

# The Christian Sun.

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

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## EDITORIAL COMMENT.

**A Lesson And a Tragedy.**—One of the saddest pictures of our day is that now exhibited by our Government and China. It is just one of those tragic scenes that now and then transpire in the course of human events that no one can foresee, none can prevent.

It all grew out of the Boxer uprising in China and the awful deeds attendant thereupon. As an outcome of those dark days the Powers together assessed China the enormous sum of \$360,000,000 to be paid in thirty nine years with four per cent interest, thus almost doubling the principal. Of course this was done to teach China a lesson.

Of the amount \$25,000,000 was to be paid our Government. One fifth of this sum has already been paid, nearly enough to satisfy all personal claims, and our Government's share in the expenses.

China is still due us \$20,000,000 and interest. Think. Our Government with money in its coffers and to spare. China staggering under the weight of an almost hopeless debt, her coffers empty, and her citizens, taxed to the teeth, begging for bread, dying by the thousands of sheer starvation. It is a lesson in tragedy.

**Another Decision Against Liquor.**—The decision of Judge Artman in Indiana, touching the temperance question, was referred to and its far reaching import explained, in these columns. Following this decision, the United States Supreme Court has handed down a decision that temperance people everywhere will rejoice over. The case in point went up from South Dakota. A man in the prohibition section of that State acted as agent for a liquor concern outside the State, soliciting orders and having them filled by express. He was tried for violating the prohibition law of his State, indicted and took an appeal, finally to the U. S. Supreme Court. This Court affirms the decision of the lower courts and holds the agent guilty, maintaining that this in no wise infringes the rights of interstate commerce. That is a sweeping decision and a distinct victory for temperance and law. Take one of our North Carolina towns which had voted prohibition. Immediately after the saloons were closed, maybe the barkeeper himself would open an agency, and receive orders for delivery by express. He not infrequently did a more thrifty business than before his saloon was closed, and the town and State were powerless, because interstate commerce was affected. This decision will put hundreds of liquor agents out of business even in this State, (those in Greensboro we understand have shut up and quit and other agents over the State if they wish to keep out of Federal prisons will do like wise forthwith).

**An Educational Congressman.**—One of the most interesting and eloquent speakers at the recent Conference for Education in the South held at Pinehurst, was Captain Richmond Pearson Hobson, now Congressman from Alabama. Captain Hobson is reported by those who attended and heard him as "the man who believes something." He has convictions and does not hesitate to voice them. One idea he advanced at the Conference is so novel it is causing not a little comment. His belief is that a large part of a Congressman's work is educational and he proposes to make practical demonstration in his own district. On the first of May he was to start, with four Government experts, on a campaign of education, visiting in eleven days all parts of his district, he, with the four Government assistants, making several speeches a day. One of his assistants is an expert road builder, another an expert forester, another an expert on soils, and so on. Each of these will give definite and specific information on practical

matters pertaining to those several duties. The Congressman thus hopes to reach and benefit every voter in his district. He will, by Government resources, make a mile of perfect road as an object lesson for the local highway commission. He will secure the printing, in the Congregational Record of the speeches the Governmental experts deliver and, under the franking law, place them without cost in the hands of all the voters of his district. He believes other Congressmen will follow in his footsteps and thus aid in the general work of soil improvement, road building, forestry etc.

Captain Hobson's plan has the virtue of novelty about it, and as he is putting the same into actual practise we may hope to hear further of his idea.

**The Dread Disease.**—Call it that, or by its other name, "The White Plague," or if you prefer, Consumption, but it all comes to the same. It remains in its consuming power a disease that is a "plague." The skill of man, and the science of scholars, have not been able to stay its deadly devastations. It may be prevented, but cured, seldom indeed if ever. States and Governments are battling with it, but it is an enemy to put to flight. The last Legislature of North Carolina enacted a statute, and made an appropriation, to establish a sanitarium among our sand hills to do battle with the disease. Other states are doing likewise.

We were but recently noticing statistics in N. Y. In that one city 23,000 cases were reported last year, and the Department of Health report that Consumption is killing thirty New Yorkers every day, the daily average for the State being forty four.

The relief is in preventive measures. And this is important to all Sun readers, do what you can to prevent consumption in your own family. This record from a New York exchange gives the meaning and suggests the remedy: "Insufficient and bad air, dark rooms, exercise, filthy streets and dust, vice, rum and tobacco account for five sixths of the cases, and the causes of failures to recover in many instances are included in the same list."

**A Stupid Superstition.**—Though printed and denounced and exposed a hundred times over, that stupid and stupendous folly and superstition, the "prayer chain" still flourishes. It is most marvelous indeed and shows how steeped in superstition we of this country are. This "prayer chain" has now gone to such limits that it has clogged the United States mail, and still the letters continue and increase. Here is the letter as written by your friend and sent out.

"Dear Friend and Christian: Below is a chain just as it was sent to me, so I send it out to others, for I do not want it broken in my hands. May God bless you and others to keep it going:

"O, Lord Jesus, we implore thee, O eternal God, to have mercy on all mankind; keep us from all sin, and take us to live with thee eternally. Amen."

This prayer was dictated by Bishop Lawrence. He commands it to be written and sent to nine other persons. He who will pay no attention to it will meet with a terrible accident. He who will write this prayer for nine days and send it to nine others, commencing the day you receive this (only one each day), will after nine days experience some great joy. At Jerusalem at the feast, it was he who would write this prayer would be delivered from every calamity. Please do not let this drop in your hands. I have written this just as I received it. Now, please send it to others. Sincerely,

"Christian."

Bishop Lawrence has denounced the letter as a fraud and says he never had anything to do with it. It is a pure hoax from beginning to end, a poor production, and a sorry get up, with an awful penalty attached. There is no Christianity in such nonsense. Yet millions of these letters are being written and the whole country is broadcast with them. Ours is indeed a superstitious and perverse generation.

## SOME HINDERERS.

Satan is a hinderer. He is a malicious being who tries to make every Christian stumble and fall, and to prevent every soul from carrying out any good purpose.

One will say, "I do not believe there is such a being in the world." It seems that Satan has been ruled out of the theology of many modern religious teachers. Modern religious thought has abolished the evil one. All good men and women most heartily wish there were no such evil spirit in the universe, and they would be among the foremost to help vote him out. But there will be many a hard fight before the world shall be rid of Satan. He is quite willing that men should not believe in his existence; but while they are flattering themselves that modern wisdom has so effectually disposed of the doctrine of an evil spirit that intelligent men will never more fear him he is getting in some very effectual work against the kingdom of truth.

Jesus believed in the existence of the evil one, and taught men to believe this doctrine. We cannot prove this doctrine as we may prove a proposition in mathematics, but we believe it on the authority of Jesus. We believe some things which we cannot prove, nor can we have personal knowledge of them; but we believe them on the authority of others who do know. In matters of this kind Jesus is the highest authority. Other men have traveled more than He did. They have read more books than He ever read. They have attended better schools than He ever attended. But when it comes to a question of the spirit of man, or the Spirit of God, or the spirit of evil, or the invisible realms of spirit, He knew more than all the philosophers and scholars of His time and of our time together.

This evil spirit is abroad today seeking whom he may hinder. He is busy and successful. Those who are indifferent will be overtaken and ruined. "Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." Hide in Christ Jesus, and you shall find a safe refuge from the wiles of the devil.

Unbelievers and false teachers are hinderers. Some false teachers believe the doctrines they promulgate, but many are deceivers. It is hard to understand the fascination of false doctrines. They prevail over the weak, and also over the strong. Intelligent men and women by thousands become a prey to false teachers. There is no doctrine so absurd that it will not find adherents if it has reference to occult and invisible things. Those teachers who claim to have special illumination and special communications with the spirit world are strangely fascinating. They have power to deceive intelligent men and women, to rob them of all their money and their faith in Christ. How shall we know the false from the true? Whatever doctrine comes between the soul and the Lord Jesus Christ is false. Every doctrine that tends to dishonor or discredit the Holy Ghost is false. Every doctrine that sets some other authority above the Bible is false. Every doctrine that does not tend to purify the heart and life is false.

Professing Christians sometimes become hinderers. It is a sad thing to say. Christians ought to help one another. But in too many cases, by a bad example, by unkind and uncharitable criticism, by dishonesty in business, and carelessness in social life, they hinder the work of the Lord, and turn men away from Christ. It is an awful thing to be guilty of such a charge. It were better for a man that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depths of the sea, than that he should put a stumbling block in the way of one of the least of God's saints.

Husbands sometimes hinder their wives and wives their husbands. Parents hinder their children from entering into the kingdom of God. It is not an uncommon thing to hear a mother say of her son who desires to unite with the church and be saved, "He is altogether too young."

Hinderers may be found where we least expect them. But the chief hindrance is in

the heart of the one who is hindered. He is his own hinderer. The chief stumbling-block is within. In the parable of the marriage supper the invited guests are represented as making excuses. But it must have occurred to every thoughtful reader that not one of them mentioned the real reason why he did not go to the wedding. The real reason was within. He did not go because he did not wish to go. He was not willing to meet the king and sit at his supper by a neighbor with whom he is not on good terms, he will make many excuses, but the real reason why he refuses is because he does not wish to go.

The real reason why men and women do not become Christians is because they love something else more than God. The real stumbling block over which Christians stumble and fall is within. They have fallen in love with another, and God has been turned out. It may be a simple thing, but it is something in the heart that has done the mischief. It may be a farm, or a store, or a gold-mine, or some fascinating pursuit. It may be they are unwilling to do something which the service of God requires. They are not willing to perform some duty, or to forgive some one who has wronged them, or to give up the feeling of enmity which rankles in the heart. These are the stumbling blocks that hinder.—Christian Advocate.

## HINT TO YOUNG MARRIED PEOPLE WITH CHILDREN.

Accept a friendly suggestion. Carefully store your minds with personal, town and city important events, all changes and great events in your own Church, and all such discoveries as are made in your time, particularly what goes on in your own beloved country and in the great nations of the world. Pay little attention to gossip in newspapers. It makes no difference to you what the man's name is that killed his wife a thousand miles from where you live. As Emerson says in substance, what difference does it make to you what the names of people are that are doing what has been done from the beginning of the world? Why do we give you this hint? Because you will be able to interest your children when they are little, and in every stage you can make home pleasant to them by telling them in your own language the important things that you have learned or heard. Then your boys and girls will pass out of the childish state, and before you and they know it you and they will be companions. But there is something more. You will have so many things to think of that your mind will not grow weak in advancing years so soon as otherwise they might. There is no more beautiful spectacle than grandparents interesting their grandchildren by their reminiscences and the light they can throw upon many things that interest young folks; and there is not a much more melancholy spectacle than that of persons who have never treasured up anything. Too often they are peevish and prematurely dull. The exceptions are when the disposition was extremely good, or when—though they do not store up anything in memory—they have a sure hold on God and a bright hope of everlasting life. That is the only thing can make happy those whose stock of ideas and facts is small when they are through with business and practically confined to the house or its vicinity.—N. Y. Christian Advocate.

The Supreme Court of the United States has handed down a decision confirming the Supreme Court decision of North Carolina that a state corporation commission has the right to force trains of one line to make connection with those of another line, when failure to make such connection would result in great inconvenience to the public. The plea went upon the famous "Selma connection case," of this State in which the corporation commission seeks to compel the A. C. L. to connect with the Southern at Selma.

Please renew for the Christian Sun to-day.