

THE DOMINION PRESBYTERIAN.

SPARKS FROM OTHER ANVILS.

The Congregationist: Sadly do parents err who put their children to school perfunctorily, who never darken the school doors, and know not the persons who live days a week for most of the year are nothing the intellectual, ethical and spiritual means of their children.

Presbyterian Witness: The prosperity of the church depends under God on the adequacy of her ministry. Hence, as we love the church and seek her prosperity let us strive to supply her colleges with professors and students of the best stamp. Our own church has reason to thank God for his gifts to her. Remember this; none of our boys are too brilliant, too earnest, too sturdy and brave to be devoted to the ministry of the Gospel.

Albion Presbyterian: The habit of speaking evil of others, even of brethren and sisters in the church, to whom we are related by the most sacred ties, is one unto which good people sometimes thoughtlessly fall. It is not always the result of any malice felt toward those who are thus criticised, but its results are none the less evil. Beware of this pernicious habit. Remember we all have our faults, and look with charity on the failings of others.

Lutheran Observer: Of course we may not be as conscious of the glow and fervor of religious feeling in the midst of our work as when, in the hush of the sanctuary, our spirits are lifted into communion with God. But these hours of worship, with their revelation of feeling, are meant to gird us with fresh power, to fill us with higher and more potent incentives to live soberly, righteously and godly in the midst of the world.

Christian Observer: There is no blessing to anyone in a religion that sits still with folded hands and unwilling feet. That kind is a deception, a cheat. It cheats the soul of him professing it; it cheats the Church; it cheats Christ. The call is for vigorous Christianity that the world shall be bound to behold and admire. Give us doers of the Word and not hearers only—doers not just to be seen of men, not for the sake of notoriety, but for the Church's sake and for the world's sake, and for Christ's sake.

Presbyterian Banner: Every one with any property should do two things; first, he should draw up a will that will be definite and just and generous in its provisions; and, second, he should take legal advice and use every precaution to see that the instrument conforms in all respects with the laws of the state. Inattention to these points has involved many a family in trouble and even disaster, and it has caused much loss to religious and charitable institutions. Look at you! will and see that it is right.

United Presbyterian: Man as a citizen is not different from the same man as a Christian. He is one and the same, and the duties of the Christian are the duties of the citizen. He is the same man Monday that he was Sabbath. He stands in the same relation to God. He stands in the same relation to personal honor and integrity. The same law binds him. The revolution of the earth has not abrogated the moral law. It has not changed either the denegate or the beatitudes. When man turns cameleon, the Christianity that is in him disappears.

Presbyterian Standard: A map of the United States was published in Philadelphia, the other day, showing the States in the Union that were afflicted more or less grievously with graft and the States that are altogether free from that evil. North Carolina and Mississippi, alone of Southern States, were white in a surrounding sea of black and shady territory, and the white Northern States could also be counted on the fingers of one hand, but one of them was Maine. The lesson is too plain to be pointed out. Mississippi has the best laws of any Southern State regarding the liquor traffic and North Carolina comes next. Maine is and has long been a prohibition State.

TO BETHLEHEM.

By Margaret E. Sangster.

To Bethlehem repair, and find
The Babe by prophets erst foretold;
And at His feet, with reverence meet,
Pour frankincense and myrrh and gold.

The incense of devotion pure,
The myrrh of sorrow and of pain,
The gold long sought, with love enwrought
Oh, haste to Bethlehem again.

There in his mother's arm behold
The child to save His people born;
With humble fear, to Him draw near,
In Bethlehem on Christmas morn.

Most beautiful that infant face.
A glory hovers round His head,
Though mean the place, with little grace,
Where Mary in her hour was led.

Still o'er that stable low and dim,
Forever shines the wondrous star,
That to the Child, o'er waste and wild,
The wise men guided from afar.

And yet, the listening soul may hear,
In solemn watches of the night,
The angels sing, the word they bring,
Fills all the heavens with flaming light.

To Bethlehem at dawn repair;
For surely there shall seekers find,
In that low shrine the Babe Divine,
The hope and health of all mankind.

WINNING SOULS TO CHRIST.

Dear reader, would you be a successful soul-winner? You would?

Then be careful to exert a mellowing, thought-provoking, religious influence constantly upon those with whom you associate.

Cultivate a burning zeal for the salvation of souls, and thereby keep your own heart alive and warm on this vital subject. It takes a live Christian to win a live sinner to Christ.

Attach great importance to personal effort. "Run, speak to that young man" is God's command. A few kind words from a loving heart to an unsaved sinner may be the special means of the salvation of that friend of yours.

If you are a preacher, preach Christ in your sermons as the sinner's friend, the sinner's Saviour, and the sinner's judge.

If you are a layman, preach Christ by your zealous Christian life, in your spoken testimony, and in your songs. Work for him, speak for him, sing for him.

Write letters to those of your acquaintances whom you know to be unsaved and on whom you cannot call personally, and earnestly urge them to seek the Lord in the forgiveness of their sins. Oh, the influence of an earnest letter written on this all-important subject!—The Religious Telescope.

MULTIPLY OUR DESIRES.

It is doubtful, with all our complex life, and the increased means at our disposal of gratifying our desires and supplying our wants, whether men and women are any happier than they were in the simpler days of our fathers. We see more. We know more. The general average of intelligence is higher. Knowledge is, without doubt, increased. But it may be doubted with all this addition to the fund of human knowledge whether the happiness of the race has correspondingly advanced. Neither wealth on the one hand nor intellectual acquisition on the other is any guarantee of contentment of spirit. These things rather multiply our desires, and their gratification not only stimulates additional desires but leads us away from the repose of life, which is, after all, the secret of happiness.

The first Christmas gift was a life; and the motive of the gift was love. "God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son." Here is the true test and standard of Christmas giving. This is the keynote of the music, and every air and variation must be in tune with this, else the harmony is broken.

THE BROTHERHOOD OF MAN.

In hot tropical forests the ground is knee deep in decaying vegetation. From the rotting trunks of fallen trees ascend a foul and poisonous atmosphere. But from the heart of these decaying forest giants the beautiful orchid sends forth its fragrant blossom, and hanging in rich festoons over this scene of corruption and putrefaction, conceals its repulsiveness, and, absorbing its poisonous odors, converts them into breaths of sweetness.

What a corrupt and foul and unlovely world his not this become, with all its external beauty, through the sinfulness of man! How its soil has been reddened with the blood of cruel wars! How its peace has been rent by harsh suspicions, evil thoughts and unjust slanders! What noxious vapors are exhaled from its envy and strife! Yet over this scene of passion and shame, like the orchid amidst the decay of the forest, floats the music of the Christmas bells, pealing "Peace on earth, good will to men," telling us of a love that has conquered hate, and a Father's home where discord must forever cease, and a brotherhood where all factions of race and creed are dissolved.

But it is only where these Christmas bells penetrate that this truth can be realized. Christianity alone claims all races as brethren and every chime its home. On the deck of a missionary ship met a Hindu and a New Zealander. Neither knew the other's tongue, but each had a Bible, and they instinctively recognized their kinship. They smiled, shook hands, pointed to their Bibles. Then a happy thought occurred to the Hindu. "Hallelujah!" he cried. "Amen," replied the New Zealander. It was the beginning of the "one language and one speech," that unites all Christian hearts.

Let our Christmas devotions and festivities be made to further this great brotherhood! May its pleasures be unselfish and its love far reaching! For as Dr. James Hamilton has truly said, "The religion which fancies that it loves God, when it never evinces love to a brother, is not piety, but a poor mildewed theology, a dogma with a worm at its heart."

FOR USE IN THE MEETING.

The distinctive feature of brotherly love is mutual helpfulness. Brotherly love is felt for equals; it brings as much as it offers. Hence he who shuts his heart against his brother, not only refuses service to another, but robs himself of the assurance of help in the hour of need.

Brotherly love should be practical. It is easy to be sentimental about the brotherhood of man, and at the same time to deny it in practice. Pecksniff declared loftily that sympathy was the finest feature of human nature, while he was shaking his fist at a beggar.

"I am a man, and nothing human is alien to me," was the noble utterance of an ancient orator. Color, race, caste, religious belief do not absolve us from our obligation to help those who differ from us. The fact that the one who needs is a man, makes him my brother, with all that this involves.

Of the Good Samaritan Bishop Woodsworth says: "The neighboring Jews became strangers, the stranger Samaritan became neighbor, to the woman led traveler. It is not place, but love, which makes neighborhood."

DAILY READINGS.

M.—God declares men brothers, Gen. 9:26. T.—"No respecter of persons," Acts 10:34-45. W.—The gospel for all, Rev. 14:6-13. T.—The Elder Brother, Heb. 2:10-18. F.—Greek, Roman, Jew, Rom. 16:1-23. S.—Brotherly love, 1 Thes. 4:6-10. Sun. Topic—The Brotherhood of Man. 1 John 2:7-11; 3:12-15. (A Christmas Missionary Meeting). Quas. 107.

*Y. P. S. C. E. Topic—For December 24, 1906, 1 John 2:1-11; 3:12-15.