

THE EVANGELISTIC OUTLOOK.

(By J. Wilbur Chapman.)

For the past seven years the Presbyterian Church has been moving steadily forward along evangelistic lines. Each year has witnessed a steady gain upon the preceding year, and today there is the greatest cause for thanksgiving to God, because of the evangelistic spirit which seems to pervade the entire Church. Not in a spirit of boasting, but with a spirit of thanksgiving, are we permitted to say that God has at least given to us in these days a share of the leadership in the evangelistic forces of the country. Seven years ago our work was distinctly denominational, and it was blessed; but four years ago, by vote of the Assembly, it was decided that while we should continue the denominational work, we should also give our influence and the prestige of our position to interdenominational evangelistic campaigns.

During the past year it has been my privilege to conduct meetings in the South, where we have no churches of our particular denomination, and in Winnipeg, Canada, where of course, the same is true, and also in certain cities of New England, and it has been possible for me to state that I was in these cities representing the General Assembly, and asking that people should give their hearts to Christ and identify themselves with the church of their choice. The influence of such a statement has been great.

It would seem as if the Canadian General Assembly might appoint an evangelistic committee at the next session in Winnipeg, and representatives of our committee are asked to be present and speak.

The movement among Congregational churches in New England is also marked and significant, while the work in the South is full of cheer; so far as the outlook is concerned, to my mind it has never been brighter.

I have been misunderstood in the past when I have stated that we were on the eve of a great awakening, so now I have changed the statement and declare that we are in the midst of it; for a denomination as strong as ours to be fired with evangelistic fervor; for laymen as strong as men of our Church to be devoted to the best sort of Christian giving and Christian living, among whom would stand, first and foremost, the beloved chairman of our Evangelistic Committee; for a great multitude of men to form themselves into a Brotherhood, or a wave of temperance reform to sweep the country, east, west, north and south; all this is a sign of the truest sort of revival, the like of which the church has never seen. I truly believe that the Church year ahead of us will be the greatest we have ever known.

First. The greatest in giving. It would seem as if men had just begun to learn the lesson of true giving. More money has been given to Christ in the past three years than ever before in the same length of time since the Church has been established.

Second. In Christian living. Ministers are now rightly placing the emphasis upon the life of the followers of Jesus. It is useless to claim to be His follower unless we seek to be like Him.

Third. I believe the next year is to witness the greatest cities stirred for Christ, for the Philadelphia campaign has proved that an entire community may be moved from centre to circumference with the telling of the story of "Christ and Him Crucified."

If these blessings are to come to us, it is only necessary that those of us who are ministers should be true to Him; those who are church members should be entirely consecrated to His service, and that the whole Church should be

definitely committed to a forward movement which should not cease until thousands and tens of thousands of people have been brought to Christ.—Philadelphia Westminster.

WHEN THE VICTORY COMES.

It is the ending of a struggle that determines victory or defeat, not the beginning. Any one can begin well. Many can hold out while things are moderately against them. Few have the endurance to turn defeat into victory after victory seems past hoping for. An English editor writes of having been impressed by some sentences that he came across in a hand-book on the game of tennis. The ex-champion author put in first place, among the factors of success in the game, what he called "morale," adding in explanation: "The term morale implies, roughly speaking, the power of endurance when there is every external reason for not enduring." Paul would have liked to join hands with that man. Paul's dogged, triumphant message to the athletic Corinthians was that he was "pressed on every side, yet not straitened; perplexed, yet not unto despair; pursued, yet not forsaken; smitten down, yet not destroyed." Victory won in spite of every external reason for failure is the kind worth winning. If you are just now being given the opportunity to press on into such victory, thank God and take courage. Let us not fall below the standard of a first class tennis player, but lay hold on the counsel of the great apostle.

TO ENCOURAGE THE TROUBLED.

In one of George MacDonald's books occurs this fragment of conversation: "I wonder why God made me," said Mrs. Faber, bitterly. "I'm sure I don't know where was the use of making me."

"Perhaps not much yet," replied Dorothy, "but then he hasn't done with you yet. He is making you now, and you don't like it."

It would give us more patience with ourselves if we always remembered this. We would not get discouraged with our infirmities, imperfections and failures, if we always kept in mind the fact that we are not yet made, that we are only in process of being made, that God is not yet through making us. It would often help us to understand better the reasons for the hard or painful experiences that come to us. God is at work on us, making us. If we yield ourselves to his hand in quietness and confidence, letting him do what he will with us, all will be well.

OUR "ENGAGEMENT TO BE THE LORD'S."

There is no coming to God without sincere resolve and eager desire. Are you engaged to such an end? Alas! it may be that you are drawn elsewhere. Are you engaged? Alas! some are engaged to Madame Bubble; some are engaged to Belial; some are engaged to self; some are engaged to mammon; some are engaged to the very devil of the pit. Be wise and break these unlawful engagements. Let your covenant with death be broken, and your league with hell be disannulled. Though you be weary of my words, yet would I stir you up to the interest in this all-important matter. Break those deadly bonds asunder. God help you, by sudden energy which he shall give you, to snap your fetters once for all and then at once firmly engage your hearts to Christ.—C. H. Spurgeon.

We can never create a public sentiment strong enough to suppress the dramshops until God's people take hold of the temperance reform as a part of their religion.—Theodore Cuyler.

OUR SITUATIONS.*

Some Bible Hints.

God's favor is the best asset in any business (Gen. 1:2).

To find favor with God means to find favor with man, and usually it leads to worldly success (Gen. 39:4).

Men are always on the lookout, whether they realise it or not, for "men in whom the spirit of God is" (Gen. 41:38).

Whether men put you at the head or not makes no difference; you are in a royal position if you are where God wants you to be (Gen. 41:43).

Suggestive Thoughts.

It is no disgrace to seek honest work and it is false modesty to shrink from offering yourself for it.

No one who was not willing to do more than he was paid for ever got paid for more than he did.

A recipe for getting into a firm: Work for it as if you were in it.

Never mind who gets credit for your work. The indispensable man, in the end, is not the one that gets the credit, but the one that does the work.

A Few Illustrations.

The square peg in the square hole is only half of the philosophy of choosing a calling; a peg can be whittled to fit a hole, a hole can be bored to fit the peg.

The men at the head of the line are continually falling out at the touch of death; some one must take their places.

A beam must be at least not too small for the place; if too large, it can be cut.

If you consider a position simply a spring-board from which to leap into a better position, you will certainly land in the ditch.

To Think About.

Am I trying to do my best where I am?

Am I contented with God's disposal of me?

Am I seeking to give more than their value for my wages?

A Cluster of Quotations.

There are not good things enough in life to indemnify us for the neglect of a single duty.—Madame Swetchine.

Occupation is the necessary basis of all enjoyment.—Leigh Hunt.

Remarkable places are like the summits of rocks; eagles and reptiles only can get there.—Madame Necker.

We should be careful to deserve a good reputation by doing well; and when that care is once taken, not to be over-anxious about the success.—Rochester.

It is a mistake for the older members all to leave the society. Some of them are needed to give strength, prudence, and experience. It is an especial misfortune if all of them leave the society at the same time. But some of them should be leaving all the time, as their work is rendered unnecessary by the growing ability of the younger members whom they have trained.

DAILY READINGS.

M., June 15.—Be respectful. 1 Tim. 6: 1, 2.

T., June 16.—Be obedient. Eph. 6: 5-7.

W., June 17.—Be faithful. 1 Cor. 4: 1, 2.

T., June 18.—God's presence. Gen. 39: 20-22.

F., June 19.—A lying servant. 2 Kings 5: 20-24.

S., June 20.—Reward for service. Matt. 20: 1-16.

Sun., June 21.—Topic—How to get and keep a situation. Gen. 39: 1-6; 41: 33-44.

*Y.P. Topic—"How to get and keep a situation." Gen. 39: 1-6; 41: 33-44.