

# The Christian Sun.

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

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## EDITORIAL COMMENT.

### SHIP SUBSIDIES.

Last week President Roosevelt sent a special message to Congress advocating ship subsidies. It is useless to say that we were surprised at this. President Roosevelt has made himself famous as the champion of equal rights to all and special privileges to none. In an era of graft and special concessions, he has been the avowed enemy, in season and out of season, of both. As police commissioner of New York City, as governor of New York State, and as President of the United States, he has been the unrelenting advocate of no respect of persons. Great is the pity that he should deny his policy at this late hour. We had not expected it of so good a Democrat as Theodore Roosevelt.

All of us grant the need, the pressing need and dire necessity of an American Merchant Marine. We need it for three reasons—the encouragement of commerce, the care of the international mails, and as a possible navy in times of war. We are, all of us, ashamed of the petty show we make as a shipping nation. It is not at all flattering to our self-respect to think what is the fact, that we carry practically none of our own foreign commerce and none at all of other nations'. There are great seaport cities that never see an American flag once a year. This is not at all in keeping with our dignity nor consonant with our position as a great world power. All of us agree that we should have more American ships doing the transportation business of the world.

We differ on the method of getting these ships. Our strenuous President has decided on the subsidy plan. He makes a great ado over the fact that we live in a subsidy age—at a time when other nations grant subsidies. From this he infers that we should do the same—that "we must do as Rome does." Apart from the false ethical principle involved in doing as Rome does, we must dissent from this latest pronouncement of the President. As we see it subsidies and special grants of all kinds are pernicious. Our protective tariff is pernicious enough and already top-heavy. But a subsidy is worse than a protective tariff, because in the former the special favoritism is direct and potent to everybody. Once launch the subsidy principle in our national life and there is no telling where it will end. We want more ships on the ocean's highways, we want a Merchant Marine which shall reflect the power, wealth, dignity, and commercial supremacy of our people, but if we must get it at the expense of equal rights to all and special privileges to none—a principle for which our fathers fought and our mothers suffered, we will none of it.

A sane, safer, juster plan it seems to us, one in keeping with the President's attitude on all other public questions to date, would be the revision of our navigation laws. As the law now stands no vessel built elsewhere than in the U. S. can fly the American flag. This is silly, narrow, out-of-date, and is directly responsible for our present humiliation as a conveying power. Experts tell us that our ship yards cannot turn out even enough vessels for our coastwise and internal trade. To subsidize ocean carriers built by American ship yards would cripple our coastwise and influence trade and at the same time be an inadequate measure for giving us international carriers, "tramps" as they are called. All congress needs to do is to allow American capital to buy vessels built abroad and sail them under our flag in international trade. This would not hurt one of our "Infant" industries (an industry antedating the constitution,) which it can not even supply the coastwise and internal traffic with vessels, but will also secure us in a few years a Merchant Marine equal to that of any nation now under the sun. Other nations practice this policy as well as the subsidy plan. Does the President know this? Or is he afraid to injure a more than a century old industry? Be that as it may, we

want no subsidies of any sort in ours, and we believe that the great majority of Americans agree with us in this.

### HOME MISSION.

Is the Christian Church doing her full duty for Home Missions in the South? Last year we raised from all sources \$3784.57 to be used in the Home mission work of the church. About 20 cents per member. Certainly we can give more than 20 cents per member for Home missions annually. Yet the amount contributed indicates the real effort, financially, of the church to enlarge her borders in the southland. No denomination can grow until it gives money for missions. Contributions must be larger than the needs of the local church. This writer is of the opinion that we have not been aroused to do our full duty along the line of missionary work, in the home church. It is not my purpose to discourage Foreign mission work; another writer will discuss that department of our work. But we do need some new life along this line of our church enterprises.

Twenty cents a year for home missions! Well, some pastor is afraid to press this matter. His church is weak. It does not represent much financial strength. The pastor's salary is small, and it is difficult to pay that. If the pastor touches the missionary work of the church, some brother suggests that it is best to wait until the other work of the local church is attended to, and then look after missions, and that good brother usually says: "I don't believe in missions, there is a lot of charitable work at home, and it is better to begin at home." Ever hear anybody talk like that? Right there is a good opportunity to make a missionary address. That brother may be conscientious in his opinion, but he is laboring under a mis-conception of Christianity, and the wise pastor will see that this spirit is the great hinderance to progress. Surely no minister of the gospel should encourage such opinions. Brother pastor, what is your attitude towards the anti-missionary argument? Do you remain silent, or are you making some effort to instruct your church as to the great needs of the people, and the importance of the great commission given to the church? Are you, as a minister, so absorbed in the work of the church, that your church members feel that the one great thought of your life, is, the proclamation of the gospel of Jesus Christ? Are you giving your life to the ministry? For my part, I hope the day will soon come, when every pastor in the Southern Christian Convention will be enabled to say: "Sink or swim, survive or perish, live or die, I am going to devote my entire time to the ministry." The churches can make that day possible, by a more liberal support of the ministry. When that day comes, the annual contributions for Home missions, from the churches of the Southern Christian Convention, will be \$10,000. There, somebody has already said the statement is overdrawn. Not at all. See what was being done twenty five years ago. Compare the present. Continue to educate the people, and you will get the result. We are rapidly improving, but we are just at the dawn of day. Brethren, this is not a question of enlarging a denomination, that is not the point. Herein is the matter of discharging our duty to the cause of Christ. That is the great question of Home missions. We are beginning to undertake greater things for God. What is your duty in the matter?

We are in need of a great missionary awakening. That day will soon dawn. Let us be earnest in making ready for the battle. This is the Lord's work, and He is calling for volunteers. More praying, more paying, more preaching.

I. W. Johnson.

Suffolk, Va.

What is believed to be the death knell of the South Carolina state dispensary was sounded Friday in the State Senate when on a test vote it was shown that there was a majority of that body against the institution.

## PERSONALS.

Rev. N. G. Clements gives in another column the account of a pounding he received at Haw River. Bro. Clements had a most successful year's work last year. He deserved the pounding. Who next?

What's the matter with Pastor L. F. Johnson? Since he became a benedict one would think that he had pronounced the benediction on his connection with the Sun. Take time to write us what you are doing, Johnson.

The Jamestown Exposition is going to be a great thing. Recognizing this and feeling that Christians who attend this "great fair" would like to be housed with Christians, pastor Sailer, of Norfolk, and his good people have hit upon a fine plan. But read his letter in full. It deserves it. He also assures us of a near Christian church in Norfolk, at Park Place.

Dr. Atkinson, though still confined to his home, is very much improved. The Editor is such an energetic man that to keep himself in doors a few days is suggestive of stagnation. If all goes well, and that all will the prayers of the Brotherhood be enlisted, he will be able to perform his many duties again shortly, until when, the patient indulgence of the Sun family is earnestly besought and will be gratefully received.

Mr. D. B. Marks, A. B., Elon College, 1900, City Secretary of the Y. M. C. A., Asheville, N. C., has just raised \$21,000 for a Y. M. C. A. building at that place. We congratulate our friend and brother on this evidence of telling work. Those who know the energy and the enthusiasm of Bro. Marks will not be surprised at his continued and signal success.

We are glad to note that our last week's sermon by Rev. I. W. Johnson was copied by the N. C. Methodist Protestant paper, Our Church Record, published at Greensboro, N. C., Rev. J. F. McCulloch, editor. By the way, Johnson writes in a private letter that he is getting fat from poundings. A good way to get fat—this. Any other brother acquiring obesity in that way? If so, pass on the good word.

We desire to call attention to the fine cluster of "Field Notes" on page two and elsewhere of this issue. We sincerely hope that every week we shall have as many encouraging letters as we have this time. Brethren, do not be selfish with your progress. Let us hear from you. No part of the religious weekly is more inspiring to the ministry and laity alike than the reports of the work actually done and the record of the progress attained in the various sections of the Lord's vineyard.

The Southern Railway last Sunday put on a new train from Greensboro to Goldsboro and return. The train passes Elon College going to Goldsboro at 10:30 A. M. and returning toward Greensboro passes here at 9 P. M. This will greatly accommodate the people from beyond Durham, Raleigh and Selma who attended the Commencements and other public exercises at the College. This train makes connection with the A. C. L. at Selma from Norfolk and Richmond, with the S. A. L. at Raleigh and Durham from the East and North, and with the Southern via Jeffress from Norfolk and Richmond. For this great convenience in travel we doff our hat to the Southern and its officials.

The A. C. C. Educational Board at its recent session in Dayton, Ohio, decided to establish a National Correspondence School for the Christian Church. This plan is to have the heads of departments in our various Colleges, North and South, as heads of departments in the School. Rev. P. H. Fleming is the only member on the board from the South. Through his influence and the high rank which Elon College takes as an educational centre for our people, our Southern College has been tendered two positions in the school: President Moffitt, in History, and Prof. Lawrence, in English. We congratulate the Board, the new school, Elon College, and these brethren.

## NEWS ITEMS.

Friday, Feb. 8, three men were hanged in N. C. At Greensboro, Frank Bohannon, colored, for murder; at Durham, John H. Hodges, white, wife murder, and Freeman Jones, colored, house-breaking with intent to rape. All three men confessed their crimes and blamed whiskey as the cause.

A horrible famine is raging in China. The crops have been destroyed by flood and also the fuel. A million and a quarter are already starving. In the stricken district there are three million destitute. Many have died already and thousands have fled to the cities for refuge. Our national Red Cross is trying to help them.

John D. Rockefeller has given \$32,000,000 more to the General Education Board. This is the largest single gift of money to a benevolent purpose on record. He had previously given this same board \$1,000,000. The fund is designed to carry forward the work of education throughout the U. S. In this connection it will be remembered that on Jan. 27, 1907, the Standard Oil Trust advanced the price of all its oils in barrels.

The Littlefield Bill in Congress which is intended to prohibit the shipping of liquor from one State into the prohibition territory of another State, has passed the Judiciary Committee of the House by a close vote. It will likely pass the House and have a hard fight in the Senate. The passage of this much needed law would greatly help the prohibition territory of North Carolina, which suffers from Virginia, Kentucky and Georgia whiskey, shipped in by express.

The first N. C. Professor to be retired by the Carnegie Foundation is Rev. Dr. Thos. Hume, Prof. English at Chapel Hill, the seat of the University of N. C. Dr. Hume is a teacher of charming personality, of wide learning, and national reputation. For years he has enjoyed the distinction of the sobriquet, "The Shakespeare of the South." Dr. Hume becomes Prof. Emeritus in the institution to which he has given his long life of scholarship and usefulness. It is hoped that Dr. Hume will spend the evening of his life in giving permanent form to some of his profound work in the field of English Literature.

Congressman W. W. Kitchen of the 5th N. C. Congressional District, who has been in the Lower House since 1895 and made for himself there an enviable record, has declared himself a candidate for governor to succeed Gov. Glenn two years hence. Solicitor Brooks is to become a candidate to take Mr. Kitchen's vacated Congressional seat. And Hon. W. H. Carroll, Burlington, N. C., is a candidate to succeed Mr. Brooks as solicitor. Here is wishing Bro. Carroll success. He is a member of the Burlington Christian Church and one of our Orphanage Board. He will make an ideal solicitor.

## REJOICE ALWAYS.

One way to rejoice always is to pray always; to give thanks for little things. I defy anyone to begin the day by thanking God for the light that breaks into the bed chamber, and for the fresh morning air, and for eight hours rest, and for water to wash in, and keep that up, and go down to breakfast doleful and discouraged. Spirit-filled people are always sunny people. Every groan and sign and complaint and doubt and unfaithfulness is a bucket of icewater on the spirit of rejoicing.—Rev. John Cowan.

## DISCONTENT.

We are not happy enough Christians. There is in us too much discontent, too much complaining, too much fretting and anxiety. We become discouraged too easily. We are overcome too readily, and do not live victoriously. The great truth which the Incarnation teaches us is that God is with us, living with us, dwelling in us. If this be true, whatever the experiences of our lives may be, we should meet them with joy. A song in the heart makes all hard things easier, all heavy burdens lighter, all bitter sorrow less bitter.—Southern Churchman.