

The Christian Sun.

By J. O. ATKINSON

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

\$1.50 THE YEAR

ESTABLISHED 18

ELON COLLEGE, N. C., WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 17, 1904.

VOLUME LVI. No. 33.

ADDRESS
The Christian Sun,
ELON COLLEGE, N. C.

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.

The War.

The past week has been full of interest in the far East. After the Japanese drove the Russians back toward Port Arthur on land, both sides sustaining heavy losses, the scene of action was transferred from land to sea. On Wednesday 10 inst. the Russian fleet emerged from the Port heading for the open sea. The Japanese fleet pursued and gave battle, the commander of the Russian squadron being slain and five Russian ships considerably damaged, but none captured. The fleet was scattered, some sailing away to other ports, others returning to Port Arthur for repairs. It was supposed that the Russian fleet at Port Arthur was endeavoring to form a juncture with the Russian Vladivostock squadron. This was prevented and on Sunday a. m., 14 inst. a Japanese squadron under Vice-Admiral Kamimura attacked the Vladivostock squadron in the Strait of Korea and, after a battle that lasted five hours, won a complete victory, one Russian cruiser being sunk and the other ships put to flight after sustaining serious damage. Injuries received by the Japanese vessels are slight. All reports show that Port Arthur is in desperate straits and it is believed that that strong hold will be in possession of the Japanese in a few weeks at longest. This much is certain, there is real war in the East, a deadly struggle is on and thousands of lives are being lost.

Sunday Freights.

The way the railroads are running freight trains on the Sabbath along now is a sin and a shame. All reserve and timidity in the matter seem to have disappeared altogether and these long, heavy, rumbling freights dash by at all times of the day. Time was, not long ago, when they endeavored to get all the freights by before eight in the morning and after six in the afternoon. Not so now. They come and go at all hours of the Sabbath. Some one remarked recently, and with cause, that if you happened to lose sight of the days of the week now, you could very easily distinguish Sunday by the increased number of heavy freight trains passing. We have not kept actual count,

but it is our honest and candid opinion that more freights run on Sunday than on any other day of the week. Loaded with live stock? There are no signs of it. With perishable products? We do not believe it, certainly as to all, for they go in both directions and perishable products would hardly be going North and South at the same season. We are not acquainted with the law touching the movement of trains on the Sabbath in this State, but one of two things is evident: There is no law in the matter, or that law is being woefully violated. If there is no law, then we see no justice in having a law touching any other kind of manual labor on the Sabbath. If there is a law, it is being, as we see it, openly and willfully violated and the offenders ought to be prosecuted. A corporation has no more right to escape the clutches of the law than private individuals have.

Whose duty is it anyway to report violations of laws touching the desecration of the Sabbath? Whose business is it to see that railroads comply with the law in running their trains on the Sabbath? It must be some one's if there is a law. Well, we are of opinion that some one is sadly derelict to duty, and himself ought to be dealt with. We declare positively that it is a sin, a shame and a desecration for this matter to continue as it now is. We have not worshipped in a church near the railroad in many a Sabbath day, neither at eleven o'clock in the morning nor at eight in the evening, without having the quiet of the worship fearfully broken into by the noise of passing freights. And we are of opinion that many a freight operative has not had a Sabbath off for rest and worship in many a long month. All of which is an everlasting shame and an eternal wrong.

American Ideals Degenerating?

The student of politics has noticed that in recent years few men are named for the highest positions in state and nation who are not men of high moral character. For any great convention to nominate for governor or president a man of low ideals and corrupt morals would mean defeat. The presidential campaign of recent years, have given us men of lofty characters. It is gratifying to know that the presidential conventions of this year have given us men of courage, honor and unblemished characters. This is admitted by political opponents. They are consistent, active church members. President Roosevelt is a German Reformer, Judge Parker a vestryman in the Episcopal church. Ex-Senator Davis is a Presbyterian and a liberal contributor to benevolent purposes. He gave \$20,000 to an orphanage, built memorial church, etc. Senator Fairbanks is a Methodist and a liberal contributor to his church and its enterprises. This is only the expression of a principle firmly rooted in American life. Commenting on a late number of the World's Work,

editor Poe of the Progressive Farmer says:

"There are people who declare that the country is going to materialism and degradation. There are even people who prove this awful condition by isolated examples of individual degeneracy. But at last we have the final word on the other side. 'The World's Work' devotes itself in July to showing the finer side of American life, and to proving, by most interesting articles and interesting pictures, that the conditions are becoming better every day, that our schools are better; that our appreciation of art is better; that we buy more pictures and books than any other people in the world; that our charities are conducted with more skill and judgment than they ever were before; that there is less dishonesty, and that the cultivation of the arts and of the higher life is making rapid strides—keeping pace, in fact, with the great increase in the material advance of the people.

A Sketch of the Life of Col. John Perviance.

As the editor of the Christian Sun has kindly asked me to give some brief sketches of this good and noted family and their early home being in North Carolina we will begin with a brief sketch of the life of the father of David Perviance by stating his nativity was Pennsylvania, and was married to Jane Wasson, August 2d, 1764. Shortly after his marriage he settled on the South fork of the Yadkin river, Iredell county N. C. The country was new, but by frugality and perseverance he procured a comfortable living for himself and family. He and his wife were members of the Presbyterian church. He was also Justice of the Peace for a number of years, which office he filled with general approbation.

At the beginning of the Revolutionary war, he volunteered in defence of his country's rights, and was appointed lieutenant in the army. He was a valiant officer during the war; gradually promoted to the office of colonel. He fought bravely for the liberty of his country and rejoiced to see the colony free. He returned to the bosom of his family with a thankful heart. In the fall of 1791, he moved with his family to Sumner county Tennessee. The country there was a wilderness filled with savage and barbarous Indians, who were continuously afflicting the small settlements, by stealing and murdering the citizens. In the spring of 1792, his second son, John Perviance, while in the field at work was shot and scalped and left weltering in his blood by the savages; he was so near the house that his wife heard their savage yells and would have gone to her husband in the midst of them had she not been prevented by her friends. They had been married but a few months. Their only child a daughter, was born after his death.

Col. Perviance becoming alarmed at these savage cruelties left Tennessee and moved to Caneyville, Bourbon county, Kentucky, where his family would be less exposed to the barbarities of the Indians. He resided there

until the fall of 1800, then going back to Tennessee, where he settled in Wilson county. During all this time he continued an exemplary member of the Presbyterian church. About the beginning of the 19th century a very remarkable religious excitement took place in the State of Tennessee, under the labors of James McGready and other Presbyterian preachers. In this revival many souls were converted from the error of their ways to serve the living God. The missionary spirit began to burn in the hearts of many young men, who felt that a dispensation of the gospel was committed unto them, and they were led to cry out "Woe is me if I preach not the Gospel." They were influenced by the Spirit of the living God to preach salvation to the world, and almost simultaneously proclaimed free salvation to all mankind. One Presbytery without due regard to the rules and regulations of the Presbyterian church, licensed about thirty preachers, who had not a liberal education. This caused a division in the church and gave rise to a new sect, who called themselves Cumberland Presbyterians. Col. Perviance was in the spirit of the reformation and united with the Cumberlands, and continued in full fellowship with them as long as he lived. His wife also was a pious and worthy member of the same church. We would say here, it was nothing strange that their son David Perviance drank deep of the reformation spirit. Col. Perviance's wife died in 1810, being 68 years old. He died in 1823, being something over 83. His death was caused by a small hurt. He was yet vigorous for one of his age, his mind but little impaired. When told by his physician his time to change worlds was near he politely thanked him, spoke of his firm hope in his Redeemer. He gave his favorite preacher (Thos. McDonnell) the text from which to preach his funeral sermon. Other foundation can no man lay than that is laid which is Christ Jesus, 1 Cor. 11 ver. Col. Perviance and wife reared and educated eleven children, three sons and eight daughters; all lived to become heads of families. David was the second son, the godly precept of their parents was honored and respected by their children. They were trained in the nurture and the admonition of the Lord. Although some of them renounced the usages of the Presbyterian church, they strictly adhered to the observance of the Lord's day, which is today so much desecrated by many professors of religion. As this may meet the eyes of some of the descendants of Col. John Perviance they can rest assured of its truthfulness and thank God for the riches of such parentage.

MRS. JOSEPHINE LLOYD.
Avon, Illinois.

Mission Funds Needed.

DEAR BRETHREN AND SISTERS: We come to you with a matter of great importance, and beseech you to hear us a moment. Our foreign mission funds are threatened with a deficit, such as the treasurers of a number of other denominational boards are experiencing.

WHAT IS THE MATTER?

The causes must be general, at least in part, because they affect other denominations, and no one can explain it all. The stringency that has seemed to come with the Presidential campaign year is having its effect on missionary contributions. With us the change of dates for taking our foreign mission offerings may also have had something to do with it. Whatever the causes, there has been a falling off in the offerings for foreign missions so far this year. Some churches have made a very encouraging increase in their offerings, all honor to them; but not enough did so to make good the shrinkage. A slight increase in the work of our foreign fields has been attempted this year, involving an increase of expense. A slight increase of home expenses was necessitated by the last quadrennial convention, by which the office force and mission board were increased for the sake of doing a larger work and securing a wider representation. But of course only a part of this increase is borne by the foreign mission funds.

WHAT WILL BE THE RESULT?

Some other boards will probably carry a debt. We want to avoid that, if possible. "The board shall strenuously avoid contracting debt," is our rule. With a small exception, some years ago, our board never has been in debt,—this planned the work according to the funds available as guided by the receipts of the previous year. The present condition was unforeseen. The board expected some increase in receipts; instead there has been a falling off.

WHAT CAN BE DONE?

To turn off any of our native workers, or call in any of our missionaries, would be a calamity that we are sure no loyal member of the Christian church wants to think of for a moment. It is admitted on all hands that there has not before been such an opportunity for Christianity in Japan. Converts are coming faster than ever. Our cause in Porto Rico has prospered remarkably, and will continue to do so if we grasp the situation and meet our opportunity. No! No! we must not call home but make it possible for others to "Go." But to avoid debt and retrenchment, one or both, there is just one thing to do,—raise more money.

ALL TOGETHER—EMERGENCY FUND.

This appeal is to you personally, for an offering. And through you we appeal to other friends of our missionary cause in your neighborhood, church, conference. Do not mistake the gravity of the situation. Our treasury must have money, and quickly, or the calamity of debt or retrenchment is upon us! By co-operation in effort this can easily be avoided, our work made safe and all hearts encouraged. How? Each send an emergency offering—and get some other person or persons to send one,—of \$5, \$10, \$25, \$50, \$100, more or less, "as God hath prospered." Send cash, or pledge to be paid by October 1, 1904. The responsibility is upon every member of the church who knows the facts. What will you do to relieve the situation and make our foreign work secure? And, whatever you do, do quickly.

By authority of the Mission Council.

J. G. BISHOP,
Mission Secretary.