

Dominion Presbyterian

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Note and Comment

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The woman of Canaan who was willing to accept the crumbs that fell from the master's table received a great deal more. She sat down to a banquet. Willingness to take small favors from God simply prepares the way for his richest benedictions.

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Kipling's ballad of "The Absent-Minded Beggar," sung nightly in the London music halls for the benefit of the British soldiers' relief fund, has already brought in nearly \$100,000. One lady alone, it is said, has earned over \$500 a week for the fund by reciting the poem.

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In Christ's sermon to Nicodemus, he presents the two great needs of the sinner: 1. spiritual life (ye must be born again) and 2. faith (whosoever believeth, etc.) Let the unregenerate of to-day pray specially for these two things, spiritual life and faith in the Redeemer.

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There are many kinds of young men's societies. The latest is one in which every member pledges himself to go to church every Sabbath, or, failing, to pay twenty-five cents for the collection. It is to the credit of the club that its members usually attend and put in the twenty-five cents themselves.

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Andrew Carnegie says that poverty is a good thing. The Roman philosopher, Seneca, wrote the praises of poverty on a table of marble and gold. Andrew Carnegie says his steel business is worth \$500,000,000 in the London markets when times are good. But Carnegie came of a poor Scotch family. He has memories of happiness in a poor man's cottage.

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An Indian when asked what the Lord had done for him, gathered some dry leaves in a circle, and placing a worm in the centre, set them on fire. As the flames drew nearer on every side, and were about to consume the worm, he lifted it out, and placing it safely on a rock, looked up and said, "This is what Jesus did for me."

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Principal Geddes, of Aberdeen University, Scotland, who died last month, spent most of his active life in connection with the University, becoming first professor of Greek in 1825, and then principal in 1885. He was a good Greek scholar, and published several useful books in this department. His chief service to the University consisted in the success which crowned his plans for enlarging the building of the institution which he served so faithfully. He was in his seventy-second year, and had been connected with the University for forty-five years.

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Don't darken the young mind with your misanthropy. If you have lost faith in God, don't quench that heavenly light in youthful souls. If you have lost confidence in human goodness, don't chill the generous trust of a young soul in its fellow. If the sunshine has faded from your sky, don't blot out the brightness that irradiates the path of those who have just begun the march of life. Misanthropy is a moral disease, and its victim should keep it to himself. Yet there are men who go about exhaling the malaria of their swampy souls. It is a pity there can be no moral quarantine for these unwholesome individuals.

Dr. Patrick, of Free St. Paul's, Dundee, says the Christian Leader, has been loosed from his charge and expressions of universal regret. He has been a minister for twenty-two years, but his tastes have always been more academical than ecclesiastical. It shows great courage to take up new work, in a new country, but if he is granted health, he will make his mark in his new sphere as principal of Manitoba College.

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The cheering report is made that in the large cities of the United States the number of cases of blindness occurring in young children is steadily diminishing. This is due partly to increasing knowledge on the part of the medical profession, partly to the advance of sanitation in home and school and partly to increased and more humane knowledge among the people.

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The Michigan Presbyterian says:—A man who read the account of the hanging of the negro murderer, Levi Stewart, made the remark: "If I wanted to kill a man I should do it in Michigan and not in Canada. If I did it in Canada they would surely hang me. If I did it in Michigan, and I should happen to be convicted, I should only have to stay at Jackson until some of my friends could persuade a governor to parolon me out." We have no desire to murder anybody; but if we had, the Michigan law would be quite encouraging.

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The Anti-Saloon League has begun an energetic crusade in New York city says the Presbyterian Standard and proposes to keep it up along this line if it takes all the twentieth century. The Anti-Saloon League is operating on a platform on which all who really desire the suppression of the liquor traffic can heartily unite. The league has already done large and effective service in Ohio and other parts of the Union, and its work is led by earnest, capable and experienced men. There is no State in the Union where temperance work is carried on in the face of so many difficulties as in New York, but we believe that the league will succeed in the end because it is based on sound and true principles.

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Mr. Moody is reported to have said "I feel sure the great majority of people do like singing, and I purpose to make it a prominent feature of all my services. It helps to build up an audience—even if you do preach a dry sermon. If you have singing that reaches the heart it will fill the church every time." Now, please observe this was not a matter of personal taste. Moody had no ear for music. It was his sagacity, his shrewd perception of the power of song over the masses of mankind. We are suffering now from two hundred years' neglect of sacred music, a thing of which Luther said—"The devil can stand anything but good music—that makes him roar."

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The Belfast Witness says: The Archbishop of Canterbury has issued a form of prayer for use at the present crisis, in which he sanctions petitions for the dead. Colonel Sandys, on behalf of the Evangelicals, who are incensed at the Primate, protested against this Romish innovation as illegal. To another protestor the Archbishop replied as follows—"Dear Sir,—In reply to your letter of the 13th inst., it has been decided at law that prayers for the dead are not forbidden in the Church of England." The Evangelicals' objection was that such prayers are "illegal," and the Primate's answer is a decision "at law." Neither takes any account of the Reformation principle that the New Testament is the supreme authority.

The Anti-Profanity League just started in Albany is an excellent one, and should extend. Its inception is due to St. John's Roman Catholic Church, Albany; but on this question Roman Catholics and Protestants are one.

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Going to church by fits and starts says The Herald and Presbyter is not adapted to promote one's highest spiritual good. When a man takes his meals irregularly, one time eating heartily, then little or nothing, and often not at all, he will soon suffer from indigestion. The same principal holds in regard to the nourishment of the soul, which, like the body, requires its food at regular intervals, or the consequences will be spiritual dyspepsia, which is the worst kind of malady. It is not strange that many people who are punctilious in feeding their bodies have so little compunction about affording their souls the proper nourishment.

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In 1897 in Germany 1,883,730,000 gallons of beer were consumed; 1,190,000,000 were drunk in Great Britain; 180,000,000 in France, and 90,000,000 in Russia. It is estimated that 36 gallons per head are drunk in Belgium, 32 in Great Britain, 25 in Germany, 21 in Denmark, 12 in Switzerland, 10 in United States, 9 in Holland, 5 in France, 3½ in Norway, 2½ in Sweden, and 1 in Russia. A writer in the "North American Review" declares that a large quantity of beer is consumed in order to satisfy the craving for the elements which are eliminated from wheat in making white bread.

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An interesting story of "How Not to Do It" is given in the February number of Cassell's Little Folks. The writer says:—"Some preachers are past masters in the art of begging. Dr. Parker, of the City Temple in London, has few equals and no superiors in this respect, and his appeals meet with remarkable success. Other ministers don't know how to do it. One Sunday forenoon the preacher in a church in Highgate made a really powerful appeal on behalf of the Bishop of London's Fund. He urged his hearers to give generously according to their means, and not to be content with putting 'miserable sixpences' into the plate. One of his congregation was a small boy of nine, to whom his mother (unable to attend) had given a penny for himself and sixpence for herself. On his return the laddie said, 'Here's your sixpence, mother. I put my penny in the plate, but the preacher told us we were not to give "miserable sixpences," so I brought yours home again.'"

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While everyone is thinking of the British soldier, it may be as well to point out that in the army and navy, the four religious branches at present receiving official recognition, are the Church of England, Roman Catholic, Presbyterian and Wesleyan. Every recruit on his enlistment is required to declare himself as belonging to one or other of these four branches and is entered accordingly for parade service. In the event of having no choice, he is usually entered as belonging to the Established Church of England. On one occasion, at Aldershot, among others who came before the commanding officer to answer the customary questions, was a recruit, who, when asked as to his religious belief, frankly avowed he had none. Whereupon the officer, who was a bit of a wag, with a twinkle in his eye, said, "Sergeant, this recruit has no religious belief. On Sunday see that he attends parade service with the Wesleyans at eight o'clock, with the Presbyterians at nine, with the Roman Catholics at ten, and the Church of England service at eleven." It is not stated for which Tommy Atkins ultimately declared, possibly that service which proved to be the briefest in length.