

THEMES AND TEXTS OF RECENT LEADING SERMONS.

1. A Dangerous Habit. "How long halt ye between two opinions?"—1 Kings xviii:21. Rev. T. K. Noble, San Francisco.
2. The Unchurched Multitude. "O taste and see that the Lord is good."—Ps. xxxiv: 8. Rev. David Swing, Chicago.
3. The Mission of the Lips. "O Lord, open thou my lips."—Ps. li: 15. J. P. Newman, D.D., New York.
4. The Call to Gratitude. "Bless the Lord, O my soul," etc.—Ps. civ: 1. John Hall, D.D., New York.
5. The Griefs of Christ. "A man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief."—Isa. liii: 3. Rev. Prof. Orris, Ph. D., Princeton, N. J.
6. A Living Creed. "Follow me," etc.—Matt. iv: 19. C. D. W. Bridgman, D.D., New York.
7. A Combative Christianity. "Think not that I am come to send peace on earth," etc.—Matt. x: 34 and Heb. iv: 12. Bishop J. F. Hurst, Brooklyn.
8. A Promise Unfulfilled. "And he answered and said: I go, sir; and went not."—Matt. xxi: 30. B. Manly, D.D., Louisville, Ky.
9. Apostolic Church Order. Acts xx: 28, and 1 Peter v: 1-4. John Hall, D.D., New York.
10. Recognition of Friends in Heaven. "Now we see through a glass darkly, but then face to face." 1 Cor. xiii: 12. J. O. Peck, D.D., Brooklyn.
11. Holding on to the Truth. "Hold fast the form of sound words."—2 Tim. ii: 13. J. L. Withrow, D.D., Boston.
12. Why Christ was Tempted. "For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched," etc.—Heb. iv: 15. W. F. Watkins, D.D., New York.
13. The Crown of God's Attributes. "Be ye holy, for I am holy."—1 Peter i: 16. J. H. Barrows, D.D., Chicago.

SUGGESTIVE THEMES.

1. Nature Obedient to the Voice of God. ("And God said: Let there be light; and there was light."—Gen. i: 3.)
2. The Efficacy of Parental Faith. ("Come thou and all thy house into the ark; for thee have I seen righteous. . . . Noah went in, and his sons and his sons' wives," etc.—Gen. vii: 1-7.)
3. Christian Prudence. ("Ponder the path of thy feet," etc.—Prov. iv: 26.)
4. A Joyful Return. ("The ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with," etc.—Isa. xxxv: 10.)
5. An Unfaithful Church a great Power for Evil. (" . . . they strengthen also the hands of wickedness,"—Jer. xxiii: 14.)
6. Moral Character of Words. ("Every idle [evil] word that men shall speak, they shall give account," etc.—Matt. xii: 36, 37.)
7. An Excited City. ("When he was come into Jerusalem, all the city was moved, saying, Who is this?"—Matt. xxi: 10.)
8. Ability no Measure of duty. ("But he said unto them, Give ye them [the five thousand] to eat."—Luke ix: 13.)
9. A Total Misconception of the Soul's Requirements. ("Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years . . . eat, drink," etc.—Luke xii: 18-21.)
10. The Universal Test of Discipleship. ("By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another."—John xiii: 35.)
11. The Secret of the Growth of the Apostolic Church. (" . . . and walking in the fear of the Lord, and in the comfort of the Holy Ghost, were multiplied."—Acts ix: 31.)
12. Waiting for Light. ("They cast four anchors out of the stern, and wished for the day."—Acts xxviii: 29.)

GERMS OF ILLUSTRATION.

"Thought is the unseen nature, as nature is the unseen thought."—HEINE.

The Smile of God is the meaning of the name of a beautiful lake in Maine—Winnepesaukee. Is not all the beauty of nature but the smile of God?

"**The Cry of a Lost Soul**" is the name given by the Indians to the peculiar and melancholy notes of a lonely bird heard only by night on the shores of the Amazon.

The Gospel of Grace, and what it has done for man, was well typified by Luther's seal. It was in three colors. Underneath all was a cross in black, for, said he, underneath the life of the Christian is death to the world. Upon the centre of the cross was pictured a heart of red, signifying life out of death. Encircling all was a white robe, expressive of peace and the pure joys of righteousness.

A Consistent Christian Life—what is its beauty but a reflection of the beams from the Sun of Righteousness? Prof. Tyndall states that the appearance of the rainbow is due to the fact that at a certain angle the sun's rays are

reflected by the drops of water in parallel lines. At no other angle are these lines parallel, and hence the effect is lost by the rays crossing and conflicting with one another. To this same parallelism of the rays is due the far-reaching light from the headlight of the locomotive.

The Pearl of Great Price is a figure which was made good use of by the Waldensians in disseminating their principles, then counted heretical, among Catholic gentry. They carried with them a box of trinkets or articles of dress, and having entered a house and disposed of some of their goods, they would cautiously hint that they had commodities far more valuable, *inestimable jewels*, which they would show if they were protected from the clergy. They would then give their purchasers a Bible or Testament.

Reliance upon Christ has been a favorite theme for both painters and preachers; illustrations abound, but the following may be new. In 1820, a member of the Chamber of Deputies,