabbath." This is, indeed, distressing. Sometimes when I think how much father away heaven is than the church, and that there are no conveyances on the road of any description, I wonder how some of us are going to get there.

"And the sermon is so long always." All these things are, indeed, to be regretted. I would regret them more sincerely, my boy, did I not know that you will often squeeze into a stuffed street car, with a hundred other men, breathing an incense of whiskey, beer and tobacco, hang to a strap by your eyelids for two miles, and then pay fifty cents for the privilege of sitting on a rough plank in the hot sun for two hours longer, while in the intervals of the game a scratch band will blow discordant thunder out of a dozen misfit horns right into your ears, and come home to talk the rest of your family into a state of aural paralysis about "the dandiest game you ever saw played on that ground."

Ah my boy, you see what staying away from church does. It develops a habit of lying. There isn't one man in a hundred who could go on that witness stand and give under oath the same reasons for not going to church that he gives to his family every Sunday morning. My son; if you don't think you ought to go you wouldn't make any excuses for not going. No man apologises for doing right.—Robert Burdette.

Rich with no very great things, but with the little daily self denial, the speaking a cheerful word when the heart is weary, the patient, steady performance of duties that come with every returning day—little things, and yet they contain the riches with which God is well pleased.—Rose Porter.

Heaven has as its chief attraction the continual presence of God. One who loves God longs to be with God in heaven. But we can be with God, and be one with God, here and now. Do we think of that truth? If we did, we should have heaven's chief attraction in the present. John Wesley says, "Many, indeed, think of being happy with God in heaven; but the being happy with God on earth never enters into their thoughts." The being constantly one with God ought not to be ignored by us as a duty, nor fallen short of as our highest privilege.—S. S. Times.