

The Christian Sun.

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

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EDITORIAL COMMENT.

WAR AND THE JAMESTOWN.

Several of our contemporaries are voicing with emphasis the protest made by several distinguished citizens against turning the Jamestown Exposition into a military display. This protest is signed by Hon. Carroll D. Wright, Rev. Dr. Edward Everett Hale, Cardinal Gibbons, John Mitchell and other notables.

These are distinguished brethren, and much beloved, but it strikes us they are making a far cry. If they really mean business and think that a military display means more war and bloodier battles, why do they not present their protest at headquarters and really help to check the war spirit abroad in this good land? These men are closely connected, or have direct influence with, our Government at Washington. Have you heard of their entering any protest there against the enormous war-like activity and the almost unlimited appropriations for army and navy purposes that have been made the past few years, especially since the conclusion of our Spanish-American war? Talk about Jamestown, this great Government or ours is making a military display on a gigantic scale every day we live. Go to West Point, go to Annapolis, go to any army post or naval station in the United States and you will see going on right now, in this piping time of peace and good will, the most energetic activity in preparation for war and in display of militarism. To a layman West Point seems to have everything that the most patriotic and war-like might desire, for offense and defense, yet the Government has a great force of men there today and, we were recently told, "is to spend forty millions more right away in further preparation and improvement." Do you hear any protest against this spirit of militarism? Congress just now adjourning has appropriated over \$80,000,000 for war and naval purposes—if our memory serves us right. Heard any protest against that? Noticed the "Want column" of your daily paper recently? If so you found there—it appears every day—"WANTED—For U. S. Army able bodied, unmarried men between the ages of 21 and 35," etc. Of course the Government has to pay for those advs. Heard any protest against this display of militarism among our young, able bodied men of the land?

Yet our beloved brethren afore named claim that a naval and military display at Jamestown this summer will set every young man's blood a-tingle with a desire for gore and death, and all sorts of wars and rumors of wars will result from this "revolting spectacle."

We are not upholding the managers of the Jamestown for desiring to encourage or inculcate the military spirit. Far be that from us forever. That spirit, heaven knows, is too much abroad in the land already. That is what we deplore and we shudder at the horrors of war and all that. But for the life of us, we cannot see the sense or consistency of protesting against a show for a short season of that which is going on in reality all over the broad land all the time now, and entering never a word of protest against this terrible fact and reality. Check the war spirit at Washington and dampen the arder of the militarism alive and aglow at every army port in the country, and "among the able bodied young men" of the land; and the Jamestown with its spectacles of war ships, ancient, mediaeval and modern, on display merely to look at will be powerless to do the damage our over-zealous brethren seem to quake at.

Last Wednesday, Feb. 27 was the centenary of Henry W. Longfellow's birth and was observed as such in many places. While by no means our greatest, he was, and possibly is yet, America's most popular poet.

The New York authorities are at work upon a plan to make the steamboat whistles in their harbor musical and soothing. We wish them all success.

COST OF POSTAGE.

All great conveniences have come to be so by slow process of development and progress. Our postal service is an interesting and powerful illustration of this. Before 1639 there were no public postal facilities in America. The writer carried or sent his letter. Letters from abroad were delivered at the nearest wharf to be delivered when the individual called. In Virginia each planter was required to convey dispatches as they arrived to the next plantation. In 1672 New York established a monthly mail to Boston. In 1692 Virginia empowered one Thomas Neale to take charge of the postal business of the colonies. He was allowed 4d. to 15d., according to distance, on each letter carried. In 1775 Benjamin Franklin was appointed Postmaster-General of all the colonies with authority to establish posts from Falmouth, Me. to Savannah, Ga. The rates established in 1792 for all letters were 6 cents for 30 miles and under; over 30 miles and under 60, 8 cts; over 60 and not exceeding 100 miles, 10 cts; 150 miles, 12½ cts; 200 miles, 15 cts and so on, according to distance. May 1, 1816 a single letter was limited to one sheet. In 1845 the rate was lowered and put upon a weight basis. Letters of ½ ounce and under 5 cts for 300 miles and under; over 300 miles 10. cts. In 1851 the rate on letters of ½ ounce was reduced to 3 cts for distance of 3000 miles; and 6 cts for distance over 3,000 miles if prepaid. But if the postage was not prepaid the rate was 5 and 12 cts respectively. In 1855 a law passed requiring all postage to be prepaid. In 1863 the element of distance was abolished and a rate of 3 cts for letters of ½ ounce was established. In 1883 this rate was reduced to 2cts. As postage has decreased letter writing has increased—and legibility decreased woefully, except where type writer is used, Good hand-writing, such as existed in the days when every word written and sent had to be paid for at high price, is a lost art. (Not half the girls—and none of the boys—of our day can write the plain, steady and precise hand their great-grand-parents wrote.)

DR. TORREY IN CLEVELAND, O.

The mission at Cleveland was in many respects one of the best missions that Dr. Torrey has yet held in this country. The Central Armory, which is said to seat 6,000 people, was packed night after night and many people were turned away. The weather was of all kinds, rain, snow, slush, summer heat, and blizzard, but there was not a single night when the hall was not well filled. The crowds would begin to gather long before the announced time for meeting. Mr. Charles Butler, who, together with an enrolled choir of about 2,000 voices, led the singing, began the song service as soon as the crowd arrived.

There were many conversions at all the meetings. One of the best services held was the noon meetings for business and professional men. The Lyceum Theatre, which was engaged for this purpose, was filled to overflowing every noon hour. Dr. Torrey spoke on "Why I Believe the Bible to be the Word of God" and "Did Jesus Christ Really Rise from the Dead?" One day on going home from these meetings a well-known minister, walking behind two men, overheard this conversation: "Wasn't that great?" "Yes," replied the other, "it was far better than any of the books we have been reading" (the minister thought by their tone that it was infidel books they had been reading). Then his friend turned to him and said, "H, what do you say to our coming back to the old way, for we know it is the right way after all?" Then they were lost in the crowd. "But," said the minister, "that is the feeling of many men all over this city as a result of these noon meetings."

The afternoon meetings for Christians were well attended and have greatly helped the church life of the city. One of the pastors said: "My whole church has been revolutionized. You would not know it for the same

church." Hundreds of church members all over the city have renounced their worldly conformity and have come out for Christ. Many others have gone to work for Christ who had never before known what it was to lead a soul to Him.

In most cities there are one or two evenings when there is not a single response to the invitation to accept Christ, but in Cleveland every evening saw a group of people down at the front in order to make a public confession of their acceptance of Christ. Among these were some prominent business men, men whose Christian lives will tell for great good in the city. Families have been reunited. One man and woman, who had been divorced two years ago, have been remarried as a result of the mission. Several other husbands and wives who had been separated are living happily together and serving the Lord.

The meeting for ministers was one of great power. Ministers were present from all the surrounding country, and many went back to spread the fire into their own churches.

The meeting for young people crowded the building and many hundreds were turned away. A large number professed to accept Jesus and many of them have already gone to work to win others to him.

Besides the regular meetings of the mission, meetings were held in the churches and schools of the city and in this way many others were won for Christ.

Cleveland has been called "the graveyard of the evangelist," but Cleveland's resurrection day has come, and the city is alive to the works of God.—Record of Christian Work.

FAMINE AND PLENTY.

While the United States is rejoicing amid the greatest wave of prosperity ever known in our country, while work is plentiful, wages are high and food and supplies are abundant here, it is hard to realize that a large per cent of the population of the world are suffering, starving, dying, for necessary food and raiment. Russia and China are both suffering untold horrors from fierce famine. Report comes from Russia that thirty million people in that country are near starvation and that at least a million will die from actual hunger during the months of March, April and May. A famine is added to her other misfortunes which put Russia in a most pitiful plight indeed.

China is also famine stricken. Conditions in parts of this Empire are said to be appalling in the extreme—pitiful scenes of suffering, starvation and death. Hundreds are dying daily for the want of food and it is yet six months till harvest. A correspondent writes thus to the editor of the C. E. World, Boston:

"Words cannot begin to picture the need, and there are still six months till harvest. Yesterday, right here in Shanghai, on Broadway, I saw the coolie from one of the foreign houses empty the refuse-pail into the old burlap apron of one of these poor starved creatures, and the look of absolute joy on the man's face at getting food was something to make one think. Hundreds of thousands of refugees are crowding into the up-river ports, and the work of relief will be most difficult. Missionaries and gentry are co-operating, but funds must come from the United States soon if relief is to be at all adequate."

Countries and peoples in direst need stretch out starving hands to a country and a people blessed with plenty and abundance.

A vice-president of one of our greatest railroads said in a public address recently that the next development in railroad transportation would be the delivery of freight at the door of the consigned by the railroad. The Government delivers the mail: why not the railroad the freight?

The Smoot trial in the U. S. Senate is over and Senator Smoot, the Mormon apostle, retains his seat, only 28 votes in the Senate being cast against him.

AFTER TEN YEARS.

I preached for Bro. H. H. Butler at Isle of Wight C. H. third Sunday afternoon. The day was pleasant for winter. Took dinner with Bro. Jake Bradshaw and found him prospering well in the world. Just a few years ago I married him and his industrious wife at Windsor, Va. They have three interesting boys and a splendid home, and is one of the best farmers in his section. About eighteen years ago when I lived at Franklin, Southampton Co., Va., a little company of splendid church workers invited me to preach for them at Isle of Wight. The invitation was accepted and after preaching a while a church was organized, and a very neat house of worship built which cost about \$2,000. Preached for them eight years, and I never worked with a more pleasant people. It had been ten years since my last work with them, and felt just like I was going back home after these years, and it is natural to suppose that my heart leaped with gladness as I was reaching home. It is a noticeable thing too that I was driving the same faithful horse I used when serving the church. He was then quite young, and I thought, one of the finest horses that I ever sat behind. He is active now—with the right color—speed, style and action. Called him my "gospel horse" because he had taken me so many thousand miles, over which and at the end of which I preached the word. In that single day, I lived in imagination much of my ministerial life over again. Glad, joyous days to me therefore, and happy to know that I could still preach the everlasting gospel. No other work engages my delighted attention as does the work of preaching Christ. I have been exercised in this delightful work so long I am not so well pleased and satisfied doing anything else, and as opportunity opens before me I embrace it and enter the field. My zeal and knowledge too ought to be better and greater than when the service was first entered. When thinking of the long ways traveled, of the thousands met, of the hundreds of marriage and funeral services performed, of the sermons delivered, of the everflowing and overflowing happiness, of the bitter and the sweet taken together, of the many hand clasps, of the last farewell, the writer feels that he must be nearing home.

So many associations crowded my mind about the work. Of course the congregation had changed. Many I used to meet not there, but there were many whose hands I was glad to clasp and whose faces I was again delighted to see. Bro. L. H. Whitley who was such an earnest able helper, his wife, Bro. Jno. Turner, Bro. Dick Spivey and wife, sisters Evy Pierce and J. C. Thomas and others whose names I do not now recall were there to give me a pleasant greeting and a happy meeting. It was delightful to renew acquaintances, and revive early friendships, and to meet many whom I had never seen. "Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in christian love."

J. T. Kitchen.

President Roosevelt visited Harvard University, his alma mater, the other day and made an address to the students in which he said:

"I do not in the least object to a sport because it is rough.

"Rowing, baseball, lacrosse, track and field games, hockey, football, are all of them good.

"I emphatically disbelieve in seeing Harvard or any other college turn out molly-coddles instead of vigorous men.

"Our chief concern should be to widen the base, the foundation in athletic sports; to encourage in every way a healthy rivalry which shall give to the largest possible number of students the chance to take part in vigorous outdoor games.

"It is to my mind simple nonsense, a mere confession of weakness, to desire to abolish a game because tendencies show themselves or practices grow up which prove that the game ought to be reformed."

The next session of the N. C. Teachers' Assembly will be held in Durham, June 11-14.