

In Thy presence is fulness of joy.—Psalm xvi. 11.

Our Mission.

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fifty-six years ago, though possessing no property whatever of his own, he has never received any salary, either as pastor of a large church in Bristol, or as Director of the great Institution which he was permitted afterwards to found; nor does he, under any circumstances that may arise, ever take money from the funds of the institution to supply his own temporal wants, nor even to defray his travelling expenses in the Lord's service, as some suppose; but, whether in England or in other countries, is as wholly dependent upon the Lord now, for everything he needs, as when he first entered on this path of faith."

In 1835 was begun the work among orphans with which the name of George Muller is, and will in coming generations be, chiefly associated. From very small beginnings this institution has steadily grown to its present gigantic proportions, involving an expenditure for buildings and for the support of the orphans of many hundred thousand pounds. All this money has been contributed to the institution without one solitary direct appeal having been made to any human being. The founder laid it down at the beginning, as an axiomatic principle not to be departed from, that the tale of the needs of his work should be told into the ears of God only, as those needs arose. It is true that Mr. Muller has regularly published annual reports of the Orphan Homes, and the other branches of his many-sided work; but he truly says that these are but simple statements of past experience and accounts of stewardship rendered, and not in any sense appeals for help. Without at all reflecting on other methods, or even seeming to assume that Mr. Muller's plan is the only one that ought to be followed, in connection with the support of Christian institutions, it is very manifest that God has clearly set the seal of his approbation on these methods, and honoured the simple, child-like trust and confidence of his servant. That trust has many a time been tried to the last degree, but it has never ultimately been put to shame. We believe we are stating the truth when we say that the thousands of children under Mr. Muller's care, these many years, have never lacked a meal, though it is equally true that there have been times not a few, when, as one meal was being prepared, no one knew where the next was to come from.

One of the cardinal doctrines of the work has been that no debt should, under any circumstances, be incurred, and this principle, we understand, has been religiously adhered to.

OUR COLUMN FOR PREACHERS AND TEACHERS.

By REV. JOHN McEWEN, Lakefield, Ont.

[March 7] **Reading the Law.** [Neh. 8:1-12.]

Nehemiah was really the founder of the new Jewish commonwealth, by the re-building of the walls about Jerusalem, so that the city should not be trodden under foot of the profane and unclean; making them a separate people, and making it possible to carry out the Levitical Law. In about two months after the arrival of Nehemiah in Jerusalem, the walls, about four miles in circumference, were completed. The work was carried on in the face of great difficulties, arising from the distress and poverty of the people, the wealthier Jews oppressing their brethren; also the scorn, false reports, and a tempt to create discord by enemies; but through the wisdom and enthusiasm of the leader, Nehemiah, the courage and zeal of the people, and "the good hand of God upon them for good," all is completed in fifty-two days. This may be studied as a BIBLE STUDY, or as AN ANCIENT REVIVAL SERVICE.

THE PLACE OF MEETING. vs. 1, 4, 5.

The arrangements for effective service complete—in such a place as was adapted for a large assembly—so that seeing and hearing were easy—these external things are of no small importance in church.

THE CONGREGATION.

The heads of households were present—and they needed such a service for home life and instruction—women, wives and mothers were present, and household affairs were arranged for the service—such of the children as "could understand" were present. The habits of a new life in the service of God were to be built up.

THE PREACHER AND TEACHER.

Ezra the Student, Priest and Scribe—of the Law, vs. 1, 2, ably supported by twenty-five faithful helpers. vs. 4, 7, 9.

THE SERVICE AND THE SERMON.

United worship. The exercise—"CAUSING THE PEOPLE TO UNDERSTAND." The subject matter—THE WORD OF GOD. The method—WAS EXPOSITION, CLEAR AND DISTINCT IN DELIVERY.

THE RESULTS

Earnest endeavour—contrition for sin responsive and co-operative joys—to bring forth fruit unto God.

[March 14.] **Esther's Petition** (Esther 4:10-17; 5:1-3.)

About seventeen years before Ezra came up to Jerusalem—thirty years before Nehemiah's visit—and sixty years after the return of the captives—and between the last two lessons, as in a niche, this notice of Esther, the Star Queen occurs. Raised for such an emergency in the history of her people, and illustrative of important truth. Shushan was the winter capital of the Persian Empire, 200 miles south-east from Babylon.

The captive Hebrews, now called Jews, are scattered over the Persian empire—for there are more scattered abroad than in Palestine. They had become a wealthy and influential people. Observe the scorn and envy of