

UNIVERSITY EXTENSION.

It was expected that this year the University Extension lecture work would show a marked decrease. So great was the interest manifested throughout the first year of the work, that a reaction seemed to be inevitable. The continuance of the World's Fair until late in the autumn, postponed of course the establishment of work in the old centres and the organization of work in new centres. But contrary to expectation, and in spite of hindrances, the lecture-study work is greater than during the corresponding season of last year. The number of centres supplied from the University during the last quarter has been thirty-three, and the number of courses given thirty-five. The number of different individuals attending these lectures has been six thousand. A most gratifying feature of the work is the fact that there has been great increase in the amount of reading in connection with the lectures and in the number of papers prepared. The work takes on more and more the character of a permanent institution in the towns which have adopted it. The purpose of the Extension lecture work is becoming better understood. It is now seen that the aim is not primarily the assistance of non-residence students towards the completion of a college course, and the conferring of diplomas and degrees, but rather the directing and stimulating of the reading and study of those who wish to read and study under direction. In every community there are many who desire to maintain systematic intellectual activity along various lines of literature, history and science. No one supposes for a moment that the University Extension lecture takes the place of the more systematic, laborious and continuous work of the college or the university. But it is clearly becoming evident that the work has an intrinsic value of its own which will insure its permanency as a part of the educational activity of the community. The problem before the University is wisely to meet this demand and to direct the interest already excited in such a way as to lead to permanent results. A steady increase has shown itself in the work of the Correspondence Teaching department, and arrangements have been made for the immediate organization of twenty-two classes in various subjects to meet in different parts of the city, in order that thus the advantages of the University may be extended to those who cannot come to it.—*President Harper's Convocation Statement, Chicago, January, 1894.*

When Mr. Spurgeon was asked to state what he thought was the greatest gift possible to a Christian traveller in the world, he responded, "A sense of perfect peace with God."

THE "PARLIAMENT OF RELIGIONS."

As to the Parliament of Religions, an Iowa lady who attended it all, wrote to her father: "No stereotyped report could do any justice to the wonderful and ever-changing picture presented on the platform. I was very proud of Mr. Cook. *He was equal to the occasion*, and so grandly represented us; his brain seemed twice as big as that of any other man on the stage. I heard him in that wonderful address, which was generally conceded to be the climax of the noble Parliament, on "What the Bible hath Wrought." In his glorious fashion he told of what the Bible had done for science, literature, and art, and for civilization in other lines, piling fact upon fact most magnificently, and then laid it all on one side. And the one fact that the Bible reveals the process by which guilt may be removed from the soul, and the little hand of Lady Macbeth made clean—more than balancing—the audience just held its breath. It was the masterpiece of the whole seventeen days of intense effort.

"I felt perfectly satisfied with the presentation of our faith. The Orientals bowed and smiled, were polished, and courteous, and handsome, and their papers were elegant and poetical; but it *rested me*, the spirit earnest, and plain, and broad, and consciously triumphant with which the representatives of the Christian religion made their appearance. It was hard not to be impatient with the Theosophists and Christian Scientists."

"CHRIST'S MISSION," NEW YORK.

Some years ago when preaching in Masonic Temple, Mr. O'Connor, after pointing out the way of salvation through Christ alone, and then explaining the Roman Catholic way through the Pope and priests, asked the Roman Catholics present what they would do if all the bishops and priests in the world should be suddenly called to their reward, whatever that might be. After a pause he repeated the question, when an Irish woman in the centre of the hall cried out: "Oh, then, we'd have no one but the good God to go to." That is exactly the case with Christ's Mission. It has no great church denomination or organization to go to in an emergency like the present. But it appeals to all Christians who sympathize with the work it is doing for the enlightenment and conversion of Roman Catholics, and the helping hand it reaches out to priests who desire to leave the Roman Catholic Church on religious grounds and appeal to the Mission for sympathy, direction and help, to find the new and better way.—*Converted Catholic.*