



DEVOTED TO TEMPERANCE, SCIENCE, EDUCATION, AND LITERATURE.

VOLUME XXI., No. 19.

MONTREAL & NEW YORK, SEPTEMBER 10, 1886.

30 CTS. per An. Post-Paid.

MR. GEORGE MULLER.

The *Christian* writing of the late Mr. George Muller, says: If there should ever come to be written, by an inspired penman, a list of those who, in New Testament times, have lived and triumphed by faith as did the heroes and heroines of Judaic history recorded in Heb. xi., surely the name of George Muller will occupy no mean place in the wondrous catalogue. His life and work for the last sixty years afford one of the most irrefragable proofs that could be conceived, of the reality of the religion that is inspired by a simple faith in the Word of God, and the revelation of his grace through Jesus Christ—a proof infinitely more convincing than tomes of controversial literature.

Mr. Muller is, by nativity, a German, having been born at Kroppenstadt, Prussia, in September, 1805. He has, therefore, completed his eightieth year. After a somewhat reckless youth, he was soundly converted to God at a prayer-meeting in Halle, at the age of twenty. Says Mrs. Muller, "He entered the house unconverted, far from God, and miserable; he left it a rejoicing Christian." With the new heart there came speedily a new and active spirit. He strongly desired to become a missionary—a wish that was not gratified, however, till late in life, when at the age of seventy, he commenced those preaching tours in different parts of the world which have been the means of spiritual reviving to multitudes. With the view of undertaking Gospel work among the Jews, Mr. Muller came to London in 1829, and pursued his studies; but God had another sphere of work in store for him. Through Christian associations formed in Devonshire, whither he had gone to seek bodily health, he became pastor of a church in Teignmouth. He appears at this time to have formed conscientious objections to the receipt of any stated salary, thinking that the true attitude of the faithful servant was a simple dependence on God alone to supply temporal needs, without any human guarantee. "Since that time, now fifty-six years ago, though possessing no property whatever of his own, he has never received any salary, either as pastor of a large church in Bristol, or as Director of the great Institution which he was permitted afterwards to found; nor does he, under any circumstances that may arise, ever take money from the funds of the institution to supply his own temporal wants, nor even to defray his travelling expenses in the Lord's service, as some suppose; but, whether in England or in other countries, is as wholly dependent upon the Lord now, for everything he needs, as when he first entered on this path of faith."

After two and a half years' work at Teignmouth Mr. Muller was led of God to remove

to Bristol, where he began the ministry of the word, in conjunction with a godly Scotchman, Mr. Henry Craik, whose acquaintance he had made at the former place. He and Mr. Craik labored together in the Gospel happily and successfully, till the latter was called to his rest in 1866. Mr. Muller did not confine his exertions to the field of pastoral service. In 1834 he founded the Scriptural Knowledge Institution for Home and Abroad, which has since then accomplished a marvellous amount of work in the establishment of Christian schools, the circulation of religious literature, and the furthering of missionary operations.

In the following year was begun the work

out one solitary direct appeal having been made to any human being. The founder laid it down at the beginning, as an axiomatic principle not to be departed from, that the tale of the needs of his work should be told into the ear of God only, as those needs arose. It is true that Mr. Muller has regularly published annual reports of the Orphan Homes, and the other branches of his many-sided work; but he truly says that these are but simple statements of past experience and accounts of stewardship rendered, and not in any sense appeals for help. Without at all reflecting on other methods, or even seeming to assume that Mr. Muller's plan is the only one that ought

when we say that the thousands of children under Mr. Muller's care, these many years, have never lacked a meal; though it is equally true that there have been times not a few when, as one meal was being prepared, no one knew where the next was to come from. One of the cardinal doctrines of the work has been that no debt should, under any circumstances, be incurred, and this principle, we understand, has been religiously adhered to. In short, the story of the Ashley Down Orphan Homes is far more truly wonderful than any romantic web of fiction that the brain of mortal man or woman has ever spun.

Space would more than fail us to speak of the preaching tours and missionary labors of the veteran servant of God that have chiefly filled up his time during the last ten years. They are, however, recorded with much circumstantiality and simple grace of diction, by Mrs. Muller, and published by Messrs. Nisbet & Co., of Berners street. In that volume appears the photograph of Mr. Muller, from which our portrait is taken. The same firm have issued, in three volumes, a "Narrative of some of the Lord's dealings with George Muller." From the publishers of this paper can be had an exceedingly interesting detailed account of the history of "The Bristol Orphan Homes," by Mr. W. E. Tayler.

CHINA'S NEED.

I want to speak to you about those eighteen provinces, each a country in itself. Oh, let them plead with you for prayer, for money, for whatever you can give to them. And are there not some who will give themselves to this work?

Let the fifteen hundred walled cities of China appeal to you. Let them speak. In addition to these there are many market towns, and places of business, and villages, and stretches of land, with country people in them. Now out of those fifteen hundred there are four hundred mission stations; but what are they? And, after all, how little the Gospel has touched even those great cities where some of us are residing. But what about the eleven hundred that have no missionaries resident, and only some of which, perhaps, a passing missionary may visit about once or twice a year—perhaps a native evangelist or colporteur, and then the rest of the year no messenger of the Gospel? What about those eleven hundred? Do they not appeal to somebody here to go and live there, and to preach there, and to build up native churches that shall by-and-by support themselves, that there may not be a need of us foreigners.—Miss Fanny Boyd.

No one can be taught faster than he will learn.



GEORGE MULLER.

among orphans with which the name of George Muller is, and will in coming generations be, chiefly associated. From very small beginnings this institution has steadily grown to its present gigantic proportions, involving an expenditure for buildings and for the support of the orphans of many hundred thousand pounds. All this money has been contributed to the institution with-

to be followed, in connection with the support of Christian institutions, it is very manifest that God has clearly set the seal of his approbation on these methods, and honored the simple, child-like trust and confidence of his servant. That trust has many a time been tried to the last degree but it has never ultimately been put to shame. We believe we are stating the truth

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