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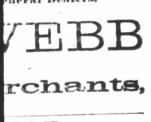
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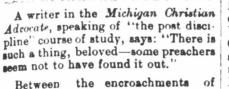


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divorce on the one hand, and the close necessities and exactions of modern life on the other, the nation is rapidly becoming a country without homes .- Boston Herald.

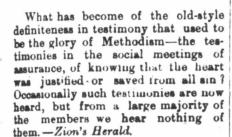
S.F. HUESTIS, Publisher.

VOL XXXIV.

T WATSON SMITH, Editor.

The Southwestern Methodist says: Under the figure of salt, Christ represents your silent influence: under the figure of light, your open influence. but in either case the influence must be powerful enough to season and to illuminate, else your religion is as savorless salt and as a covered light. Some are always inclined to glorify the past. There are no such sermons

the old time ministers. Nonsense The world never before had a ministry as able as that which it has now. and the best preaching in human history, so far, is the preaching of to day. - Western Advocate.



The editor of a Tennessee paper talks thus about dressy school-girls: "There isn't any sense in it. There was a day when a calico dress and a sun-bonnet were good enough for a school dress, and if finer toggery was put on the wearer was sent home with instructions to change. It is very painfal for a little child to go out into company dressed poorly, when the majority are clad in finery.

NOTE AND COMMENT. The election of Mr. Cleveland doesn't settle the question which the Brother in Black raises, nor would the election of Mr. Blaine have settled it. Wanted for this solution, the Christianized common sense of men of all parties and both colors. In the

meantime the colored man is growing. He has about doubled in population since the war, and has increased in property from about nothing to \$100-000,000. -Southern Adv.

One of the tenderest acts of kind. ness perpetrated by the churches at Christmas time is to feed pour children on candy, bought at eighteen cents a pound and when the little cherubs die with their stomachs full of marble dust-tendered to them by economical pastors as sugar, and eaten by the innocent lambs with all the simple faith and exuberant appetite of their age-they will go aloft carrying with them, as it were, their own tombnow, they say, as were preached by stones. - Philadelphia Times.

Spurgeon quaintly characterizes great preaching, and warns against imitations in the following sentences: 'A church with a Luther in every pulpit would be all fist; and with a Calvin to fill every pastorate she What has become of the old-style would be all skull. Blessed be God for one Robert Hall, but let the man be whipped who tries in his own per-

son to make a second. Rowland Hil assurance, of knowing that the heart is admirable for once, but it is quite as well that the mould was broken. There is a grea, run just now for little Robertsons of Brighton, but there will the members we hear nothing of soon be a glut in the market."

If there is any despotism more galling to a true man than such party chains we know not where it prevails. The cure is in revolt at all hazards, whatever may be the threatened penalty. Resistance to tyranny is everywhere obedience to God. We call on all true men to stand up for their personal rights and assert their manhood. Let no one bow to this yoke which a party would hang around his neck, or wear the collar on any pretense for a and bring him back to her narrower A writer in Messiah's Herald, single hour. Such intolerance is worse by far than the most of ana tyranny of an absolute monarchy .--New York Journal of Commerce. The absence of the young from eight to sixteen years of age makes a sad and fearful gap at all the solemn interest is by renewing their own festivals of the Church. But not unsubscription and doing what they can til parents see the deadly poison lurking in the oft repeated sayings, "Boys A Presbyterian Doctor of Divinity have their fun," "Old heads can't be put on young shoulders," and the like. and address themselves most prayerqueer views of things. You are always fully and constantly to the great relooking on and never taking part. sponsibility God has put upon them to Your knowledge and habits of thought bring up their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord, will this unnatural and sinful fact cease to exist .- Alabama Adv. The Spectator says: The Lords have a further time of grace allowed them. but it is far from certain that they will use it well. The two ideas of democracy and privilege cannot work that a married woman, doing business side by side and privilege expects, with more reason than is customary for husband at a stated salary, and that a Liverais to sumit, to und its last creditor of the husband may maintain stronghold and protection in the legal proceedings against the wife to House of Lords. The struggle will get possession of any unpaid salary not arise until the next occasion arises, due to the husband. This is getting for it is not in the nature of the English people to foresee difficulties, and for a session the Lords may sun themselves in the light of their own deeds but we do not believe the occasion can be averted for five years. The world sometimes teaches the Church. But it seems a shame that upon such a subject as lotteries and raffling at bazaers it should be left for the Mayor of what is supposed to be a not very religious town (Birmingham) to teach the churches their duty. It is stated that the Town-hall there will not in future be allowed for bazaars. except on the understanding that these things shall not be allowed. At a consultation between the magistrates and the Watch Committee it was decided, we read, "to prosecute the promoters of bazaar lotteries in the same way as other gamblers." But what a scandal that such a revolution should be need-

CHRIST'S BIRTH.

hp

Infancy is forever dignified by the manger of Bethlehem ; wcmanhoud is ennobled to its purest ideal in Mary ; man, as such, receives abiding honor in the earliest accepted homage to her Son being that of the simplest DOOF.

> A teacher has pointed some striking lessons on the way in which the

whole incident was received, as St. Luke relates, by those immediately concerned. The shepherds spread abroad the story with hearts full of grateful adoration ; the hearers wonder at it, but Mary ponders in her heart all that had been told her. 'There were more virgins in Israel, more even of the tribe of David, than she," says the great preacher ; " but she was the chosen of God. It was

natural, and it is easy to understand, that when a second appearance of angels, like that which she had already experienced, was seen, she would ponder in her heart their words, which concerned her so near ly. But if we ask ourselves, was this pondering the words in her heart already the true faith that carries the blessing, the truitful seed of a personal relation to the Saviour ? did Maty already believe, firmly and immovably, that the Saviour of the world should see the light of life through her? the gospels leave us too clearly to think the opposite. There was a time, long after this when Christ was already a teacher, when she wavered between him and his brethren, who did not believe in him : when she went out with them to draw him away from his course,

This means not only a so-called low voice, ' Preach the Gospel-sound Christian service or life ; it means a trumpet.' Through the whole of the hearty, generous, spontaneous yield- my after life-that sentence has reing up of all that is worth offering to sounded in my ears, and never did I

deleslevan.

the Lord of glory. It was truly refreshing to read recently of a wealthy young Christian lady, who, intending to send a present to a struggling minister and his family, said she did not mean to send one really necessary article. For once they should receive luxuries. Bread and meat they must have ; now omething basides the actual usual are should be set before them. 80 unusual things appeared to their asonished eyes. Garments they could enjoyed. And yet every gift was nto the vineyard of the Lord, there

vill be nothing superfluous, and what hame, what unworthiness would it be to bring other than the best to such a Saviour ! And often the most acceptable service, the real frankincense and myrrh of our hearts, consists in simply accepting our every-day life as the vill of God concerning us, and yielding a calm, submissive heart as our daily and acceptable offering.

SOUND THE TRUMPET!

In the life of Dr. Ocean Malan, of Geneva, as given by his friend Ostertag, is the following :

A company were returning to Gestrangers of every kind." While Ostertag was enjoying conversation with had just seated himself by the side of friend for sid; Buddha neither circle of home-life, as one who was a foreign lidy, and had, in the most dropped one tear of pity, nor

faithfully obey it and repent of doing

A SINGHALESE CONVERT.

A Singhalese painter, at work at a Wealeyan church in Ceylon, after repeated conversations with the minister, attended a service at which he listened to an earnest address on the subject of prayer, illustrated largely by a reproduction in Singhalese of the touching story that has moved so have done without, food they rarely many hearts-"Jessica's First Prayer." During the week following the minisctually needed. So if we bring our ter called to see him at work in the est talents, our most active service chapel, when he made a joyful disclosure, of which the substance runs thus :--

"Last Sunday night was the first time I ever attended a Christian ser. vice, or heard the Gospel of Jesua preached, but what I learnt and fe then has been enough to change m life. For years I have studied Buddhism hard, having had recourse to books and to priests ; and, if anyone is qualified to bear testimony against it, surely it is I. How to attain Nirwana was at once my unquenchable longing and unsolved perplexity. Neither books or priests could help me. In fact, it is the reproach of Buddhism that the system provides no help for those who would fain achieve the neva on a stamboat. It was "full of highest good. According to Buddhism itself, when one of Buddha's relatives became the victim of an friends, he perceived "that Malan awful catastrophe, and cried to his

NO SNAPPER.

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This reminds me of a story which I know to be genuine ; for I had it from Dr. Beecher's own lips : While I was in Boston my health failed, and the doctors sent me out on a fishing smack to get rest and sea air. Que Sunday morning the fishermen went into port, and just as we landed E heard the church bells ringing. It was a small village, and though I. was covered all over with fish scales and looked like a fright, I thought L would go up to the church and slip into a corner near the door and hear the sermon. Well I did so ; and tried to bury my face in my cloak so as not to be recognized. But the preacher, whom I had met at association meetings, knew me and came down and urged me to preach for him. I told him no ; that I was forbidden to preach by my physician, and he went back to the pulpit. He read a first rate cesay on Repentance, gave all the philosophy of it and some fine illustrations, and then stopped. He didn't put on any anapper; he didn't tell his hearers that they were sinners and ought to repent. I could not stand that, so I started up the aiale, forgot even to throw off my cloak. I flung the fish scales from it all over the congregation. They thought that I was a crazy man. But before they could stop me I was on the pulpit stairs, and began to talk. I preached repentance as a personal duty for fifteen minutes with all my might. I guess they found out pretty soon that I wasn't crozy. As soon as I got through my application I dismissed the congregation and lurning to the young minister, I said : "Sir, you ought to be hung." "Why, Dr. Boocher, what do you mean ?' "Meac

HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 18 1884.

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referring to the religious newspaper, says; The religious newspaper demands no donation for its support : it only asks the patronage of the people and promises them good value for their money. The way in which all readers can help this important to induce others to subscribe.

once said to me at a General Assembly: "You newspaper men must have must be very circumferential and superficial. I suppose now your idea of the day of judgment is that you will have a table off at one side, and report the proceedings for the morning paper."-St. Paul Pioneer.

The General Term of the U.S. Supreme Court has recently decided on her own account, may employ her a long distance from the old doctrines of the common law.-Independent.

The night before Christmas, not far from the office, the Editor met a matronly-looking woman in middle life. She was very drunk. On passing her he said, "How drunk ! She turned, and with a maudlin smile Baid, "Christmas !" What a perversion! Jesus came to make all women pure as his virgin mother. Here was a woman turning the anniversary of his birth into debauchery.-N. Y.

Adrocate. The public schools in Boston are to be provided with text-books at public Why not throw in the expense. street car fare while they are about it? There are many children doubtless, that need pocket handkerchiefs, clean collars, and such like. Fine station. ery would be acceptable to pupils in the higher grades. A pocket knife is indispensable to the well-being of every boy, and no girl can succeed in the pursuit of happiness without a plentiful supply of ribbons. By levy. ing sufficient taxes all these things can be had. - Living Church.

The Roman Catholic idea of religious toleration was clearly enough expressed by Archbishop Lynch of rich prebendaries, the enormous Toronto recently. He said: "Tolera-tion is practicable and necessary when one cannot extirpate heresy, but it of Saint Thomas, Parione, the clergy ceases from the moment that there is have united to put forward a demand an end of heresy and heretics they clergy. The Papal circles are alarmfeel bound to do so, where and when ed, less at the proposals themselves their presence. - Rel. Intelligencer.

ed !- London Meth. Rec. We live in times of liberty, says the himself a living sacrifice to a rised were acattened about doing nothing- it is a preposterous lie ! I believe in Civilta Evangelica, (an Italian journal)penetrsting all orders, classes, and that Rome, under the eyes of the Pope Through all the years since Christ preaching the Gospel with indefatiga- saves from all sin and brings the

and the Curia, would be kept in perfect order; but the lower clergy are in rebellion against their superiors, the That is it exactly. Where and when and for the conversion to their benefit him will be but meagre show, com- an hour afterward, while I was in the Christianity; and he now declares that the Papal Church has power to make of prebends now given to the superior pared with what he has given us. But same place and just as a young the he is prepared to return the monor of the superior they have not that power they tolerate than at the "spirit of the times" which they reveal.

hardly in his right aind. Firm, wavering trust, that knows no passing cloud, is a work of time with all

to the Saviour; and it was so with the expression of surprise or the smile Mary. She reached it only, like us of contempt. Her face reddened and all, through manifold doubts and paled alternately. Evidently she was struggles of heart, by that grace from above which roused her ever anew, and led her on from step to step."-Dr. C. Geikie.

FRANKINCENSE AND MYRRH.

That was what the wise men brought to the infant Jesus, spices eyes bent down. By degrees these in- dow-frames, he said, "Just as you with and sweet odors ; not perhaps a tervals of silence became more fre- soap and other things entirely remove strictly necessary gift, but one well- quent. At length she gave up speak- from the wood the old marks and suited to offer a pure and guileless ing entirely. Malan, on the other stains, so the Holy Spirit applies the babe. Does it ever seem strange that hand, appeared to grow increasingly efficacy of Christ's blood to cleanse these men of learning and wisdom serious and earnest, and more and you from all your sins, and afterwards bring forth what might possibly be were soon seen coursing one another the woodwork shine, the same Spirit Babe in the manger was none the her handkerchief to her eyes." stow them ?

wise men were as precious in their ing to bring that soul to Christ. Had ed thing is this ! God called me to sight as are our treasures of to-day, I not already heard him spoken of as beautify this chapel, and now He has acknowledged Saviour. And then it of God, but as one possessing, more hear that man bear his testimony by others and perhaps less loyal winning souls ? Many and many a Chapel at his baptism a fortnight ago. hands ; the first, "came where He glorious instance could I recall, going At the close of the Sunday morning was," then offered their gifts. At far back, of what God had thus service, after I had been preaching on present the religious press all over the wrought by his means. I had heard heavenly wisdom, he stepped to the country is teeming with reports of re- how, during his walks, in the diligence, communion-rail, and with a clear bold vivals which are taking place in vari- at hotels, and among people of every voice rang out the following in Singous churches. It is no longer the class, he had been enabled at times halese : "I have tried Buddhism, and wise men of the far away country com- to fix in the heart, by a single word, it has failed to satisfy my need. Asing with thankful offerings to the in- an arrow incapable of being extricated. suming it to be true, it has no power fant King ; but is not the spirit the And now, for the first time, I saw him to change the heart and life. and save

Lord ? And it is but a reasonable looking abcut us, and chatting on the power of God, who in Christ His service.

was born it has been told, and for all ble seal and ardent love." of learning and wisdom sought out the afterward, as I was standing by a had entered into a contract to beautilittle Child in the manger, and pre- young Gernan of my acquaintance, fy a Buddhist temple, gild the images,

BORE SUBLICE, SHOE words with her. The conversation in the Gospel I heard you preach I became increasingly animated. In who have an inner personal nearness her features there appeared, by turns, put Him to death, and forgave the Him."

> a prey to the conflict of most opposite sentiments. Frequently might she him with question upon question. have been seen speaking and gesticu- eliciting a joyful reassurance of the lating in great excitement : it might thoroughness of the man's change. have been conjectured that she was Then he instructed him further by seeking to defend herself against u n exposition and illustration of Scripjust attacks. Then she set herself to ture in the things pertaining to salvalisten attentively, silently, with her tion. Pointing to the doors and win-

Christian character. 'The old wiser for their gifts ; why, then, be- "For a long time," Ostertag con- things pass away, and all things behad. The treasures of the Eastern for it was plain that Malan was seek- to what he had heard, "What a bleasand we read "they travelled far" to one, not only filled with the most ar- beautified my heart and life !"

sented him with frankincense and Malan passed close to me, and whis- &c., and had done half of the work, myrrh. He came to give, to bestow, pered in my ear, 'Another soul gain- and received half of the money, short-

he will accept and bless the gift, if, ologian from the north of Germany make any sacrifice rather than lend a like the wise men of the East, we give joined us, he passed again, touched hand to what he has come to regard as male his Heaven our Heaven, home of our treasures the best we have. me on the shoulder, and said in a an awful iniquity .- Watchman.

This is what I mean ; that any man learn that Jesus prayed for those who who would preach a sermon about repentance, as you did this morning, thief who hung on the cross beside and not put any snapper on the end Coming to the point of his conversion, the minister closely searched

of it-not exhort his hearers to repent-ought to be hung." The young man excused himself by saying that he intended to extemporize an apulication, but the Doctor's presence embarrassed him so that it was all driven out of his head. And the Doctor replied that since he drove one application out of the preacher's head, it was right and proper for him to drive an other into the people's hearts. So they shook hands and made friends. But the Dr., having told the story, expatiated in his happiest vein upon the application as an essential part of the sermon. He ended by turning to me. should have opened their treasures to more confident of success. Tears just as you put on the varnish to make the only theologue present, and say ing, "Whatever you leave out of or deemed a superfluous offering ? The down her checks, while she applied adorns you with all the graces of the off from your sermons, always be sure to have a good snappor at the end Don't wind un with a niece of noetry. tinues, "I vatched this scene, from come new." " O. !" exclaimed the or some beautitui illustration, but Presumably, it was the best they a distance, with the liveliest interest ; man in joy of an experience answering with an earnest appeal to the conscience and to the heart." That was good advice. I have never forgotten it. I trust that I profited by it, and recall it here and now, that it may help present their willing tribute to an dentseal to rain hearts to the kingdom It was a privilege past all telling to the brethren who read this letter to carry out in their preaching Nathan's is to be noticed they did not send them over, an extraordinary aptitude for before 170 people in the Seedua and Dr. Beecher's ideal of a finished sermon. - Kr

And so it is that Mary's Son brings us all back to his lowly birth-place once a year, and on this spot the humble shepherds and the Eastern Magi render their adorations, voic following voice, heart answering to heart, in responsive salutation and intensest accord. " No room for them in the inn." There is room now everywhere subjects more or less trifling-he was Son, and through his Holy Spirit, for Christmas, nor can palaces and cottages afford compass for the overflowing joy. A long, long way from ages to come it will be told, how men Ostertag adds, "About half an hour As a proof of this man's sincerity he that manger in Bethlehem to our homes in this Western Hemisphere ; a long, a long way from that bed of straw to the crown and scentre of the Throne of Heaven. Aye, indeed, imto sacrifice. All that can be given ed over to :he Lord.' A quarter of ly before his wonderful conversion to possibly long except for Him who strength, and,

> "Bearing his cross up rueful Calvary." of the heart. His and ours ever more

same when the willing penitent yields at this work. Whilst the rest of us the immortal soul, but in point of fact pardoned sinner to Himself at last."

