

# The Christian Sun.

By J. O. ATKINSON.

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

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The Christian Sun,

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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 church membership.
5. The right of private judgment, and the liberty of conscience, the privilege and duty of all.

## EDITORIAL COMMENT.

### The Gospel of Good Roads.

As is known of all men, one of the greatest hindrances to the development of our southern country has been our deplorable public roads. Bad roads have hung, and in all too many instances do yet hang, as a mill-stone about our neck to drag us into a sea of mud and slush. We have pulled and tugged and slashed through merciless mud, all the time crying poverty, poverty, taxes already too high, no more taxes for roads, and such like: as if good roads were not the highest economy at almost any price and bad roads were not a costly, expensive nuisance under all conditions. Put this down as a truism of taxation: That people and community pay the highest and dearest road tax who have the poorest roads. That rule will stand any test. It is a strange freak of silly economy that makes a man kick as high as a tree when he pays five dollars into his county treasury for a road tax, but frets the mortal patience out of himself; lays unnecessary strain upon his conscience, and spends a day with a much belabored team trying to carry what he should have carried in half day, and with pleasure, without once considering that this last experience, and not the first, came at the higher price.

Bad roads are costly to pocket-book, to patience, to conscience and to proper speech and conduct.

In many communities people cannot with any degree of safety and agreeableness go to their church on the Sabbath, during several winter months, for no other reason on earth than that bad roads intervene. For this reason, if for no other, there is a gospel of good roads.

We had started to say this: and we believe in it lies the secret of most of our bad roads: Many of those employed to put, and keep, in proper shape our public roads know as much about building a good road as a Jole of Jolo knows about building airships. It is a sickly shame how some counties and districts waste their needed money in the hands of incompetent and worthless road superintendents. To build a good house requires the service of an architect. To build a good road you must have a road architect—a highway engineer—or he will dig you a hole instead of build you a highway.

There is this need among us: good, honest, intelligent, skilled highway engineers. Until they come and we get the benefit of their skill and ability we are going to remain in the mud. A clodhopper may knock clods, and even dig a ditch; but he will never construct a substantial public highway. There is a gospel of good roads and for the sake of common decency and long suffering and much abused humanity we can, all of us, afford to preach this gospel somewhat.

Our plea is for better roads, and to that end, better and more efficient road builders.

### Congress Next.

The spirit of investigation is certainly in the air. Last year Tom Lawson said that certain corporations and moneyed men in high station were thieves, cut-throat robbers of the people and his "Frenzied Finance," brought some of the boldest accusations against men of means ever seen in the print of our day. Investigation of the big insurance companies of N. Y. began with we know what frightful and odious disclosures.

This investigation has given the public an insight, and possibly also, whetted the appetite.

At any rate another great magazine, The Cosmopolitan, announces that it has employed a most forceful contemporary writer, and one who is in possession of bundles of evidence of a most damaging nature, to turn the search-lights on the United States Senate. It is claimed that there is "treason," "corruption," and "graft" in the Senate such as the public has not yet heard or dreamed of. In a foreword The Cosmopolitan says "A searching and unsparring spot-light, will be turned upon each of the iniquitous figures that walk the Senate stage at the national Capitol. This convincing story of revelation, to be told in several chapters, and to run well through the magazine year, has been called 'The Treason of the Senate,' for the reason that that is a fit and logical title for this terrible arraignment of those who, sitting in the seats of the mighty at Washington, have betrayed the public to that cruel and vicious Spirit of Mammon which has come to dominate the nation.

"The truth told in the courts and in public print about the senators now under indictment, as well as the facts collected against many of their corrupt colleagues, proves beyond doubt that these men of the toga, selected by their state legislatures to represent the people, are really the retainers of the money power.

"Obstructive though it has been toward nearly all corrective legislation aimed at the further usurpation of power by the lawless plutocrats, the Senate has always cheerfully voted money for the building of warships, for coast-defense works and heavy armament for the protection of the people of the nation against foreign aggression. But the question now arises: Who is to protect us from the Senate? This

question comes with peculiar force while five senators are under indictment, others are publicly charged with betraying their trusts, and at least one has been permitted to draw a regular salary from the government while under conviction for flagrant violation of the federal laws."

Whether The Cosmopolitan will "make good," in its claim to lay bare the "treason, corruption and graft," of the Senate remains to be seen, but evidences make even the most optimistic fear that many public officials are not clean handed.

The spirit of investigation is in the air. As long as truth is adhered to and carefully portrayed, there is no danger, but much good to be accomplished. For the only way to correct an evil is to find the evil and learn its nature.

### Events of a Great Career.

Gen. Joseph Wheeler, whose death occurred in New York, Jan. 25, 1906, was born in Augusta, Ga., Sept. 10, 1836, graduated from West Point 1859. Served as lieutenant of a cavalry school at Carlisle, Pa., till April, 1861, resigned and took a commission in the Confederate Army—colonel of the 19th Alabama Infantry. Promotion after promotion came and at the age of 29 when the war closed he was commander of the entire Confederate cavalry forces. In May, 1898, President McKinley appointed him major general of volunteers in the United States Army and was assigned to service at Santiago, and was cavalry officer in command at San Juan.

In all General Wheeler was in 800 fights and in command in 200 battles. Was wounded three times, and had sixteen horses shot under him, and many others wounded. Thirty-two of his staff officers were killed in battle. Never in all his life did he command "Go Forward," but in a high toned, squeaky voice cried, "Come on."

Was in Congress from 1881 to 1899 and was re-elected again but resigned. From Aug. 1899 to Jan. 1900 he commanded a brigade in the Philippines. Was commissioned Brigadier General in U. S. Army June 1900. Was the author of many books—histories of campaigns, wars, etc. Was a consistent Christian gentleman, member of the Episcopal church. Was buried in the Arlington cemetery Jan. 30, 1906, with military honors.

### Covington Letter.

\*\* In a letter from one of the students at Elon College, received recently, he says: "The college is conducted in a manner that means a better life for the students." This ought to be a word of great encouragement to our people to give all possible aid to President Moffitt and the noble men and women associated with him in the work of training our young people, and it will no doubt be a stimulus to the President and the teachers to work but the harder to maintain the very best possible standards for the life and work of the young people com-

mitted to their care. I know of few such opportunities for influencing the next generation of laborers in the world's great work, as comes to the teaching force in our colleges. Let us keep steadily in view that our help is in God, and seek to do all this work as to lead the young to glorify God in their daily service—a mission angels might covet, and be no worse for the desire.

\*\* We had a bit of a visit last week from Dr. Staley, of Suffolk. He had been in Dayton attending the meeting of the Board of Trustees of the C. P. A., and when his work was done, he spent a few hours in a visit to Mrs. Mary Rush, the widow of the much beloved and lamented, Rev. H. Y. Rush, of West Milton, O. From there he came to Covington, and spent just one hour with us, and then departed for Oberlin, Ohio, to visit some of his former parishioners. We enjoyed his stay, though it was brief. I have learned through another source that the Christian Publishing Association had a fine year's work, clearing nearly five thousand dollars, and this in the face of moving and setting up anew for work.

\*\* I had a letter today from Rev. R. H. Holland, E. Va. Conference, now in his eighty-seventh year. Though feeble, he still writes a hand that would put many of us younger men to blush. He speaks of his deep interest in the work, and his desire for its prosperity. Also only recently, I had a letter from J. W. Wellons, N. C. and Va. Conference, who is now in his eighty-second year. The fervent spirit his letter breathes would indicate a man of fifty, but of course, the heart may keep young, even though the outer man perish day by day, for the inner life is continually renewed from on high. Bro. Wellons gives a good word for the college, but he is interested in all the work of the church. He says the work of the dormitory is resting a bit just now, waiting for good weather, when it is hoped it will be speedily completed. The work on the orphanage goes onward. It does me good to hear of these encouraging features in our work South.

\*\* The capitalist emphasizes money; the business man, business; the educator, education; the scientist, science; the mathematician, figures; now why may not, why ought not, the Christian above everything else to emphasize spirituality. This is the need of the church today. Never mind as to how we may reach this end, although that is most important, but let me press this one thought, Have you in a deep personal experience come to know God intimately, have you come to have close fellowship with Him, have you in this way learned how to come close to Him in prayer, have you got power to bring from Him answers to your prayers and sweet rest for your heart? You do not like my way of seeking to find so much of the blessed life—well, never mind, as to my way, has your way been effective to the end in view? If so, regardless of the way, I give you a brother's heart and hand? What is your answer?  
J. PRESSLEY BARRETT.

### "Digging Bible Gold.

NUMBER TWO.

To get at the real meaning of any sentence is of the highest importance to the reader, as otherwise he is not edified to the extent of his opportunity. Nowhere is this more important than in the study of God's Word. Take this sentence: "And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are—Matt. 6:5."

To get the true meaning of that text we must know what is meant by "as the hypocrites are."

In the days of Jesus the stage actors were called "hypocrites"—persons who acted a thing not meaning it, only desiring to engage the attention and win the applause of men. From this fact we get our word hypocrite, which, true to its origin, has come to mean a person in morals or religion who acts a thing to be seen of men, and not in heart meaning it.

On this account Jesus said: "Be not as the hypocrites when ye pray"—do not be actors when ye pray, not meaning it from your heart. Do not pray simply to be seen of men, rather than heard of God.

I believe it will do us all good to examine ourselves as to this injunction of Jesus to his disciples, and not praying to be seen of men. It is not an easy thing to do, and I doubt that many of us are innocent of this wrong in our public prayers—it is so hard to keep our eyes and hearts fixed on Jesus when we are praying in public. Let us more than ever watch to see that we do not in our public prayers be as the actors are—keeping an eye on what men will say of our prayer. This cannot well be done till we get much in earnest, somewhat as indicated in our study of Luke 11:8.

All private prayer should be made under directions given by Jesus, or as nearly so as circumstances will permit. Do you recall what he said in regard to this matter? See Matt 6:6.

GOLD DIGGER.

It is not a question of whether the prayer meeting or Sunday school can live without you. But, can you live without them?

You may be a good moral man without being a Christian, but you cannot be a Christian without being a good moral man.

Russian accounts now show that her recent trial at arms with Japan cost her the inconceivable sum of a billion and fifty millions dollars, not including her losses of territory and internal disturbances. But the cost of war is always beyond computation.

Viscount Aoki comes as the first Ambassador from Japan to the United States and Hon. Luke E. Wright, of Tenn., goes, by appointment of President Roosevelt, as America's first Ambassador to Japan. So Japan formally comes upon the arena as a first rate Power.