

symbol of self sacrifice. It is so still. It is not only the symbol of Christ's atonement for sin but should be and is meant to be the perpetual principle, the abiding law of every follower of Christ. Yet what do we know of self sacrifice as far as experimental knowledge is concerned? When Peter was only half-disciplined he said: "We have forsaken all and followed thee, what shall we have?" This is not sacrifice, it is investing, it is business not Christianity. It is commercialism and love is not commercial. It breaks the alabaster box of self concern and pours out the precious ointment without calculating the price. And yet many people to-day imagine they are giving to the Lord when they pay twenty-five cents to get a good tea and enjoy an hour's intellectual treat.

Wendell Phillips wrote to a friend that life began only when the soul was self consecrated to some noble purpose, and the Master said: "He that loseth his life for my sake and the Gospel's shall save it." Human testimony bears out the fact that the happiest lives and the most exalted characters are those who have taken the cross as the law of their lives. Would not the church be richer to-day if there were more of this kind of spending? Would we not be nearer the spirit of Christ and His teaching? Would we not be a greater power in the world than we are? Would not the earth be filled with gladness, for then the wilderness would rejoice and the desert would blossom as the rose, and Jesus would see of the travail of His soul and be satisfied.

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### The Pacific Cable and Sir Sanford Fleming.

CANADIAN ENGINEERING.

The purchase of a landing place for the Pacific cable on Barclay Sound, Vancouver Island, and the departure of an expert to choose the Australian terminus, marks an epoch in the realization of Sir Sanford Fleming's splendid work for the unification of all British Colonies with the Mother Country by means of a cable which shall not touch foreign soil. On its completion Canada, New Zealand, Queensland, Victoria, New South Wales, India and South Africa will be in direct touch with each other and with England, without fear of intervention by any foreign power. This work in itself will entitle Sir Sanford Fleming to lasting honor as a patriotic and far-seeing statesman and engineer. While engaged in surveying a route for the Dominion transcontinental railway in 1871, and establishing a telegraph in connection therewith he became deeply impressed with the splendid possibilities of a Pacific cable, and its value towards uniting the colonies with the Motherland. In 1879 he submitted a plan, embodying this idea, to the Dominion and Imperial authorities. Projects, however, of this colossal size mature slowly, the difficulties in the way being enormous. The colonies were not in touch with each other, neither had they common interests. The spirit of Imperial unity was not yet mature, and such practical questions as ownership and proportionate cost tended to disintegrate rather than to bind. More definite and correct information as to route, ocean beds and

costs were to be obtained and speedy progress was impossible. However, "labor (as typified by the invincible Gaelic nature of Sir Sanford Fleming) vincit omnia" the difficulties were overcome, and the various colonial governments, after many preliminaries, delays and postponements met at Ottawa in 1894 to arrive at some practical conclusion as to the feasibility and desirability of the cable. In August of the same year tenders were asked for laying and maintaining the cable. The apportioning of the cost to the various governments followed, and Canada's share of five eightieths will be her contribution towards cementing together the British Empire in closer bonds than have been. The Pacific cable, which is to complete the British circle of the globe, will be about 8,272 nautical miles, viz, Vancouver to Fanning Island, 3,653; Fanning Island to Fiji (Suva), 2,181; Fiji (Suva) to Norfolk Island, 1,019; Norfolk Island to Queensland, 906; Queensland to New Zealand, 513.

The cable to be used is to be of the finest make, and will be manufactured under the supervision of the well known engineering firm of Clark, Forbes & Taylor, 4 Great Winchester street, London, Eng. The various sections of the cable, according to position, are to have copper core, weighing from 130 to 60 lbs. per knot, and insulated with gutta percha, weighing from 130 to 340 lbs for the same distance, the heavy shore ends being core brass sheathed, and the heavy intermediate, light intermediate, heavy deep sea, and light deep sea sections, all being of the best type of manufacture. The contract for the cable is entered into by the Pacific Cable Co. on behalf of the English Government and the Government of Canada, New South Wales, Victoria, New Zealand and Queensland, on the one part and the Telegraph Construction and Maintenance Co., on the other part, who are represented by Taylor, Peake & Arthur in the name of the firm of Clarke, Forbes & Taylor. The credit of bringing this gigantic scheme to a practical issue must undoubtedly be with Sir Sanford Fleming, whose experience, judgment and enthusiasm have been instrumental in fathering and furthering this splendid project. While famed in his adopted Canadian land, Sir Sanford Fleming is equally well known abroad, and honors have fallen thickly upon him. For many years Chancellor of the Queen's University, he has devoted much time to scientific research, and at various times published papers on "Cosmic Time," "Time Reckoning," "Selection of Prime Meridian to be common to all nations in connection with time reckoning." His works on this subject are quoted as authorities by European scientists. He wears the insignia of K. C. of St Michael and St. George. Politically of no party, he is an ardent Imperialist, and is a councillor of the British Empire League. The realization of the Pacific cable will remain the greatest work of his life, and will undoubtedly, with his broad grasp of Imperial requirements, assist to place him in the front rank of colonial statesmen.

Putting God's will first never narrows a life. It broadens any life. God's kingdom lays hold of everything that can enrich one's nature. Many things that would be nothing but hindrances, if we let them take first place, are helps when they are put in the second place, and God's will is put in the first place and directs them.

### Sparks From Other Anvils.

**Religious Intelligencer:** The world's great need to-day is to see Jesus. It needs to see Him in His power to save from sin. It needs to see Him in the greatness of His love and in the perpetuity of His human sympathy.

**North and West:** Anything which widens the breach between college days and the serious, practical life into which the college graduate must plunge, and throws a glamor of unreality about life within college walls, only makes the disillusionment the more difficult and progress the slower when the real work of life is undertaken.

**Herald and Presbyter:** We have come to the end of the summer. The harvest has been gathered. For all our sowing, whether the seeds be sowed in the soil or in human hearts and minds, there must come the harvest. Blessed are they whose lives are to be followed by blessed results over which there shall be eternal rejoicing.

**United Presbyterian:** The work of evangelization in France increases and extends. There is a spirit of intense activity among the Protestants, and a spirit of inquiry is manifested by very many in different parts of the country. Wherever the Gospel is preached in simplicity, hearers gather about the preacher, and many believe.

**Lutheran Observer:** The highest function of religion is to save lost men and women of every class and condition of life. The business of the church is not best accomplished when she gathers up her skirts lest she shall touch some lost soul, and so daintily steps along the narrow pathway until she passes through the gates of pearl and along the streets of gold.

**Christian Observer:** In our own day what is needed is a revival of bold, consistent Calvinistic preaching in all the pulpits of our land. This, we believe, will do more than all else to elevate the moral tone and strengthen the ethical fibre of our people. A little strain of Puritanism on its ethical side is sorely needed, and would be a blessing to our whole life as a people.

**Presbyterian Standard:** President Roosevelt's heart is all right though we may expect the upsetment of most of the traditions of the presidency and several other cherished ideals through a want of synchronism between his head and his hands, that is, he is prone to act before he thinks. But we wish to commend him for his hunt for long-tailed horses for the presidential carriage. That may be as effective as the arrest of the owners of bob-tailed horses for cruelty to animals.

**Presbyterian Journal:** Heaven will be a vacation, but of what kind or nature no one may know. Will it be a rest from all work, or the rest that comes from activities of another and different kind? Tennyson believed that heaven was the perpetual ministry of one soul for another. Perhaps he was right. Who knows? Jesus arose from the grave as one who has finished his work. The few days that he remained upon the earth were those of an inhabitant from another world. The old wounds were there, but they had ceased to bleed. We all look forward to ward it—that far away, or possibly nearby land, where the cares of life are laid down for the last time, and the weary are at rest.