

# The Christian Sun.

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

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## EDITORIAL COMMENT.

### THE YOUNGEST SENATOR.

When the next Congress meets, the youngest Senator to take his seat in that body will be now Governor Beckham, of Kentucky. That will do to think over. When in madness and folly Governor Croeger, of Kentucky, was shot down by mountain buines and desperadoes six years ago, this young man Beckham, then a boy, was Lieutenant Governor and by virtue of that fact came to be Governor. So soberly and wisely did he manage affairs that when his accidental term was done, he was re-elected Governor on his own account by a greatly increased majority. Now it chances that Kentucky is a whiskey State and many of its towns were "wide open" on Sundays. The young Governor said Sunday should be respected and that saloons on that day must shut up—or they would be shut up seven days, instead of one, in the week. Sobriety backed him up and then instead of becoming unpopular from spreading such a sentiment Beckham became popular, for he was honest and sober and sound.

This fall, when entering the race for United States Senator, he went before the people in the primary on his temperance record. He plead for temperance on the hustings and from the stump, and his nomination, equal in Kentucky to an election, is the vindication of his efforts and a distinct triumph for temperance and sobriety even in this whiskey-manufacturing and whiskey-consuming state. Gradually the cause of sobriety, temperance and order triumphs. Let us thank God and take courage.

### PERFECT THROUGH SUFFERING.

The Word tells that Christ, the only begotten of the Father, "was made perfect through suffering." So in the economy of grace pain has its place. As earth's highest values are obtained through suffering, heaven's highest virtues are reached through pain. "Made perfect through suffering." That is significant.

A writer in a recent Review tells how the priceless pearl is produced. The writer says, "Do you know the strange process of the formation of a pearl? By some accident a sharp particle of stone gets in through the mouth of the oyster and becomes embedded in its soft flesh. The irritation causes pain, and as this continues the shell-fish has the remarkable property of surrounding the foreign substance with a thick milky fluid from its own body. This gradually assumes a round shape so that the cutting edges of the sharp particle are completely covered over, and then, of course, the irritation ceases. This formation hardens, and, lo, whoever opens that oyster finds a pearl, perhaps a pearl of great price, and the pearl never would have existed but for pain."

You and I have seen priceless pearls of faith, of patience, of gentleness, of loving-kindness—and these never would have existed without pain. Suffering is sometimes severe, and pain is grievous to be borne, but somehow in the providence of God they have their place, and in many a life produce that pearl of great price which otherwise that life would never have possessed. Even Christ, the sinless One, "was made perfect through suffering."

### A CONTEMPORARY AND WE.

Commenting last week on the Charlotte Observer's editorial declaration of a few days before, that "evil is at all times vastly superior as news to good, which is seldom news at all" we essayed to substantiate our contemporary's assertion by giving, as briefly as possible, a resume of what that "most conservative and reliable daily" gave its readers on a given date previously. We laid no strictures and read no moral lecture to our contemporary, but contented ourselves with reciting the facts and then added, "Mind you no attack is here made, or intended, upon the paper in question or the daily in general.

the daily has its place. It points out the mud, the slush and the shame of society, the awful pathos of human weakness, the terrible tragedy of human sin and evil. As such let it be read. But that is not all of life, not even the most, and certainly not the best of life. The man who takes his daily as his only paper, or even as his principal reading must forever carry with him a dark picture. "This is an awful arraignment. It is daily paper may tell you what is; but it is needful that one read something of what ought to be, and there is your religious paper."

The daily cited was gracious enough to publish in its issue of Nov. 25 the entire editorial in question and then add on its account these lines:

"This is an awful arraignment. It is kindly, complimentary—for which we are very grateful—and it is severely critical. We are ever mindful of criticism and highly respectful of it when it is deserved. But what would our contemporary have us do? It would not have The Observer suppress the news, else it would lose interest in it. All is fish that comes to our net. As explained often before, we try to cut out or modify the worst language, the most indelicate, the baldest vulgarity of the many stories that come night by night, but if the paper is to continue a newspaper, the substance of all that is of human interest must be handled. It is the purpose of The Observer to do all the good it can and as little evil. If wrong things are done, if sin is committed, it is not at fault but if it did not record the delinquencies it would not only fail to discharge what it conceives to be its duty, but might be obnoxious to the charge that in failing to expose crime it encouraged it by concealment. We can assure our respected friend of The Christian Sun that if he ever travels this path, in good conscience—as of course if he ever does he will—trying to discriminate between what is necessary and what is baneful, he will find it thorny.

"With regard to the publication of news relating to the churches, The Observer is acquitted of delinquencies. It is always a diligent seeker for it. It does not wait for it to come in, but goes out after it. Secular as it is, and wicked as it is, Church news is primary with it—and the promotion of all Church interests is an object of its special care. No Convention, Synod, Conference, Convocation, Presbytery, anywhere within its sphere of influence, escapes its thought, and if it ever misses one of them it is not its fault. There is no paper of like size anywhere that prints as much Church news or more matter, in synopses of sermons, interpretation of Sunday school lessons, or like matter, intended to forward the cause of the Christian religion. If it does not print more it is because it cannot get it. It were foolish if it were less advertent to these matters—it has sense enough to know that our whole civilization is bottomed upon this religion—that if it languished, itself would languish and fail.

"The Christian Sun is, as has been said, kindly, but it is not wholly just. If it will look into the facts a little more narrowly, it will be more charitable to The Observer."

Where upon we rise to remark that The Observer accuses us of a criticism we never uttered and "a terrible arraignment" we never made. We did not presume to say that the Observer should have left out a single article that it did publish or put in a single one that it left out. When we wrote that editorial we were not in a moralizing, but in an analyzing mood. Does the Observer call it not just, uncharitable, too narrow, severely critical and "a terrible arraignment," for The Christian Sun to make a table of contents, a brief summary of the articles The Observer presented its readers on a certain day? Wherein were we not just, not charitable, severely critical?

Only a poor artist must write in letters under his pictures what he has drawn; and only a stupid writer must needs explain his motive, but if the esteemed Observer, with its accustomed intellectual acumen, failed to catch the meaning and did not interpret the

intention and the facts of our editorial we are persuaded that all others of our readers must have done likewise. Ergo, some explanation. We were trying to show and said as much in as plain English as we could command, that the man and the household made a terrible mistake that read the daily papers and nothing more. That the church paper though dull and insipid as news should have some place as well as the daily paper. That it was the business of the daily to show one side of life—what had happened. That it was the business of the church paper to show the other side—what ought to happen. That the man who read his daily papers only would get at best an imperfect picture of his fellow-man and of human society. And in order that we might be perfectly fair to our readers we chose the most conservative and reliable daily in all our acquaintance and showed them from its table of contents what the daily reading of the man and the household was that read only the daily papers. If we erred in choosing what we regarded as the most conservative and reliable daily instead of taking the most yellow and sensational, then we plead guilty to severe criticism and declare ourselves unjust and uncharitable, both to our readers and to The Observer.

Or would our contemporary have its admirers read its pages and nothing else, discuss by the fireside its contents and nothing more, and make "the bad which is superior as news always" their daily topics of thought, speech and converse? We had not thought it of a contemporary so gracious and so generous as The Observer.

We most heartily acquit our neighbor of all evil intents and purposes, knowing something of the thorny way and further of its splendid efforts to print church and religious news; and repeat again that we were not presuming to preach to it, but to that, as we believe, constantly increasing number of men and women, boys and girls who believe that a daily paper contains sufficient mental and moral pabulum for their daily sustenance—and that a church paper isn't much needed in the home after all.

The church paper in needed, for it shows a side of life not found elsewhere. And to be pitied indeed is that home into which the church paper does not go week after week. Somewhere in the week, gentle reader, take time and leisure to sit down and read your church paper. It will tell mightily for your character and your manhood in the days and in the years to come.

### ANOTHER FRAUD EXPOSED.

The Progressive Farmer, of Raleigh, N. C., printed an article last week exposing the stock food fraud which it openly declares to be the most stupendous swindle now being practiced upon American farmers.

Millions and millions of dollars are spent every year for gaudily advertised "stock foods," "condition powders," etc., for farm animals, while the investigations and tests made by the Experiment Station have demonstrated that these preparations are nothing more than common meal, bran etc., with a little cheap sulphur, salt, Epsom salts, pepper, saltpeter, etc. added to change the taste, and the mixture (hardly more valuable than ordinary ship stuff) put up in flaming packages, advertised in big illustrated ads in farm papers, and sold to gullible farmers at rates ranging from \$250 to \$2,500 a ton.

These stock foods, which can be found in almost any country store, have recently been tested in seven different Experiment Stations, and our farmers who are paying such enormous prices for the mixtures, should be interested in the results as reported by The Progressive Farmer.

In Minnesota steers without stock food gave better results than those using the stock foods. In Kansas two lots of sheep were fed, and those without stock food made 117 pounds greater gain. In Massachusetts a slight gain in butter was made—but at an increased cost of 48 cents a pound! Of nineteen experiments in New Jersey, sixteen showed no gains, and in the three cases where gains were made from stock foods, their

cost was so great as to make their use unprofitable.

And so it goes. The Progressive Farmer gives instance after instance—but we mention these examples merely to warn our farmer readers against wasting further the many hard-earned dollars that go out from our county each year for these much-advertised frauds—for frauds they are, although so conspicuously advertised in many farm papers.

Here is one little leak which our farmers may stop and keep some good money at home. Let stock-foods alone.

The frauds of our day are unnumbered, but the wise will take warning when well advised.

### WATCHING THE CUSTOMERS.

Ever stand on a street corner, or at a nearby grocery, and out of idle curiosity watch the stream of customers pouring into, and then out of the grog shop? It is an interesting spectacle. It is bad manners, if not poor morals, to note with too close scrutiny your neighbor's clothes, but when your neighbor wears bad clothes because he spends his means to worse purpose than bad clothes, scant food or indecent shelter, then a little scrutiny may be pardoned.

Sometimes, then, when leisure and curiosity allow, stop at the grocery and watch the grog-shop visitors. On the whole they present an uncomely appearance, are in fact an unenviable and an uncouth lot. You will at once note that the dime they are about to spend for drink would to better effect and purpose have been spent for a shave; and the nickel for a "short," was certainly needed for a "shine." (A strange economy is that which enables a man to pay ten cents for a drink, but makes him feel that so much paid for a shave or a shine would be sinful extravagance.) Their shoes are run down at the heel or finished up at the toe, and the half-dollar they are now about to spend for a pint would put their foot-wear in good repair and protect them from the cold. The old overcoat, seedy and threadbare, hangs on their stooped shoulders, as on the framework of a scare-crow, while the pockets of the same bulge with ticklers the cash for whose contents would have purchased a half dozen coats and made the wearer look decent and feel comfortable. The clothes they have on are, for economy's sake, those brought over from the wreckage of last season, and now look seedy enough for a haystack. (If half the money spent for liquor last winter had been saved for clothes they might have on a tailor made and of the best.) And their linen—well, the contents of a grog shop will literally take all the starch out of the stiffest and glossiest linen ever made. (Who frequents a barroom constantly, little by little leaves his linen at the door, and dons instead unkept, unwashed, unsavory rags as hundreds and thousands of poor deluded fellows have done before.) Truly is the track that leads to the saloon the track of filth and dirt and squalor, of tattered clothes, of worn-out shoes, of shattered nerves, and of wasted and dissipated forms.

Is it not strange that young men just beginning to go to the saloon do not see these things, discover the company into which they are falling, and the society which the saloon thrusts upon them, and in disdain, contempt and shame forever turn their backs upon such. The company that one must be thrown into who frequents the saloon is enough to disgust all decent folks. And this does not touch the deeper question of morality, of evil and of hereafter.

Mrs. Russel Sage is a factor in the financial world, as was her distinguished husband. She recently placed loans amounting to \$8,500,000 in one day. She is believed to control at least \$80,000,000.

Only eleven have been killed in foot ball this season as against eighteen last season. The rules have been modified and the death list decreased by six. And then there have only been 118 wounded seriously against 148 last year. So the new rules are not as cruel and brutal—as they might be.