

The doing of His will may not mean any passive endurance, but rather an active service. He has told us how He would have His will done,—“even as it is done in heaven,” and in heaven his servants are not called upon to suffer, but to perform His will. The holy angels and the spirits of the just made perfect “rest not day nor night,” but they do God’s will in sweet ministries and holy obedience. We may not know much of the employments of the celestial hosts, but we are sure that they do God’s will, “hearkening to the voice of his word.” Whatever their service, we know that they perform it cheerfully, faithfully, and constantly. Then in our prayer that His will may thus be done by us, do we ask for anything less than that we may be exalted to a fellowship of service with them, and share with them its honors, joys, and rewards?

This, indeed, ought not to be a hard petition to utter. Thus praying, we really ask that heaven be brought down to earth, for if God’s will be done here as there, then heaven is begun below.

Only let sin and death, the last enemy, be destroyed, and universal love and concord reign supreme, then shall have come to pass the time prophesied and long prayer for, when the kingdoms of this world shall become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ, and He shall reign in peace and righteousness forever. No highest heaven can yield a joy so sweet as the spectacle of a fallen and ruined world redeemed and brought back in love and loyalty to serve and honor its Lord. Only let God’s will be perfectly, perpetually, joyfully, and cheerfully done on earth as it is done in heaven, and we shall have the new heavens and the new earth, in which dwells righteousness, where we need want no brighter and no happier abode. “Even so, Lord, thy will be done.”—*S.S. Times*.

#### PRESBYTERIANISM IN ENGLAND IN 1837.

DR. S. W. CARRUTHERS.

All our minds in this year of rejoicing are turning to the time, sixty years ago, when Victoria the Good mounted the throne, and all our hearts are praising the King of kings for the benefits He has bestowed upon us during her long reign. It may profit English Presbyterians to look back to sixty years ago, and to think of the day when Presbyterianism in England had just begun to revive, after almost a century of decadence. A beginning had been made a year before by the constitution of a Synod in Manchester out of the two Presbyteries of Lancashire and the North-West of England. The two Presbyteries had twelve congregations: twelve ministers (not a vacancy!), but only two elders, one of whom—Robert Barbour—is still justly held in grateful remembrance. Only two university degrees adorned the list of ministers—the LL.D. of the Rev. Hugh Ralph (Oldam Street, Liverpool), and the A.M. of the Rev. Andrew Maclean (of Ramsbottom). Now we have 18 D.D.’s and 95 M.A.’s, to say nothing of about almost three score other graduates, in the ministry.

Five unattached Presbyteries existed, with a total of 50 congregations (London, Berwick, Newcastle, Northumberland, and the North-West of Northumberland,) which joined the Synod within the next four years, thus largely increasing its visibility. Most of them were old, one at least (Northumberland) tracing its descent from the Classis of the Commonwealth time; but the Berwick Presbytery was formed in the year of the Queen’s accession, in order that its congregations might duly take their place in the new Synod.

Two other Presbyterian bodies existed in England in those days, the Secession Church, with 43 congregations in six Presbyteries (of which three had their seat in Scotland), and the Relief Church, with seven congregations in one Presbytery. In their ranks were some men of note, such as Dr. Balmer, of Berwick; Dr. Crichton, of Liverpool; Dr. Archer, of London; Dr. McKerrow, of Manchester. One is still with us, the Rev. James Logan Muirhead, who at the Queen’s accession had already been four years minister of Wooler.

Such are the figures; but how great the changes in the condition of the Church! Then it was not merely obscure, but so misunderstood that folks were careful to say they went to the “Scotch Church,” lest they should be taken for Unitarians. Now, not only has it a Lykes, a Gibbon, a Watson, and many another bright star, but its name is a guarantee of evangelical preaching, as against sacerdotalism on one hand and latitudinarianism on the other.

Then it was divided—107 congregations under 14 different Presbyteries now, with almost three times the number of congregations, 13 Presbyteries suffice. The change in the “centre of gravity” of the Church is notable. In 1837 there was a single congregation (Woolwich) south of the Thames; now there are 40. In

the metropolis there were 11 congregations; now there are 62. The Queen had reigned almost four years before the Synod first met in London, and twelve before it returned there the second time; now London thinks itself illused if two successive Synods meet away from her.

Then no foreign mission of our own; now 5,000 converts. Then no college, but dependence on Scotland for the supply of pastors—and few men of mark could be induced to come south of the Tweed, still less to stay there. And what of stipends—would that we had accurate statistics!—in those days, before the Sustentation Fund, when a large proportion of the ministers were not far in advance of Goldsmith’s parson—“passing rich on forty pounds a year.”

All praise to God, and all honor to those devoted men who, under Him, have brought about this change—men who from the first, in the days of small things, determined to “go in and possess the land” for Christ the Redeemer. We have men of the same high aim and of the same laborious determination to-day; they are the honored fathers of our Church. May the younger men among us take our places in the procession, that the chroniclers of 1937 may record at least the same rate of growth. So will they have to tell of a strong, gospel-preaching Church with some 850 congregations known in all the towns of the land, and honored by God to have become the mother of a native Chinese Church, which then shall be nearly as large as we ourselves are now.

#### LOOKS INTO BOOKS.

The *Presbyterian and Reformed Review* for July opens with an appreciative article on “Ritschl” by Prof. Frank H. Foster based upon the recently published life of the great theologian. This is followed by articles on “Princeton College Administrations in the Eighteenth Century,” by Dr. DeWitt; on the “Liturgical Position of the Presbyterian Church in the United States,” by Dr. Benson; on “Some Doctrinal Features of the Earlier Prophecies of Isaiah,” by Dr. Vos; on “Apostolic and Modern Missions,” by Prof. Martin; on the “Imprecatory Psalms,” by Dr. Beardslee; on the “Harmony of Galatians and Acts,” by Dr. Jacobus. Among the more important books reviewed are Harris’ “Moral Evolution,” Wilpert’s “Studies in the Catacombs,” and Dr. Beet’s “Theology.” Philadelphia, MacCalla and Company. \$3 a year.

HISTORY’S TESTIMONY TO CHRIST.—A Fourth edition of Rev. Dr. Sexton’s discourse on “History’s Testimony to Christ” has been issued by W. Briggs, Toronto. The veteran writer discourses eloquently and convincingly on his topic and as usual gives no quarter to the enemy.

Appended to the Fourth Annual Report of The Open Air Workers Association is a brief manual for beginners in open air mission work which may prove helpful, based as it is upon the experience of tried workers. Readers of THE PRESBYTERIAN REVIEW will be supplied with copies free on application (with postage) to Miss E. V. Prentice, 123 Amity street, Brooklyn, N.Y.

PERLESS SONG FOLIO; Whaley, Royce & Co., 158 Yonge St. Toronto.

It is noticeable that the new Music Folios are made up, and rightly so, of more modern or better class of music. The prettily bound and popular collection, called the Peerless Song Folio, printed by Messrs. Whaley Royce & Co., is now being welcomed into the homes of Canada.

The *Illustrative Art*. The well known and enterprising firm of George Newnes Limited, London, Eng., have just commenced the publication of two new series of illustrated books in parts. The first is specially adapted for the young and will be published fortnightly at 6d per part or 15s. The size of the page is 9½ by 13 inches and bears the title of “All about animals.” This interesting work will contain twenty full page illustrations together with descriptive matter in each number and be complete in twelve parts. The second should meet with ready sale not only in Britain but the colonies as it bears the attractive title of “The Thames Illustrated, a picturesque journeying from Richmond to Oxford.” This will be sold at 7d or 20s per part and be complete also in twelve numbers. Each part contains twenty-four pages composed of interesting reading matter, numerous small, and six or eight full page illustrations of the more interesting points enroute.

The *Strand Musical Magazine* for July is of more than usual interest, the following being among the many interesting features of an attractive table of contents:—A concert at the Tuileries (story); Kathleen, Sweet Kathleen (song); Entr’ acte (Organ solo).