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The Life Abundant.

He who would strike the key-note of the Christian religion must put his finger down upon that little monosyllable "life." It sounds the ground-tone of the gospel. Christ has given us his own thought of his mission to men in the plain, positive, imperial declaration—''I came that they may have life, and may have it abundantly.'' These words have the ring of an ultimate purpose in them. The light Christ flashed on men's darkened minds, the love he poured on their withered hearts, the sacrifice he offered for their guilty souls, the reconciliation he effected between their alienated wills and the holy will of God, were all, in his thought, so many means toward this grand end-the vitalizing of the human spirit. He came that men might pass out of And the echo of this primal, regal death into life. truth sounds throughout the apostolic writings. The first man Adam became a living soul. The last Adam became a life giving spirit."
the law of the spirit of life." When The gospel is When Paul would tell what grace had done for him he cried, "I live Christ liveth in me." The idea of life through Christ was central in his thinking, and about it he organized all Christian truth.

But is this the conception of religion which prevails in our churches today? We fear there are many who fall short of it. One frequent error limits the necessity of Christ to the legal aspect of our case. In this view he appears for us at court to procure judicial clearance, but takes no part in our daily life. But grave and awful sins have hidden behind this defective conception of Christ's work. The Negro preacher who said: "Brethren, I have broken every commandment of the Decalogue, but, thank God, I have not lost my religion," more contemptible than the habitually dishonest business man, who fervently rejoiced that he could " roll his sins over on the atonement every Saturday night." Another error is that of regarding religion as an emotion, a sort of mystic rapture. But emotion is only the foam on the crest of the wave, not the tidal movement of the sea. Emotion is one result of the religious life rather than that life itself. The only emotion worthy of the gospel is that which fruits in steady devotion to its ideals of life. Unless feeling finds root and sap in the fact of an in-living Christ, it is but a fading flower. And rotten roses smell worse than rotten weeds. Still another mistake is that of regarding religion as a restraint, rather than an inspiration. To many it is a burdenbinder rather than a burden-bearer. It loads down rather than lifts up. It is "a nagging monitor at the elbow, an incarnate don't." Our young people, particularly, are in danger of falling into this misconception It is natural that they should be jealous of the joys of youth and look askauce at any thing which threatens to rob them of legitimate pleasure. There is great need that all our ministers enlist the vigor and enthusiasm of young life on the side of religion, by presenting it as the condition and qualification for a life abundant. There are many things indeed, which the Christian must " put off" for Christ, but He gives us better things " put on" in their place. And whatever we are called to surrender, we surrender at the touch of life. In a little while the last dead leaves will be falling from the trees to which they have clung through all the gales of winter. They vanish at the impulse of the new and surging life of springtime. They fall away to give room for summer's bloom and beauty. So when Christ dwells in the soul His life, surging up through conscience, imagination, affection and will pushes off the unlovely rags and tatters of the old nature and clothes the believer in the beautiful garments of righteousness. Let us all seek to correct our views of religion by Christ's great thought of Life Abundant. life. In a little while the last dead leaves will be

Editorial Notes.

—The new constitution of Cuba is said to declare the principle of entire separation of Church and State and to make provision for the free exercise of religion without respect to form of belief or method of worship, provided only there be conformity to Christian morality and public order.

—A committee appointed by the last Presbyterian General Assembly of the United States in respect to proposed amendments or additions to the Westminaster Confession, met at Washington recently and issued majority and minority reports, summarizing the answers of the Presbyteries to the Committee's questions. From these reports it appears that there is no general demand for a revision of the Confession. Instead of revision a supplemental explanatory statement is recommended by both reports. The majority report is for an unrestricted explanatory statement, while the minority report recommends such a statement only as shall harmonize with the system of doctrines contained in the Westminster Confession.

—The Cauadian Baptist congratulates the students representing McMaster University in having won the highest laurels in the intercollegiate recently held in Toronto. "Seven colleges and universities have participated. Six of these paired off, the representatives of three of them debating with the champions of the other three. The three winners and the college not represented in the first debates then tried conclusions, and at last the two winners in the second bout grappled in the final contest. The McMaster debaters have been matched successively with the representatives of Trinity, Varsity and Wycliffe, and on Friday evening carried off the championship for the year by defeating the Wycliffe men The McMaster representatives in the successive oratorical contests have been Messre. Parsons and Cornish, Hannah and Proctor, Cohoe and McLachlin."

The death of Maurice Thompson at the age of 57 is widely regretted. Hardly outside the United States of America could a man be found manifesting the versatility of talent and the various activities which were united in Mr. Thompson. He was born in Maryland, was educated in Georgia as a civil engineer and became a soldier in the Confederate army. After the war he was again an engineer in Indiana, afterwards a lawyer and member of the Legislature, became also a naturalist of considerable attainments and was for several years State Geologist of Indiana. Besides all this Mr. Thompson was a man of letters, and it is as a writer that he is chiefly known to the world. He wrote both in prose and verse, and in each his talent won wide recognition. His duties as State Geologist led to explorations of the country which greatly enlarged his first hand knowledge of its plants, birds and animals. He was rarely endowed with powers of observation, and this power reflected in his writings gives to them peccliar charm and value.

-It was a year ago last Wednesday that the men of the Canadian first contingent won fame for themselves by their gallant action in forcing Cronje's surrender. " Paardeberg" is a word to which the hearts of Canadians will for many a year respond in proud admiration of that brave exploit and of the men who, on the 18th day of the same month, at the end of a long forced march, and with little to eat, entered into action, receiving their first baptism of fire with the steadiness of veterans, responding heroically and with heavy loss, to an order which thrust them forward as a mark for the murderous fire of the entrenched enemy. On those two days the men of the first contingent proved their mettle and won from the world generous recognition of the fact that, for hardiness and gallantry, the manhood which our country produces is worthy to command the respect of the nations. It is most gratifying too to be able to say that the conduct of our Canadian volunteers generally throughout the war has been worthy of the traditions of British soldiers, and that from the highest in command as well as from their comrades in arms they have won unqualified praise.

—The report for the year 1899-1900 of the Nova Scotia Hospital for the Insane has just been issued, making a pamphlet of 48 pages. It contains, besides a complete statistical statement of facts concerning the institution, report of the Medical Superintendent, Dr. W. H. Hattle, which contains much of interest and value concerning the affairs of the hospital, the methods employed, results accomplished, needs, etc. At the last year's session of the Provincial Legislature the name of the institution which was formerly known as the Asylum for the Insane, was changed to the Hospital for the Insane. The change of name is considered important as indicating more definitely the character of the institution which is not merely a refuge where those of unsound minds may be in seclusion, but a hospital organized and conducted with the purpose of restoring those who are mentally diseased to health. The statistics show that a little less than 45 der cent. of those admitted have been discharged as cured. The hospital is in need of greater facilities, especially of more room. The institution depends upon public funds for support. The Medical Superintendent

however, urges that there is opportunity for the exercise of private benevolence in connection with it, that the object is a most worthy one, and that much good might result from the expenditure of the donations of individuals in making the equipment of the hospital more efficient.

-In December last the New York "Sun" printed s cabled despatch in which it was stated that Rev. Mr. Ament, a missionary of the American Board of Foreign Missions in China, had collected fines from the Chinese in various places to the amount of thirteen times the estimated damages for the murder of converts and the destruction of their property. This report led certain writers-very prominent among whom was Mr. Samuel Clemens (Mark Twain)-to denounce the avarice and injustice of the missionaries as thus demonstrated. It was of course pointed out at the time by friends of the mission cause, that the statement was very unlikely to be true and that the premises were very insufficient on which to base a conclusion so damaging to a class of men generally recognized as honorable and self-sacrificing. Now the absurd report and the deductions so eagerly drawn from it fall to the ground together in the discovery that the statement as to Mr. Ament's action grew out of a blunder in the transmission of the despatch, a blunder which consisted in the omission of a dash be tween the figures I and 3 thus making "thirteen" instead of "one-third" as was intended. What Mr. Ament had done was to collect as a fine from the villages where destruction of lives and property had occurred, one-third more than the estimated value of the lives and property destroyed, the fine going to the support of widows and orphans. These collections Mr. Ament says have the approval of Chinese officials who are urging further settlement along the same line, and authorizing the payment of 100 taels for each Christian Chinese killed.

-According to the latest information now at hand, it would appear that much of the news from South Africa during the past week has been more flattering to the hopes for a speedy termination of the war than facts would justify. The reported surrender of General Botha, which, though lacking official confirmation, was so confidently stated and repeated as to win wide credence, turns out to be untrue. The report however made itself quite sensibly felt in the stock market, and that fact not unlikely indicates its source and purpose. De Wet's invasion of Cape Colony proved a failure, and he appears to have lost quite heavily in stores and in men who were taken prisoners. He has not however been cornered, but managed to cross the Orange River with 1,500 followers as is now reported, and the wily Boer may lead his pursuers a long chase yet and commit many a depredation before he is finally captured. On the whole the situation seems much more favorable for British interests now than it did a few weeks ago. The attempted invasion of Cape Colony—which involved very serious contingencies—has ended disastrously for the Boers, General Kitchener is doubtless, steadily using the large and increasing forces at his command to render the situation of the enemy more desperate and the time when the Boer leaders shall accept the inevitable cannot be indefinitely prolonged. It is distressing to learn that at Cape Town the fear of the plague is being added to the troubles of the war. Several deaths have occurred, and the disease is spreading, but chiefly among the colored inhabitants of the city. Rats are said to be principally the medium of contagion. The report that the disease had attacked the British troops is said to be unfounded.

From Wolfville.

Knowing, Mr. Editor, that there are many of your readers who are interested in anything connected with the life of the Institutions here, I have intended to send you a few paragraphs respecting my recent tour among the Colleges, and am now embracing the earliest opportunity of so doing. My purpose in planning such a tour embraced a number of particulars. Before long we must enlarge the theological work at Acadia, so as to put the Payzant Fund fully to use and that in the most intelligent way open to us. As that fund will provide for only a fragment of theological work, it has seemed desirable that such work as we may undertake should be intelli-gently articulated, if possible, with the course provided in the theological seminaries to which our students who are candidates for the ministry will still need to go. desired, therefore, to have some conversation with the heads of the seminaries and ascertain in detail the pos-sibilities of the situation. I was eager also to visit some of the graduate universities and obtain knowledge at first hand of these advanced institutions to which our students are likely to go in increasing numbers for postgraduate work in literature and the sciences.

I was desirous, moreover, of visiting a number of the smaller Colleges of the same class as Acadia, that I might study ideals of life, methods of work, and might especially see in what ways and to what extent they had adjusted their curricula and appliances to the enlarged importance attaching to the physical sciences in these