

We come to the House of God not for entertainment and not mainly for instruction. We seek inspiration, our cry is "Lord lift upon us the light of Thy countenance and give us peace." We believe that this is to be found not in any elegant forms, or artistic accessories of worship, but in the worship itself, in prayer and praise, and in the God-given message. There is no need to despise any pure, beautiful thing, but there is need that we shall seek a spiritual worship and not rest in the sensuous form. "God is a spirit and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth." This real worship, simple and strong, is the heartbeat of a Christian congregation which sends the healthful blood through every member of the living communion. A congregation cannot be peaceful and harmonious without something of this quickening joy-inspiring worship. The moment of assembling ourselves together for spiritual fellowship should be one of the brightest bits of our life. Then we forget our cares, and enjoy our sweetest memories and liveliest hopes. Thus should it be to us a day of rest and gladness when we turn, with a sense of relief, from worldly toils and see heaven open and the angels of God ascending and descending on the Son of Man. Those who know such worship know a source of strength superior to any sensuous pleasures or artificial stimulants.

No one doubts that man needs some such uplifting influence as this. The Christian congregation must prove to the world that we receive it, that it is not a vain fancy, but a glorious reality. Unless it can bear this testimony it loses the reason of its being. The world has enough of shams. There is no reason why we should increase the number. The mere assembling of ourselves together of itself is not sufficient, we must meet in such a spirit that the atmosphere of our sanctuary shall be warm with all pure emotions and noble aspirations.

This is not a problem that can be solved by the preacher's cleverness or eloquence, and he certainly cannot be expected to contribute the larger part of the faith and enthusiasm. Our view of the preacher is not that of one who can, by mechanism completely under his own control open the windows of heaven so that an overpowering blessing shall come upon us. Only in the atmosphere created by the sympathetic union of prayerful hearts can the highest word of power be spoken. God has words to speak to us which can only travel through the medium of a sincere intimate communion. When we meet with each other and with God there is more to be learned than can be put into words. If then we are to cherish the hour of worship, and not forsake the assembling of ourselves together, we must carry deep down into our hearts these convictions: That worship is one of our

deepest needs without which our holiest life will languish and die. That God has a special blessing for those who, with lowly hearts, bear this public testimony and meet together in the name of His Son. That in this act of worship we meet upon the basis of our common humanity and on fellowship with the living Saviour. That our worship unites us in spirit with those who have gone before to the Eternal Sanctuary, with then we join in the "Song of Moses and the Lamb." If we can lift our thought of worship to this high plane it will possess a heavenly beauty and be independent of all questionable stimulus and support, we shall prove at once that there is true worship of God and a real communion of Saints.

W. G. J.

Literary Notes.

R. H. Russell has in press and will issue shortly another book of clever drawings by Frank Verbeck, which shows those irresistible bears of his in a new field. The title will be "A Hand-book of Golf for Bears," and to those acquainted with Mr. Verbeck's humor it is suggestive of a feast of fun. R. H. Russell, 3 West 29th Street, New York.

Echoes of Greek Idyls by Lloyd Mifflin. This neat little volume of translations from the Greek is inscribed to the memory of Theocritus, and contains verses from Bion, Moschus and Bacchylides, all of an idyllic character. The work of translating is exceptionally well done, some of the verses being remarkable for their beauty of expression and rhythm. The following, "To the Evening Star," will give an idea of the contents of the volume:

O Hesper, golden light of eve serene,
Lamp of the lovely daughter of the foam,
Thou sacred jewel of the deep blue dome,
Dinner as much than Cynthia, silver queen,
Who sinking slowly, yonder now is seen,
As thou art brighter than all stars that roam
The skies! oh, guide me to the shepherd's home
The while I lend the revel o'er the green.
The moon wanes fast; I lend me thy beams divine,
Illum the woods and dusky thickets nigh,
Show me the way with thy refulgent light,
And bring me safely to my longed for shrine;
No brigand, throttling travelers in the night,
But a true lover, bent on love, am I.

Published by Houghton, Mifflin & Co., Boston, Mass.

We have received a copy of "The Queen's Garland" a little volume of Elizabethan verse, gathered from Shakespeare, Sir Walter Raleigh, Sir Philip Sidney, Ben Johnson and other famous poets of the golden period of English literature. Selected and arranged by Fitz Roy Carrington. It is illustrated by fifteen quaint prints of the time. White and gold binding. Price 75 cents. R. H. Russell publisher, New York.

The Nineteenth Century for April presents a varied and interesting programme. Much space is as usual taken up with the

question of how best to increase the military and naval efficiency of the British Empire, the writers feel that England is just now placed in an exposed position and that every thing ought to be done that can make for a strong defence against any possible attack. The most important article to those who take an interest in theology is one on Mr. St. George Mivart and his relations to the Roman Catholic Church. The writer calls himself a Liberal Catholic and shows much sympathy for the laymen who recently ventured to defy the Roman ecclesiastical authorities. The essayist expresses his opinion that the philosophy of the Roman Church is medieval and that it must be transformed by the modern spirit unless thinking men are to be more and more alienated from the Church. Since this was written Mr. Mivart's spirit has passed away and his body is waiting for the Romanist authorities to decide whether he died in or out of the church.

The Century Fund.

The Century Fund started out nobly on its career at the last General Assembly and we trust that it will manifest the Perseverance of the Saints and attain the object set before it. We must recognise that it has met with competitors, the serious turn of the war has caused need for Patriotic Funds and the Indian famine has again made its pitiful appeal. These things show us that at the beginning of a year we can never say exactly what special appeals may arise. Every week brings its common calls and every year has many special claims. Still if the sense of responsibility can be wide spread the weight of the burden may be distributed. The difficulty in many congregations is that all the calls come to comparatively few, "the deadly law of averages" does not apply, and the same difficulty confronts to some extent the whole church; if every one would do a little even the great effort would be light. The intention was to make the Century Fund effort not only a financial scheme but also a means of grace and this can best be accomplished by enlarging the area of the interest, so that many more may learn the lesson that it is more blessed to give than to receive. Many are dull and uninterested in regard to the larger life of the church, because they do not give of themselves to it, they seem to think that the church is to minister to them and do not understand that they also must minister to it. Some of these very people will complain about the feebleness and lifelessness of the church not understanding that they are accusing themselves, that by their attitude and spirit they limit the life of the church and they ought to hear and heed the apostolic injunction "be ye also enlarged." If the efforts on behalf of the Century Fund helps to bring this home it will be a success in the deepest sense, such is our earnest prayer.