

THE COLONIAL CHURCHMAN.

"BUILT UPON THE FOUNDATION OF THE APOSTLES AND PROPHETS, JESUS CHRIST HIMSELF BEING THE CHIEF CORNER STONE."

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TO A CANDIDATE FOR ORDINATION.

There is a blessing on thee! go thy way,
Strong in the Lord and in his Spirit's power—
His shield be o'er thee in this evil day,
And his high name be thy defence and tower.

Arise, and go forward, warrior! though the fight
Gather around, and foes from earth and hell—
Upon thy brow descends thy Spirit's might,
And hosts of heavenly legions guard thee well!

There is a holy shadow o'er thy head,
A pillar'd fire; that hath before thee gone—
Darkness and fear, amidst thy foes to spread,
But to give light to thee—arise, press on!

Grasp thy bright sword, young Warrior! Take thy
shield,

Follow the road thy conquering Lord hath trod!
Stern contest waits thee in the battle field,
But go and prosper in the name of God.

Scenes in our Parish.

For the Colonial Churchman.

Editors,

The following extract from Bishop McIlvaine's sermon on the consecration of Bishop Polk, the Missionary Bishop of Arkansas, will, I am persuaded, be interesting to your readers. I found it in the "Spirit of Missions" which is published at New York, by the Board of Missions of the Protestant Episcopal Church. That the Bishop should be at the consecration to the same high office, of the beloved Cadet whom as chaplain, he was God's instrument turning from the error of his ways, and breaking to him a new road of life, is suited to impress us with deep thanks for the mercy and wisdom of "Him who ordereth all things after the counsel of His own will."

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But you will indulge me, brethren, with a moment to say a few words to him whose consecration to the office of Missionary Bishop is now to take place. You can little conceive with what a special and most affectionate interest, the speaker will participate in this solemnity. A little of it may be expressed by the following brief relation:—

It is now nearly thirteen years since a very remarkable work of grace occurred, in the Military Academy of the United States. During a condition almost universal indifference to religion and of spread infidelity, against which the efforts of the ministry of one man, set for the defence of the land, seemed for a long time to make not the least difference; suddenly almost, in a very few days, many were brought into personal intercourse with the minister, and deeply, and almost simultaneously, interested in the great matters of eternal life. Officers as well as Cadets participated in this, and to such an extent, that the minister's study was soon occupied every day with assemblies, composed of both, for prayer and the exposition of the word of God; and a serious impression, more or less deep and abiding, was made over a large part of the whole Military community. Several became at that period very decided converts of Christ; many others received impressions which God has since ripened into manifest and active piety. Many more received the seed of the word, in whom, though it seemed to die, it has since, under the continued influence of the spirit, sprung up and brought forth fruit; some are still in

military life, others have been, long since, adorning the christian profession in the ministry of the Gospel.

The very first appearance of this work of grace, so remarkably and singularly the work of God, was the coming of a Cadet, alone and most unexpectedly, to introduce himself to the chaplain, and unburthen the sorrows of a contrite heart. All around him was coldness and scepticism. To speak decidedly in favour of religion was then so unusual in the Academy that it made one singular. To converse with the chaplain on that subject, had not yet been ventured upon by any except out of opposition to the truth. That any would appear there seriously seeking eternal life, even the chaplain was afraid to hope. But the dawn of the night is nearest the dawn. A Cadet did venture to come, in open day, to the chaplain's study, too deeply concerned to heed what would be said of him. He was personally unknown to the chaplain. His message he tried to utter but could not. Again he tried, and again; but the heart was too full for speech. At length it was; "tell me what must I do—I have come about my soul. I know not what I want—I am entirely in the dark what must I seek, where must I go." Such was the first declaration of one who for some days had been awakened under the preaching and reading of the truth. A sermon preached on the Scriptures, and a tract, sent at a venture from the chaplain's study to whomsoever it might meet had been blessed to his soul.* Doubts and cavils were all abandoned. Implicit submission seemed his engrossing principle. From that moment, the young man appeared to take up the cross, and to stand decidedly and boldly on the Lord's side. The singular and very prominent evidence of the hand of God in this case, was very greatly blessed to others. By and by he professed Christ in the sacrament of baptism, which was administered to him; with others recently turned to the Lord, in the chapel of the military Academy and in the presence of all the corps. After graduating at that institution and leaving the army, he passed through a regular course of study for the holy ministry, and was successively ordained Deacon and Presbyter. Many years have since elapsed. The chaplain (to whom he came) has since been called to a higher order in the ministry, and more enlarged responsibilities in the church. The Cadet, mean while, after many vicissitudes of active duty and of disabling ill health, supposed he had settled himself for the rest of his life, as a preacher and a pastor to an humble and obscure congregation of negroes, whom he collected together, from neighbouring plantations; to whom, living entirely upon his own pecuniary means, he appropriated a part of his own house for a Church, and to whose eternal interest he had chosen cheerfully and happily to devote himself as their spiritual father *with no emolument but their salvation.*

* The tract was sent by a cadet, who in obedience to the request of a pious father, of whose death he had just heard, had come to introduce himself to the chaplain. He was not then of a serious mind in religion. A tract was put in his hand for himself; another was bread upon the waters, with the direction, "drop it any where in the barracks, perhaps I shall hear from it." He smiled, promised compliance, and dropped, unseen, in the room of his friend the cadet above mentioned. That day a week, the chaplain heard from it as related in the discourse. But still he who dropped it was not known to care for his soul.—The other, having learned from the chaplain to what cadet he was so indebted, put a pious book in his way. Soon they were in prayer together in private. Soon he who was first in Christ presented the other as one seeking the peace of God at the place where the prayers of cadets were then wont to be made (the chaplain's study.) One of them is now a Bishop, the other a most beloved minister of the gospel, well known as the devoted and successful Pastor of one of the largest flocks of the diocese of Virginia.

But such was just the true spirit for the highest of all vocations in the church,—to be a servant of servants, is the very school in which to prepare for the chief ministry under him who took on him the form of a servant. The Church needed a Missionary Bishop for a vast field, for great self-denial, for untiring patience, for courageous enterprise. Her eye was directed to the self-devoted pastor of that humble congregation with most impressive unanimity did she call him away to a work, not indeed of more dignity, but of more eminent responsibility; not indeed of more exquisite satisfaction to a christian's heart (for what can give a true christian heart more exquisite satisfaction than to lead such of the poor to Christ?) but of severer trials, and vastly greater difficulties and hardships. Counting the cost, he has not dared to decline it. Regarding the call as of God, he has embraced the promised grace, and is now ready to be offered. And thus the chaplain has here met the beloved cadet again, seeing and adoring the end of the Lord in that remarkable beginning; and now in unspeakable thankfulness to God, for what he here witnesses, may he say to this candidate, elect, for labor and sacrifice, in the words of Saint Paul to his beloved disciple:

"Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus. Endure hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ, and the things thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men who shall be able to teach others also." I call you *son* in affectionate recollection of the past. I call you *Brother now*, in affectionate consideration of the present and the future. Dear, beloved brother, I see plainly in prospect the hardness you are to endure. I mean not hardness to the body. Of this, indeed, you will have no lack in your wide circuits of travel and labor. But this is not the cross I speak of; hardness to the spirit, I mean; trials of patience and faith and love and meekness; trials of the heart painful and constant,—such as Jesus knew so acutely, because his spirit was so pure, his heart so tender, his sense of the hatefulness of sin so deep—trials, such as you will feel so acutely, in proportion as you attain towards the purity and elevation of the mind of your dear Master. But "God hath not given us the spirit of fear." "Be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel, according to the power of God." "Endure hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ." Be ever looking unto him, glorious Captain of your salvation! ever considering him who endured such contradiction of sinners against himself; have in him the simple confidence of a good soldier; show the implicit obedience, the patient watchfulness, the intrepid zeal, the entire devotedness of a good soldier of Jesus Christ. Your strength is all in Him. It is enough—use it. Draw upon that right hand of power till you are "strong in the Lord." Carry the spirit of the pastor of that congregation of slaves the spirit of a servant of servants, into the highest walks of your office. A ruler by commission: be always the servant of all in spirit and in work. Wash the disciples' feet. Do any thing to bring sinners to the washing of regeneration, and the renewing of the Holy Ghost. Count all things but lost, that the lost may "win Christ and be found in him." Be yourself an example of the plainest, the most pointed, distinct, earnest, and constant preaching of Christ. This, and the raising up and sending out of others to the same work, is the high vocation to which you are called. Strive to surround yourself with a ministry after this pattern; a ministry of men schooled in the experience of the preciousness of Christ; schooled in the mind of Christ, taught of God how to set him forth to the consciences and hearts, to the wants, and fears, and woes, of this lost and blinded race. "Lay hands suddenly on no man." Aim indeed at a nu-