

The Christian Sun.

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

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EDITORIAL COMMENT.

Governor Hughes.—The Present Governor of New York, Hon. Chas. E. Hughes, may or may not be the next nominee of the Republican party for the presidency. Not being a politician ourselves, and ignorant as to political manoeuvres, we have no way of telling what the decree of the "leaders" is. But this much is certain: Mr. Hughes is worth looking at and thinking about. We had never heard of the gentleman until the State of New York unfastened his chain some months ago, opened the front gate and "sigged" him on to the great metropolitan life insurance companies. Immediately there was something doing. And something kept on doing until the great companies fairly bounced and bellowed from sheer pain and agony. It was truly a great performance and Hughes came out victorious in that fierce fight. He laid bare the iniquity, shame and inward wickedness of those companies. The whole country applauded and New York showed its appreciation of faithful duty well done by electing Mr. Hughes governor. And the New York papers say he has so far made a good governor. He has pursued the same policy of thoroughness in the executive office that he displayed in investigating the insurance companies.

Mr. Hughes is said to be a Christian man and is a loyal member of the Baptist church. Indeed he was chosen President of the recent Baptist national assembly which met in Washington if our memory serves correctly. His father is still living and is an active minister in the Baptist church.

Now there is talk among the men of his party of nominating him for the presidency. Here is the way Hughes himself refers to the matter in a recent public utterance: "I do not seek any public office. I have not sought, nor shall I seek directly or indirectly to influence the selection or the vote of any delegate to any convention." That sounds right in our day. Is it to come about that an office is about to seek the man and not the man the office?

Whatever his political ambition may or may not be Chas. E. Hughes is an interesting character and the country is likely to hear more of him as the years go by. A man who is thorough, honest, sincere, unbiased and fearless in the discharge of public duties is likely to make his way somewhere, somehow.

William J. Bryan.—This is the fourth or fifth time Mr. Bryan has toured the South speech-making and from the crowds that gather to hear him his popularity has not waned. The people love to hear him speak and will put themselves to all sorts of inconveniences to listen to him. Thousands stood in dust, turmoil and a burning sun at Raleigh to hear him last Thursday and he held them there for an hour and a half. He talked of government and politics and parties and trusts and tariff, subjects worn and weary long years ago, and yet people listened, democrats and republicans, men and women, boys and girls, all listened with ever deepening interest and admiration. As a platform speaker, as a thrilling orator, as a fascinating, fetching lecturer William J. Bryan has no peer in our day. He has clear convictions on public questions and does not hesitate to express them in most forcible and fearless fashion.

Think of it. Here is a man who has run for the presidency twice and has been overwhelmingly defeated both times. His most memorable campaign was upon an issue that at the time was untenable and since the time has become obsolete. Yet this man remains the unquestioned leader of his party and can have the nomination for another campaign if he will only accept it. Yet no one has accused him of being corrupt, immoral, vicious or in charge of any machine. When he comes out and speaks to the people they

admire the manner of the speech and more highly esteem the speaker. It is a marvel and a wonder. Mr. Bryan is still a national figure and one of the best known and most talked about "private citizens" in the world. He may never be president, is not likely to be, but folks love to hear him speak and love to talk about him.

The Use of Wealth.—A friend remarked the other day, in this presence, that you could more nearly measure a man's ability and good sense by what he spent, and the way he spent it, than you could by what a man made, and the way he made it. That is not a bad bit of human philosophy. Fools and bad men often make money, or fall into possession of it, in a very reasonable, sensible sort of fashion. But if you want to see the folly of the fool, and the wickedness of the bad man, just see how he spends his money. His method of expenditure will measure him up and weigh him out for you. We really weigh people, more by the way they spend than by what they have. The wealthy are usually brought into ill repute, not by, nor because of, their wealth, but by the way they spend their wealth. It is silly and foolish expenditure that enrages the multitude. There are people of wealth whom everybody admires and about whom everybody has a good word. They are the people who have a sense of the responsibility that wealth confers and do not squander their wealth in recklessness and in silly expenditure.

Mr. Charles Schwab of Steel Trust fame is quoted as saying recently "I have some money—quite a lot of it in fact. What good does it do me? I have a nice place to live, good meals to eat, and clothes to wear. That is about all, except that Mrs Schwab is able to spend a few pennies and enjoy herself." The late Jay Gould is quoted to have said near the close of his life that he had worked nearly all his days and years "for his victuals and clothes." Now this is all, with one thing left out: The man of wealth has the weight of responsibility upon him of spending his money wisely and well. There is a reward for carrying that weight—the reward that comes from duty well performed. God has given to some the ability to make money. It is as much the duty of such men to make money as it is for the teacher to teach or the preacher to preach. But the same wise One holds him responsible, and measures him up by the way he uses and spends that wealth. He does the teacher or the preacher for the use of the talents intrusted to him.

SEARCHING AFTER GOD.

"Canst thou by searching find out God? Canst thou find out the Almighty unto perfection?"

It is very commendable in every one to search for Him and to learn as much as possible what He is and where He is. The thought is often entertained, where is he who is the object of our worship and the adoration of our lives? He is a Spirit—is everywhere, and can do whatever he pleases, for neither time nor space limits his power and influence. He is searching for us and knows all about us, and it is our present and everlasting duty to praise him for his excellency and all seeing providence. "O Lord, thou hast searched me, and known me. Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, thou understandest my thoughts afar off. . . Such knowledge is too wonderful for me, it is high I cannot attain unto it. Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence? If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there; if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there. If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me."

Standing upon the highest point of a gorgeous mountain range you are impressed with its greatness and completion, and while viewing its attractions your thoughts are diligently employed in searching for him who made it, and with earnest pleading in the words of another you say, "Hear my cry, O God, attend unto my prayer. From the end of the

earth will I cry unto thee, when my heart is overwhelmed: lead me to the rock that is higher than I."

While gazing at the stars which light up the dark expanse of universal space, you gladly think of the mild guiding star of Bethlehem which lead the searchers after the Son of God to the place where the young child was. Then you are invited to search more diligently for him who said: "I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star," until by the gleaming search light of faith you find the God you seek—then the transporting happiness which you find in him brings inexpressible joy.

If on the dashing waves of the sea, storm tossed or calm you continue looking for Him, as you search let the mind go quickly to the sea of Galilee and think of Jesus walking on the water uttering these comforting words: "Be of good cheer: it is I; be not afraid." Then hear Him too, as the boat was tossed about on that same turbulent sea, saying to the waves with that inspiring voice, "Peace, be still." When diligent search is made for him who is everywhere, He is easy to find; because he will be found by all who look for him in spirit and in truth. You who are lost on the sea of a sinful life are drifting, drifting, drifting away to ruin unless you have Jesus to pilot you. You who are traveling through the great desert of so called sinful pleasure listen to his loving words calling you to, "Come unto me." God does not desire you to seek him in vain. Seek and you shall find. Have high sublime conceptions—think of him as your refuge and strength, recall his splendid promises; draw nigh in full assurance, turn away from sin; dispel vain, unlawful desire, and let salvation transform and reform you.

Today many are rejoicing because they have found the Lord and while they exult in his pardoning love they fondly hope to live and reign with him forever. May all who have found the way walk in it until their brightest and best hopes culminate in heaven.

J. T. Kitchen.

GOD'S OMNIPOTENCE.

The natural world displayed around us on all sides, is an open book that describes most eloquently the power of the Creation. The same great power is evident if we view the sun in the heavens or if we examine the tiny violet growing by the roadside. Let us ascend the scale and endeavor with our feeble minds to grasp what we can of the infinite power that created the earth on which we live, or if you please descend the scale to the smallest object of creation man has been able to discover and then you will find evidenced the work of a power the mind of man is unable to comprehend. The more I learn and the more I am enabled to see the why of things the more evident becomes the omnipotent Power. We have all experienced the feeling that steals over us during a grand electrical storm. Then has been a time in my life when that feeling was near akin to fear. Now it is a feeling of momental awe that comes over me, for through the storm, I catch a glimpse of the Power that is back of and behind it all.

Science has done much in explaining the natural phenomena about us, but science reaches a point when it is unable to go farther. There is a point beyond which the mind of man is unable to penetrate, and here is when we begin to see God's power. The botanist can tell you of the various stages of growth in the vegetable world. He can enumerate to you the elements and conditions that will promote that growth, but he cannot explain to you the origin of the principle of life in the plant. That's the work of God's power. The astronomer can tell you of the laws that govern the motion of the planets, and of the forces that hold them in their orbits. All this belongs to his realm, but he can not explain the source of these laws and forces. That belongs to God and is above man's power. It requires more faith to believe that all the countless things which take place in the course of human events just happen to be than it does to believe the all-powerful hand of God is direct-

ing them. I say that it takes more faith to believe that this world and all it contains just happened to be, than it does to believe the hand of Almighty God shaped and fashioned and placed it all.

Take as an illustration the steam engine. Can one believe this wonderful piece of machinery to be the product of a happen so? No! no! you say, that is the materialization of an idea which existed in some one's mind, and stands as a monument to his constructive power. Now can you believe this world, which is far beyond comparison with anything man ever fashioned, to be the product of a happen so, or do you believe it is the handiwork of God? Will you not admit it requires less faith to say it is the materialization of an idea that existed in the Divine mind, and stands as a testimony of God's Omnipotent Power? Then may we see,

In all our Maker's grand designs
Almighty power with wisdom shines;
His works throughout all this wondrous
frame
Declare the glory of His name.

S. C. Harrell.

Elon College, N. C.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.

Fourth Quarter, Lesson IV. October 27, 1907.
Caleb's Faithfulness Rewarded.

Joshua 14:6-15.

Golden Text.—Thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things. Matt. 25:23.

The capture of Jericho initiated a long war. Immediately after the fall of Jericho, Joshua proceeded to subdue the next stronghold, the city of Ai, 15 or 20 miles west of Jericho, in the highlands near Bethel. Here unexpectedly his army met with a defeat. It was learned that Achan had committed sin by transgressing the command of God in relation to the spoils of Jericho. After the victory over Ai, the law was read to the people and they rendered the covenant. Then came the strategy of the Gibeonites, who disguised themselves with worn clothing, mouldy provisions, making pretense that they were a band of emigrants from a far country, and asking Joshua to make a covenant with them. This peace covenant or treaty was entered into without consulting the Lord.

Later five kings united to attack Gibeon. Joshua, by a long night march attacked and drove the enemy back up the hills toward Bethsharon. Two providential acts aided Joshua. First, a tremendous hailstorm, with thunder and lightning. The second event alluded to in 2 Sam. 1:18, when Joshua saw there was not time to complete the victory before darkness set in, prayed with such faith that he dared to command the sun and moon to stand still.

At the close of five or six years' war, the land was so far subdued that it could be divided among the nine and one-half tribes who settled west of the Jordan the other two and one-half tribes having already received their portion east of the Jordan. This assignment was made at Gilgal. Here came Caleb, a great and marked man. Faith and faithfulness were the living heart of Caleb's character. His faith endured 45 years without fading or faltering. Now he requests that his inheritance be the mountainous country in which Hebron was located, whereupon Joshua blessed him and granted his request.

Caleb's faithfulness teaches that faithfulness in early life reaps a large reward in later years.

There is no greater mistake than to imagine that indolence, carelessness in youth can lead to a successful life. "Whatsoever a man soweth that shall he also reap."

The chief rewards of Caleb did not consist in his getting possession, just before he died of a tract of rough land, but in the consciousness of integrity, the delight of achievement, the esteem of his comrades and the approval of God.

G. W. T.

It is now proposed to widen the Panama canal considerably over what was originally designed.