

SPARKS FROM OTHER ANVILS.

Michigan Presbyterian: Advice chills and the world has more than it needs. Example inspires and the world has never had enough.

Christian Register: If religion has any reality, it is the most important thing with which human society can concern itself.

Cumberland Presbyterian: The fact that a man's conscience approves his course in life is not valid evidence that that course is right. Even chronometers sometimes fail to keep correct time. Even conscience may be erroneous or inactive.

Herald and Presbyter: The Christian life is natural and healthful. The unconverted condition is abnormal, as is sickness to the physical life. It would be just as unnatural to lie burning up with fever year after year as to live on in an unregenerated and unsaved life. And yet there are many persons who think they would have to give up too much in case they should become Christians.

Western Christian Advocate: For our part we devoutly wish that, if it is not too late, the rationalists might make out with the words "higher criticism," bag and baggage. It is they who have brought the term into such unsavory repute, and made it seem synonymous in many minds with a species of infidelity. If now it could only be willed to them in fee simple and forever, and leave the truly believing and constructive scholars who are in our orthodox schools to be known simply as students or investigators of the Scriptural literature, it were a consummation devoutly to be wished.

Presbyterian Witness: A good creed is not enough. It must be reduced to practice. A Scriptural faith is one thing; the living it out is quite another. Truth must take possession of the life as well as of the mind and the heart. God, as well as man, honors him who is true to faith.

United Presbyterian: Life is not by what we possess, but by trust in every word of God; strength will be given for the hour of trial, angels minister to us only when we are in the line of duty; the kingdom and the crown are won only in the worship and service of God. The answer to every temptation is, "It is written," and I will obey the Word of God, even though it leads to Gethsemane and the cross.

Sunday School Times: To take time for needed prayer is not only to use that time profitably, but it is sure to save time later. It is often hard to realize this truth at the moment; but there are many who can bear witness to it a truth. When one is faced by a day in which tasks are heavy and crowding, it is natural to grudge the giving of a minute to anything but those tasks. Yet the very pressure of a crowded day is added reason for giving time, at the start of the day, to prayer — more time, indeed, than one would on a day less burdened. This need has been well phrased in the words, "when it is hardest to pray, pray hardest!"

Lutheran Observer: It is a gloomy heresy that would shut out faith in God from the cares and problems of our daily lives in the world. It is irrational to suppose that if God cares for us at all, he can be indifferent to what necessarily enters so largely into our living in the world and that brings to us such weighty responsibilities and so many keen anxieties. If a human father does not regard the troubles of his child, superficial and ephemeral though he knows them to be, too insignificant to be taken up to be solved by his larger wisdom, we cannot suppose that our heavenly Father's heart is less tender and kind. Certain it is that the Bible represents his providence as detailed and particular, and embracing within its scope the minutest things of our lives. We are of more value than the sparrows, yet even a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without his notice.

PRESBYTERY OF BRUCE.

Presbytery of Bruce met in Paisley, March 6, Rev. R. T. Cockburn, moderator, Rev. J. C. Robertson, General Sabbath School Secretary being present was asked to sit and correspond. Reports were read on Sabbath Schools, Congregational Returns, Church Life and Work, and Young Peoples' Societies. The standing committees for the ensuing year were appointed, of which the following are the conveners: Finance, Mr. Nichol; Home Missions, Mr. Mahaffy; Sabbath Schools, Mr. Brown; Congregational returns, Mr. Cockburn; Superintendence of Students, Mr. McKinnon; Church Life and Work, Mr. Wilson; Young People's Societies, Mr. Atkinson. The Assembly's report on travelling expenses of Assembly commissioners was adopted with the following modifications, in Article 3, section (6) these words were struck out, "And only then the portion that is in excess of \$10. Dr. McLennan reported for the committee appointed to consider the proposed new psalter, and the following recommendations were adopted:—(1) That the Presbytery of Bruce expresses its satisfaction with the effort to revive the use of the whole psalter in the service of praise. (2) That the Presbytery also expresses its great satisfaction with the work of the joint committee, and prays for the Divine blessing to rest upon their laborers in this important service. Report of the committee on Beneficence was left over until meeting of next Presbytery. The following were appointed Commissioners to the next meeting of the General Assembly: Ministers, Dr. McLennan, T. Wilson and John Anderson, and Elders from Underwood, Hanover and North Brant. Mr. Brown read a letter from Rev. Mr. McKerral, of Lucknow, stating that the Presbytery of Maitland had arranged to hold a summer school for the purpose of promoting Sabbath School work, and also stating that it is the desire of the Presbytery of Maitland that the Presbytery of Bruce should co-operate in the work. A motion was passed acknowledging the invitation of the Maitland Presbytery, and leaving the arranging for attendance in the hands of the Sabbath School committee. Presbytery adjourned to meet again in Paisley on the third day of July next, at 10.30 a.m.—J. Johnston, Clerk.

Mr. Goldwin Smith contributes to the Manchester Guardian an interesting letter on the Reform of the House of Lords. "The House of Lords," he said, "had a power of resistance to change, too often and too flagrantly misused, so long as it was backed by the strength of the landed interest in the House of Commons. The strength of the landed interest in the House of Commons is now so reduced that it can no longer afford its representatives in the House of Lords anything like the same measure of support. A change, therefore, is inevitable if the balance of the Constitution is to be preserved. In some way or other, if the balance of the Constitution is to be preserved, the House of Lords must become a Senate, with authority resting not on feudal tradition but on a rational foundation. Lord Rosebery would appear to be the man, now that he is in other respects at leisure, to take in hand the regeneration of the House of which he is a most distinguished member. If the Conservative party looks to substantial interests it would support him in the attempt."

The World Almanac and Encyclopedia for 1906 is a wonderful compendium of useful information. Its six hundred pages cover a wide range of subjects, and every page appears to be edited with ability and good judgment. While the United States naturally claims the larger share of space, much of interest pertaining to Canada, Great Britain and other countries is also given. Price 25c. Address: The World, New York City.

NOTE AND COMMENT.

The Christian World thinks that the "best club a man can devote his time to is composed of himself, his wife and a little child." A sensible suggestion.

The Advance says that Chicago needs parents more than police to look after the young people at the dance halls. Rather it needs parents to keep them at home.

Mr. John Watson ("Jan MacLaren") has been widely criticized for saying, "One ought to guard the secrets of his confessional, even though he has to lie bravely to save them from curiosity." Now it turns out that he did not write "lie bravely," but "die bravely." The "lie" was only in a printer's error.

It is a great pity, says the Southwestern Presbyterian, that the American Bible Society departed from its time honored principle of publishing only the Authorized Version, without note or comment. It has brought upon itself many adverse criticisms by issuing an edition of the Revised Version which many think unfortunately gives unwarranted support to certain denominationalisms.

There are 108,000 Indians in Canada. They cultivate 50,000 acres of land; they have 38,000 head of cattle and 33,000 horses. The total producing value of these Indians is over four millions. There are 298 schools devoted to their education. Of these forty-four are un denominational, 104 are Roman Catholic, eighty-eight are Church of England, forty-six are Methodist, fifteen are Presbyterian and one is conducted by the Salvation Army.

Any of our readers contemplating a trip to Europe, should procure a copy of "Europe on \$4.00 per day; How to do it," by A. Rollingsstone. Published by the Rollingsstone Club, Medina, N. Y. Price 50 cents. The information furnished is exceedingly valuable; and to any one visiting Britain and the Continent for the first time, this booklet will prove a useful companion.

Even a man with the radical views of Rev. Dr. Minot Savage—who has been preaching in Calvin's pulpit in Geneva, Calvin not being alive to stop him—feels called upon to rebuke in a sermon pronounced recently the "mushy indifference" of the age. Rev. Jenkin Lloyd Jones, of Chicago, some years ago, attacking the same sort of molluscous indifference, said: "Next to being Servetus, who was willing to be burned for his convictions, I would rather have been John Calvin, who was willing to burn him!" The moral of this is clear, says Zion's Herald.—Be something! Have some convictions. Stand for the truth as you conceive it. Become a strong factor in shaping the world's thought and destiny.

According to the recently published work of Professor Kattenbusch, as we learn from an exchange, the total number of Protestant Christians in the world is 180,000,000. He divides them into 56,000,000 Lutherans, 29,000,000 Anglicans, and 100,000,000 other distributed among a large number of denominations. Among the 83,000,000 people of the United States he puts down 66,000,000 as Protestants, a somewhat different estimate from that which Abbe Klein, of Paris, received on the authority of the Catholic dignitaries in New York, who assured him recently that "half the inhabitants" of the United States were Catholics. The United Kingdom, according to Professor Kattenbusch, has about 37,000,000 Protestants out of a total population of 41,500,000. Sweden and Norway have about 7,000,000 and Russia, 6,000,000 Protestants. Hungary has more Protestants than Holland, and Denmark more than Switzerland. He estimates the adherents of the Protestant churches in the British colonies (and mission stations) at 14,000,000. This includes Canada and Australia. The Roman Catholic Church he puts down as having 250,000,000 adherents, and the Greek Church about 110,000,000. These figures are based upon very careful studies.