

# The Christian Sun.

By J. O. ATKINSON

IN ESSENTIALS—UNITY. IN NON-ESSENTIALS—LIBERTY. IN ALL THINGS—CHARITY.

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Organ of the Southern Christian Convention.

## 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 judgement, and the liberty of conscience, the privilege and duty of all.

## Current Comment.

### Tolstoy On War

There is at least one person in Russia who is opposed to the war his country is now waging with Japan. And what he says of his mind in the matter is a caution. We refer of course to Count Tolstoy, the apostle of peace. He views the conflict from a religious point of view and declares that we have on the one hand Christians professing the law of brotherhood and law; and on the other hand Buddhists whose law forbids the killing not only of men but of animals, and we see these two classes of men seeking each other day and night by land and by sea "in order to kill, torture, and mutilate each other in the most cruel way." He says that pastors of churches all over Russia, calling themselves Christians, appeal to that God who has enjoined love to one's enemies, to the God of love Himself, to help the work of the devil to further the slaughter of men. And then when the Count comes to picturing the work of the soldier he almost equals Carlyle in some of his pictures of the horror of war.

"Stupefied by prayers, sermons, exhortations, by processions, pictures, and newspapers, the cannon's flash, hundreds of thousands of men, uniformly dressed, carrying deadly weapons, leaving their parents, wives, children, with hearts of agony, but with artificial sprightliness, go where they, risking their own lives; will commit the most dreadful act of killing men whom they do not know and who have done them no harm. And they are followed by doctors and nurses, who somehow imagine that at home they can not serve simple, peaceful, suffering people, but can only serve those who are engaged in slaughtering each other. Those who remain at home are gladdened by news of the murder of men, and when they learn that many Japanese have been killed they thank some one whom they call God."

### Bishops and Barrooms.

The "Sub-Way Tavern," described in all the papers as in every particular a model and up-to-date saloon, was opened for business in New York city Aug. 2. The saloon is established by the reformers and its purpose is to sell pure liquor and food at low prices under the best possible

moral (?) conditions. The principal speaker at the formal opening, "the dedication of the saloon," was Bishop Potter, the most noted Episcopal bishop of New York. He said in his address that he believed in the old village tavern as a meeting place where a long evening could be spent without the necessity of getting intoxicated. "I belong to a dozen clubs," said the Bishop. "If I want to go out to dinner or a social evening I can do so in any one of these clubs. But what of the man who lives in two rooms with five small children? He has no club. To get his glass of beer with his luncheon he must go to the saloon." The Bishop led in prayer and the opening exercises of the saloon ended by the singing of the doxology.

If that isn't a spectacle for angels to weep over we'll hush. Truly have we fallen upon strange times.

As if the great living Jehovah ever had made a compromise with sin and Satan or ever would. As if men were driven by the necessity of getting beer with their luncheon and whiskey for their evening round-a-bouts. As if there were not and would not continue to be enough of drunkenness, revelry and debauchery in the world, not for any aid that bishops could give, but in spite of all that they could do and every means that they could devise. As if saloons ever need advocates or ever would need them in this land where they thrive all too thick and fast despite all that sane and sensible and sober people have done and can do against them.

Be it noted that not even the doubtful argument urged for the dispensary can be urged for Bishop Potter's venture since the dispensary is proposed as a substitute for the barroom, while Potter's saloon is only one more added to the already too numerous aggregation in the saloon-cursed metropolis.

This bishop's barroom business brings to mind another incident of recent occurrence. This Government of ours put \$4,000,000 into the St. Louis Exposition with avowed stipulation that the Exposition should close its gates on the Sabbath day. That stipulation is being carried out to the letter we understand. In a recent issue, *The Outlook*, edited by the venerable and versatile Rev. Lyman Abbott, D. D., took the ground that our Government had made an egregious blunder in closing up that great show on Sundays, this for the reason that there were hundreds of worse things than the world's fair in and around St. Louis that the people could go to on the Sabbath and therefore the lesser of the evils ought not to be barred. Since the other evils that the Government could not control were open on the Sabbath this one that the Government could control should not be controlled.

For the life and time of us, are our great preachers and influential ministers going stark mad? Do they find anywhere in Christ's ministry a condoning of or a compromise with evil and sin and wrong?

When the fight was on for prohibition in Greensboro the other day and the great heart of that city was moved to wipe out the saloons and rid a suffering town of that one curse, a preacher, a minister of the gospel, championed the cause of the saloons and used all the power of his voice, influence and pulpit to beat back the oncoming tide of morality and soberness and good government. The saloons had his sermons printed and circulated broadcast in all directions. It was indeed a poor spectacle for a preacher of the Word.

Evil will run its race and do its deadly work without the aid of, yea even in spite of, what can be done by prophet, priest, preacher or any good man. And it is a sorry spectacle they make in attempting to aid or abet them in any way.

### The Ferris Wheel.

The single creation that attracted more attention, we believe, than any other one object at the Columbian Exposition, Chicago, in 1893, was the Ferris Wheel. We understand that the same is true at the St. Louis Exposition. This wheel is a wonder.

It can hardly be called an invention, for wheels were invented long, long ago. But the hugeness of the thing, the marvelous display of engineering skill and constructive ability in its creation is that which attracts and interests all who see it. We have no idea that the great mass of a horse in whose interior the warring Greeks rode to the sacking and burning of ancient Troy was at all comparable in magnitude to this single stupendous wheel in whose thirty-six eleven-ton cars, fastened to the outer rims, 2,160 persons ride in safety as the great thing revolves, driven by a 2,000-horse power engine. No wonder men stop and wonder at the revolving mass, for the thing is 250 feet in diameter and stands 264 feet high. The axle alone weighs 70 tons—a hundred and forty thousand pounds; think of it—while the wheel itself, including the material that goes with it in stays, props, etc., weighs 4,200 tons, exclusive of engines, boilers, derrick and the like. It took 175 freight cars to move this material from Chicago to St. Louis.

The wheel is built upon the principle of a bicycle, the tension spokes being nearly three feet in diameter. In reality there are two wheels braced together and between the outer rims of these wheels the cars, 36 in number, each with a carrying capacity of 60 persons, are suspended on immense steel pins. It takes 20 to 30 minutes for the wheel to make two revolutions and not infrequently its full capacity of 2,160 persons have been carried at a time. You have to pay 50 cents for riding two revolutions of the wheel, so that the owners occasionally collect over \$1,000 for the wheel's work of half an hour. So far, we believe, there has never been an accident, to the hurt of a passenger, in connection with this gigantic construction.

For the work of man this is a

wonder. Men stand in bewilderment and admiration before it. We call him who conceived and constructed it a man of great plans, of splendid constructive ability, of marvelous engineering skill and genius. Yet when compared in magnitude even and greatness to the sweeping, dashing cataracts of Niagara, the rugged, towering peaks of the Rockies, the interminable depths and expanse of the throbbing, beating sea, man's greatest work is but a pygmy and his constructive skill is but a faint shadow beside the handiwork of Him who created the mountains with His word and holds the seas in the hollow of His hands. As man comes more and more to learn the strength of steel, the possibilities of steam and the power of electricity he must come to wonder more and more at the wonderful power and infinite resources of Him who created them with His breath and rules them by His will.

### Anniversary and Instalation.

The Gulf Christian church, which is the second oldest church in Montgomery county, Pa., commemorated its (71st) anniversary Sunday, July 31, 1904, with a house crowded to its utmost capacity all day. At 10:45 the anniversary sermon was preached by Rev. B. F. Black, pastor of the First Christian church, Newport News, Va. Bro. Black was at his best and for fifty-five minutes held the large congregation spell bound. After preaching the communion of the Lord's Supper was observed. Mrs. Catharine F. Supple, the only charter member living, was present to hear the sermon and to enjoy the communion. Sister Supple will be 94 years old 27th of August, 1904. This sister with a number of others went into the organization 71 years ago, when the church was first organized under an oak tree; three rods from where the beautiful church now stands. For five years they held services in the winter in the Gulf school house, and in the summer under the oak tree. The first church house was built and dedicated in 1833. Since that time there have been hundreds of people added to the church roll, but at this time the membership is only eighty, with a large Sunday school and Ladies Aid Society. The church at this time raises about eleven hundred dollars a year for all purposes. At present the church is in good working condition. After a good dinner had been served in the basement, at 2 p. m., Rev. John Blood of Lewisburg, Pa., preached the installation sermon, from the text 1 Cor. 15-58 "Be steadfast." It was one of Bro. Blood's sweet spiritual sermons and highly appreciated by all. The charge to the church was given by Rev. B. F. Black, which was highly appreciated by all. The charge to the pastor was given by Rev. John Conrad, an expator of the church from 1869 until 1889. His charge was a well and timely delivered message to the new pastor, as well

as to the church. Father Conrad is over 77 years old and while he is now afflicted with rheumatism, yet he is strong spiritually. Then one deacon was ordained, and at 7 p. m., the congregation again assembled for C. E. Society, led by Rev. Blood, who made a good talk on the power of God. At 8 p. m., Rev. B. F. Black preached a powerful sermon from John 14:9. The Sunday school room had to be opened to seat the people. Bro. Black, is a fine preacher, and with his beautiful flow of language ought to be in one of our large city churches. The writer went to a man that is very highly educated and considered the best judge of good preaching of any one here, and he said "Mr. Black is the ablest preacher I ever heard in any church."

The people here are all well educated and know good preaching when they hear it. Bro. Black preached four sermons while here and the people all were so well pleased that they want him to come back. He spent five days at the parsonage and the writer drove with him up to Valley George, eight miles from here, to see where Washington occupied in the winter of 1777-8.

At 4 p. m., just as the last hymn was to be announced the Ladies Aid Society of this church, through Mr. Black, presented \$25.00 as a free will gift to their pastor, as an appreciation of his services, over and above his regular salary. By the time the writer had heard the last of the presentation speech, the sudden shock had so cooled down, that the writer could speak a few words of thanks and ask the Lord to bless such good and kind people. The seventy-first anniversary of the old Gulf church was a day long to be remembered. Brother editor I will ring off now, and some day I may write about the historic grounds around here.

S. L. BAUGHER.

Conshahocken, Pa. Aug. 4, '04.

Put the people in China in rank, joining hands, and they will circle the globe ten times at the equator with living, beating human hearts. Make them an army and let them move at the rate of 1,000 a day, week after week and month after month, and they will not pass you in 1,000 years. Constitute them pilgrims and let 2,000 go past every day and every night, under the sunlight and under the solemn stars, and you must hear the ceaseless tramp, tramp, tramp of the weary, pressing, throbbing throng for 500 long years.—World-Wide Missions.

The heaviest fighting of the Russo-Japan war is now reported to be going on in the vicinity of Port Arthur. The Japanese are daily driving the Russians nearer the port and much loss of life in battle and from heat is reported. The heavy fighting has been going on daily for more than a week and it is believed that one of the decisive battles of the war is close at hand.