

The Christian Sun.

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

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Editorial Comment.

Obedience and the Negro.

In his inimitable address before the Press Association of North Carolina and Virginia at Chase City last week Polk Miller averted to a fact that is of interest. Before the war negro children were not taught to obey their own mothers and fathers, but the white master and mistress. As a boy he had himself flogged many a colored youth while the mother of the youth encouraged and urged him to do so. The colored children were held far more in authority by the young white masters than by the mothers and fathers themselves. When the war came on it struck down the source of this authority and to this day the negro had not learned the fundamental laws of obedience. That which is a rule, he sees now as a symbol of authority and forcing obedience is a policeman's billy.

There is ground for some study here. How many colored parents to this day have learned to manage their household affairs with law and order; how many colored youths do you know who hold their father's and their mother's word as law and obey the biblical command "Honor thy father and thy mother"? How many negro children do you know who obey their father and their mother? Very few we fear. Obedience is usually sadly and lamentably lacking in the home of the colored man.

And the larger per cent of the colored boys and girls now coming to maturity have never known what it was to obey a higher authority than their own appetites, lusts, likes and dislikes. Will not this truth explain a great many events, transpiring around about us? Obedience is the fundamental law of this universe. The planets above us, the earth about us and the seas beneath us were ruled and are held in harmonious relationship only by this fundamental and eternal law of obedience. It was the first law given to trembling chaos, the first command uttered in Eden and the foremost truth announced from Sinai. Somewhere, somehow, that which would know the law and do right and maintain existence must learn the eternal lesson of obedience.

If the negro child is not taught respect for authority in its home if his parental life is to count for nothing, if his early obedience in childhood is to leave no place nor favor with him pray tell us what is to be expected of him when he comes to maturity but to be a law breaker and an offender against society and the State? To our thinking Polk Miller was striking deep in his off hand and side wise remark. It partook of the solarplexus nature we are thinking.

Russian Infamy.

It is indeed impossible for our meager minds to grasp prevailing Russian conditions—the

mental and moral stunts being done there. As was reported, Admiral Rojestvinsky, commanding the Russian fleet against Admiral Togo in the battle of the Sea of Japan, was court-martialed, but admitting that he was at the time mentally dazed and incompetent; he was dismissed after a sharp trial.

Now report comes that the commission, appointed by the Russian government to examine into the surrender of Port Arthur, recommend that the brave and heroic defender, General Stoessel, in command of the Fort when it capitulated, be sentenced to death, and that Lieut. Gen. Fock, who commanded a Siberian division be condemned to twenty years imprisonment at hard labor—in the galleys—and that Gen. Reuss be expelled from the army and Admiral Alexieff, former viceroy in the far East be reprimanded.

Thus Russia seemingly attempts, before the world, to throw the blame of her defeat upon a few of her generals who commanded at the front. It is a disgraceful spectacle and shows more clearly, possibly, than any other one thing, to what low depths of infamy and barbarity this once great nation has fallen.

A Kindly Man With a Winning Eye.

One of the strangest and most remarkable political situations that we have observed has been the recent popular outburst of expression that William Jennings Bryan be nominated two years hence as a candidate for the presidency. The strangeness of the situation lies in the fact that the day of the nominating convention is yet two years off, the proposed candidate has made the fight twice and was overwhelmingly defeated both times, and the leading issue which he championed has passed out completely and become a back number. Still the man remains prominent and men of all parties and opinions are wondering at the present strange situation.

On this topic we are attracted to a very readable and suggestive article from the Church Standard as follows:

"One of the curious things of the current time is the spontaneous and widespread revival of a call for the nomination of Mr. Bryan as the Democratic candidate for the office of president of the United States. The conservative wing of the party, which could have elected him on former occasions, but preferred to defeat him, is now almost as clamorous in his favor as the other wing by which he has hitherto been supported. As a political matter, this does not concern us, but as a psychological phenomenon it is decidedly curious. Years ago when a conservative Democrat from Mr. Bryan's own state was asked the reason for his popularity, he replied: 'Bryan has an eye that wins good will. No one can meet his gaze and not feel kindly towards him, no matter how wrong he believes Bryan's views to be.

He's a kindly man and he wins kind feeling; that's the secret of it. Part of the secret it very likely was; it is probably part of the secret of the fact that Mr. Bryan has no personal enemies, and so it goes a good way to explain the sudden outburst of a call for his nomination. To say, as some say, that Mr. Bryan has shifted his ground is nonsense; it is the ground that has shifted. The silver question is dead beyond the hope of resurrection, but all the other questions remaining, with some shifting of the ground even in regard to them."

A New Kind of Exposition.

From of old it has been enjoined that if you would know the news at home you must go abroad to learn it. Here is an instance in which the saying makes good. Under the caption given above we find the best summary we have yet seen of the distinct plans and purposes of the Jamestown Exposition given in The Christian Endeavor World of Boston, issue of July 19. If we have caught the idea of the Jamestown correctly the following exhibits it:

"The World's Fair which is to be held next year to commemorate the three-hundredth anniversary of the landing at Jamestown, Va., will be vastly different from any exposition heretofore held in this country. In the first place, it will not be at Jamestown, the village founded by the first settlers, but at Norfolk, forty miles farther down the river, though there will be side-trips to the site of the old village. In the second place, it will not be on land, but on the waters and shore of Hampton Roads. It will be, in part, a great naval pageant. The United States will assign to the international manœuvres all the naval vessels that can be spared from service. An entire fleet of British vessels is expected, including the huge battleship Dreadnaught. It is confidently hoped that Japan will send a fleet composed of the ships that fought the Russians so successfully, and other nations will doubtless be represented by squadrons.

A third departure from the conventional type of exposition will be the emphasis put upon historical and educational, rather than upon the industrial values. Not the big material things, but the old things and the intellectual things, will be exploited, and the events that have made history. States are being asked to come and show what they are doing along educational and scientific lines, rather than make industrial displays as they did at Chicago and St. Louis. The State historical society of each State will probably make an exhibit; and some of the most noted authorities in educational and scientific endeavor will be secured to develop this unique idea.

One reason for not having the exposition on Jamestown Island is the unhealthfulness of the place, for whites, during the latter part of the summer; but

a wharf has been built to accommodate the daily excursions that will be run there.

Other near-by points of interest are: Fortress Monroe, originally a palisaded fort of the settlers, afterwards one of the best known battle-grounds of the Civil War; Old Point Comfort, the first harbor the settlers entered after crossing the Atlantic; and Newport News, the site of the great ship-building plant, located where the men from James town, disheartened by their disasters, in the act of abandoning the settlement first sighted Lord Delaware's ships bringing relief.

Within a few hours ride are more than a score of battle-grounds of the Civil War.

One of the most gratifying things about this exposition is that the quarter-of-a-million-dollar appropriation made by Congress was coupled with the provision that it shall be closed on Sunday.

The Sons of Ministers.

We printed in these columns last summer an editorial in defense of ministers sons against the aspersion that, as a rule, they do not turn out as well as the sons of other men. We then maintained that many in the active ministry of our Church are the sons of ministers; that in some instances most, if not all, the sons of the minister had chosen his lifework, citing as examples the Scudders, Demarests and Searles, and not confining ourselves to anyone denomination, but taking a wider survey, gave a long list of the sons of ministers who had honored their fathers as well as themselves by achieving distinction in other professions and callings.

We wish now to refer in support of our position to an article by the Right Rev. Bishop Weldon on "The Children of the Clergy," published in the Nineteenth Century. The Bishop desired to come "a just conclusion by ascertaining the sum total of the contribution, whether intellectual, or ethical, or spiritual, which the clergy of Great Britain have, since the Reformation, made, in the persons of their children, to the treasury of national life." In order to this he examined the parentage of every person whose name occurs in the Dictionary of National Biography, confining himself to the centuries succeeding the Reformation.

As a result he declares that "it is safe to assert not only that the clerical profession has sent out an immense number of children who 'served God both in Church and State' with success and distinction, but that no other profession has sent out so many children equally successful and equally distinguished." The Bishop marked the names of those whom he deemed "worthy of remembrance for some service performed in religion or politics or literature or science or art or commerce or philanthropy or warfare or some other aspects of the various life of the nation." Of such names he found one thousand two hundred and seventy who

were the children of clergymen or ministers, taking no account of those who were grandchildren of clergymen or more remote descendants. Of the children of lawyers there were 510, and of doctors, 350. The sons of clergymen who became clergymen were 350.

He further asserts that "the superiority which the clergy enjoy, in respect to their children to the other professions, lies beyond dispute. *** The superiority has been not of numbers only but of degree. From clerical homes have sprung more distinguished, and a larger number of distinguished sons, than from the homes of secular profession. No single source has contributed so much to the learning and energy and honor of Great Britain as clerical homes. The 'sons of the manse' have long since won a repute which has become proverbial in Scotland. Not less distinguished or devoted have been the children who have sprung from the sectaries and vicarages of England."

If data were obtained on this subject it would undoubtedly be found that America need not fear comparison with Great Britain.—Christian Intelligencer.

Flying Around The Capital.

A remarkable aeronautic feat took place at Washington, D. C. a few days ago. An aeronaut, in a machine which an observer describes as looking like a gigantic bologna sausage, with the framework of a dory, made a circuit of the city. Ascending from Luna Park, he steered for the Washington Monument, a distance of about four miles, and after landing there for a few minutes, rose to the height of the monument, 555 feet, sailed around it, and then flew over into the rear of White House grounds. Then he started the machine again, taking an easterly course over the Treasury Department, and following the line of Pennsylvania Avenue at an altitude of about 300 feet. He maintained this height until he reached the Capitol, around the great dome of which the balloons sailed beautifully and easily. Another landing was made at the east front of the Capitol and then the aeronaut sailed away for Luna Park. As the airship made its graceful flight, Government business was practically suspended. Senators and Representatives hurried from their chamber to see it. Members of the Army General Staff eagerly watched its movements, and the roofs of the Department Buildings were crowded with clerks interested in the strange spectacle. Crowds of ordinary citizens stopped in their errands in streets to gaze to the skies, as the novel airship sailed around the city, descending and ascending at the will of the aeronaut. Would that all whose attention was that day drawn to this flight through the air might seek the fulfillment of that promise of heavenly flight that is made to all those who wait upon God; They that wait upon the Lord, shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint—Isaiah 40: 31.—Christian Herald.