

Pastor and People.

The Brooklyn Meetings.

As the meetings conducted by Messrs. Moody and Sankey, in Brooklyn, will close for the present, next Saturday, it will not be out of place to say something of the present condition of religious feeling in that city.

It is admitted by all that the attendance and interest have steadily increased since the beginning. Occasionally the Tabernacle is not filled at the prayer-meeting at eight o'clock in the morning, on account of rain or storm; but more failing to gain admittance to the Tabernacle every evening than at the first.

The conferences which have taken place among pastors and people, have brought to light the fact, that the sad revelations made in that city, during the last twelve months, led many Christians to unusual anxiety for the Church and the salvation of souls.

Dr. Holland considers that the labors of Messrs. Moody and Sankey furnish evidences of a Divine presence and interposition which skeptics will find it hard to confute. In the November number of Scribner's he comments as follows: "We suppose there is no question that Mr. Moody has done a marvellous work in Great Britain."

Since the return of Mr. Moody to America, with his companion, Mr. Sankey, the interviewers have ascertained from both of those gentlemen that the work they have seemed to do has not been done by them at all, but by the Spirit of the Almighty. It looks like it, we confess.

It is thought probable that the twin sons of Mr. Spurgeon will gratify the long cherished wish of their fathers near by entering the ministry. Mr. Spurgeon has not sought to influence them to this course, believing it best that they should be left free to choose their own vocation.

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The General Expectation.

There is unquestionably, in the waking Christian mind, at this time, an expectation of a revival of religion throughout the land. Whether or not it is traceable to any specific cause, is not material.

1. A state of heart suited to an earnest co-operation with the spirit of God in the work of arousing the stupid and careless to a sense of their own sinfulness and lost condition, and of leading them to Christ for pardon, for regeneration and life.

2. The preaching of the ministry must be suited to the accomplishment of this work. It is a sad fact that a large amount of our preaching has not fitness to produce conviction of sin, or to show a man the plague of his own heart.

3. This preaching must be in the spirit of faith. We must expect success. We labour in vain if we do not. When Christ was on earth, His work was hindered by unbelief. It will be so now.

4. This present time demands thorough work. The bane of revivals has been their superficial work. Multitudes have been encouraged to hope for mercy without having felt the plague of their own hearts.

5. There must be personal work. Paul preached the Gospel from house to house, and he ceased not to warn the ungodly with tears, to flee from the wrath to come. This is the primitive method of leading men to Christ.

Finally, in order to meet these responsibilities, we must be much in prayer to God. We shall fail without it. He will be enquired of to do these things for us.

Bring your Children.

Parents, teach your children to church with you. Teach them, with the beginning of this year, to attend the house of God, at least once every Sabbath. Do not attempt to excuse them from this religious duty; they will doubtless plead off on the ground that they go to Sunday school.

Mistaken Humility.

There is a great deal of verbal humility, so to speak. It consists in a prevailing habit of men speaking in depreciating terms of themselves. They have so habituated themselves to it that anything else for them would indicate pride.

Another mistaken idea of humility is that we really should have a low estimate of our own abilities. It is true that too high an estimate tends to pride, and especially to a course of action which to others is indicative of pride.

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The Birmingham School Board have decided to add instruction in cookery to the curriculum of their schools for girls. At a meeting of the Board the Buildings and Sites Committee reported that arrangements had been made for the erection of the necessary kitchen accommodation in connection with the Bloomsbury school, and, if the experiment succeeded, it would be extended in time to other Board schools.

The Rev. Professor Blaikie, Edinburgh, has undertaken to conduct during the coming winter the theological class for ladies, the subject being the "Christian Evidences." Professor Davidson and Principal Cairns, of Edinburgh, have also agreed to deliver lectures on the evening.

Preservation of the Scriptures.

In his excellent commentary on the "Confession of Faith," Dr. A. A. Hodge says, at page 66, "Quotations from the Apocryphal Scriptures, found in the writings of the early Christians, are so numerous that the whole New Testament might be gathered from the works of writers dating before the seventh century."

The narrative which follows is extracted from the life of Mr. Campbell, the African Missionary traveler. It contains a fact, probably unknown to most of our readers, and will be as delightful to the Christian, and especially the theologian, as it is important and edifying.

"Search the Scriptures." I remember distinctly an interesting anecdote referring to the late Sir David Dalrymple, better known to literary men abroad by his title of Lord Hailes, a Scottish Judge. I had it from the late Rev. W. Buchanan, one of the ministers of Edinburgh. I took such interest in it that, though it must be about fifty years since he told it, I think I can almost relate it in Mr. Buchanan's words:—I was dining some time ago with a literary party at old Mr. Abercrombie's, and we were spending the evening together.

In this connection it is pertinent to speak of the arrogant claims of the Romish Church, that the world is indebted to her for having preserved the Scriptures. Absurd and false! Just when that corrupt corporation crystallized into organic form cannot, perhaps, be exactly told. It has been a noxious growth, down along the ages to our own time.

The Value of Christianity.

"The value of Christianity has never been fairly estimated by more philosophers. There is grandeur in its principles, fully perceptible to the humblest being who feels their influence, but hidden from him who knows them only speculatively. The religion of Christ develops the only true principle of 'association,' that can exist among mankind.

Men's wants and manna seek to secure to mankind their rights, but say but very little about their duties. The consequence is, men often do wrong to gain their rights. Christ says very little about our rights, but a great deal about our duties.

At the suggestion of Rev. Dr. John Hall, steps have been taken towards the organization of the "Irish Presbyterian Association of New York city." It proposes to see to the spiritual and temporal interests of that portion of our population, encourage them to attach themselves to some stated place of worship, and find employment and extend assistance to the unfortunate.

Random Readings.

It was a beautiful reply of a venerable man, when asked if he were in the land of the living, "No, but I am almost there."

He is not poor who hath little, but he that desireth much. He is rich enough who wants nothing.

No one ever bitterly condemned himself who had spent his younger years soberly; many have that they did not.

Remember that it is not for your food that God bestows largely. It is for His own name's sake that He does it.—D. A. C. Thompson.

"Jock," said the old Laird of Dunblodilkes, "when ye hae naething else to do, ye may be aye sticking in a tree; it will be growing, Jock, when ye're sleeping."

Great men leave two different impressions of themselves on their contemporaries—the one the result of their public career, the other of their private life.

Generosity during life is a very different thing from generosity in the hour of death. One proceeds from genuine liberality and benevolence; the other from pride or fear.

Say nothing respecting yourself either good, bad, or indifferent—nothing good, for that is vanity; nothing bad, for that is affectation; nothing indifferent, for that is silly.

It is an excellent rule to be observed in all disputes, that men should give soft words and hard arguments; that they should not so much strive to vex as to convince an opponent.

Whenever you perceive that you have a derelict for spiritual food—for prayer, and for reading and pondering God's Word—be alarmed, for your spiritual life is in danger.

The true children of God understand well the greatness of their spiritual nobility, and that this, so far from being sullied by the base treatment of the world, is only made illustrious thereby.—Starke.

Instead of their admiration for Christianity, and admiring in turn those who admire us and our cause, it becomes us to root ourselves more deeply in a self-denying spirit.—Kieger.

Churches sometimes complain because their ministers leave so many things undone. It is not strange, when five hundred people, more or less, set their wits to work, they can think of very much more than any one mortal can possibly do.

When a clergyman applies at the depot for a minister's ticket, and the official ventures to express a doubt as to his clerical character, he says, "I'll read you one of my sermons." The ticket is passed over instantly, without any proof.

In the Christian warfare, to maintain the conflict is to gain the victory. The promise is made to him that endures to the end. The object of our spiritual adversaries is to prevent this. Every day which we are preserved from going back, they sustain a defeat.—Payson.

A schoolmaster who had an inveterate habit of talking to himself, was asked what motive he could have in doing so. He replied that he had two good and substantial reasons. In the first place, he liked to talk to a sensible man; in the next place, he liked to hear a sensible man talk.

A dying Scotchman was asked, "Have you a glimpse of glory now, my brother, that you are dying?" He roused himself from his lethargy at such a question, and raising himself from the agonies of death, said, "I'll have none of your glimpses now that I am dying, since I have had a full look at him for forty year." We all expect to have that full look at Christ in dying. Let us have it now.

After the Reformation, Neil Ramsay, Laird of Dalhousie, having been at a preaching with the Regent Moray, was demanded how he liked the sermon. "Passing well," said he. "Purgatory is has altogether done away with; if to-morrow he will do away with hell, I will give him half the lands of Dalhousie."

Friction impedes the progress of the railway train, and yet it is only through friction that it makes any progress. This apparent paradox is explained when we remember that, by reason of the frictional bite of the drivers upon the track, they draw the train. The bearings of the wheel upon the rails are a mere line where they come in contact, iron and iron, yet this slight and almost imperceptible hold is sufficient to move hundreds of tons of dead weight with the speed of the wind.

The best characters are made by vigorous and persistent resistance to evil tendencies; whose amiability has been built upon the ruins of ill temper, and whose generosity springs from an overmastered and transformed selfishness. Such a character, far more in the presence of enemies, has far more attraction than one which is naturally pleasing; even as we always prefer lemonade, where the acid and its opposite maintain a disputed empire over the palate, to the unresisted sweetness of molasses.—Congregationalist.

Enervation is one of the great dangers which are to be apprehended from so-called civilization and wealth, and it behooves men who have the interest of their country at heart, to find out how it might be guarded against. For our own part, we would sooner see the people of the nation poor, public spirited, and in earnest about something else than the amassing of wealth and the gratification of their passions, than see them rich, careless as to their principles, and indifferent as to what happens so long as they themselves are permitted to lead a quiet life.—Liberal Review.

Man relies far more than he is aware for comfort and happiness on a woman's tact and management. He is so accustomed to those that he is unconscious of their worth. They are so delicately connected, and yet so ceaselessly exercised, that he enjoys their effect as he enjoys the light and atmosphere. He seldom thinks how it would be with him were they withdrawn. He fails to appreciate what is a freely given. He may be reminded of them now and then; may complain of intrusion and interference; but the frown is swept away by a gentle hand, the murmuring lips stopped with a caress, and the management goes on.