

Parish and Home.

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THE INVALID'S THANKSGIVING.

For the sweet peace Thou givest day by day,
For the calm faith with which I kneel and pray,
For Thy blest presence leading me alway,
I thank Thee, Lord!

For the void filled by Thee within my heart,
For the sweet peace Thy promises impart,
For the strong will to follow where Thou art,
I thank Thee, Lord!

Up the steep hill I climb at Thy command,
Through the lone vale I feel Thy guiding hand,
In the hot desert 'neath Thy shade I stand,
And thank Thee, Lord!

Soon the deep water I shall cross to Thee;
Then, the long journey o'er, Thy face I'll see,
And the sweet voices join eternally,
To thank Thee, Lord!

—New York Sun.

PUT IT FIRST.

The first message at the birth of Christ was a *Missionary* Message. Luke ii. 10.

The first prayer Christ taught men was a *Missionary* Prayer. Matt. vi. 10.

The first disciple, St. Andrew, was the first *Missionary*. John i. 41.

The first message of the Risen Lord was a *Missionary* Message. John xx. 17.

The first command of the Risen Lord to His disciples was a *Missionary* Command. John xx. 21.

The first Apostolic sermon was a *Missionary* Sermon. Acts ii. 17, 39.

Christ's great reason for Christian Love was a *Missionary* Reason. John xiii. 35.

Christ's great reason for unity was a *Missionary* Reason. John xvii. 21.

The first coming of Christ was a *Missionary* Work. Luke iv. 18, 21.

The second coming of Christ is to be hastened by *Missionary* Work. Matt. xxiv. 14.

Our Saviour's last wish on earth was a *Missionary* Wish. Matt. xxviii. 19.

And the last wish of the departing Saviour should be the first wish of His returning children.

Put it first ;—the great commission.
Put it first ;—the great command.
Put it first ;—our "standing orders."
Put it first ;—on sea and land.
Put it first ;—in every parish.
Put it first ;—in every heart.
Put it first ;—don't push it second.
God's own Bible is our chart.

Put it first ;—the dawn is breaking.
Put it first ;—the day grows bright.
Put it first ;—the tide is turning.
Put it first ;—the right is might.
Put it first ;—though others mock us.
Put it first ;—where'er we go.
Put it first ;—and rally round it.
First to friend and first to foe.

Put it first ;—'twill draw us closer.
Put it first ;—'twill banish strife.
Put it first ;—the rest will follow.
Put it first ;—'twill bless our lives.
Put it first ;—where Jesus put it.
Put it first ;—'tis God's own plan.
Put it first ;—and "No surrender."
Put Christ's missions in the van.

[The writer of the above is a young clergyman, son of a bishop. Since writing this he has been accepted by the C.M. Society as a missionary.—Ed.]

CHURCH MUSIC.

"Let me make the songs of a nation, and I care not who makes its laws," said one who realized the power of music upon humanity. Napoleon forbade the playing of Alpine songs, because the old familiar strains reminded the Swiss of their native hills and beloved scenes, causing many to desert from sheer home-sickness. If the statesman and the soldier acknowledge that character is moulded and the mind controlled by the influence of music, certainly the Church must not neglect this mighty agency.

But church music should be devotional and inspiring. While some music may be good from a technical standard, it may not be helpful spiritually, because the words are not in harmony. Music is wings, the words are the body; wings

without a body are of no use, so music that does not help the words is without any value from a spiritual standpoint, for the supreme object in religious music is worship. It must either assist or retard the devotional spirit in a congregation. There is no middle ground.

To get the best results it seems necessary that a congregation should exert itself to build up a full choir, under a good, progressive and enthusiastic leader; there should be frequent practices, a good organ, and music (with words) in the hands of congregation and choir alike, so that relations, intimate and cordial, may exist. A musical committee selected from a congregation to act in conjunction with the choir of a church might prove useful. This committee should consist of persons who not only possess musical tastes, but Christian earnestness, so that there might be attained a perfect blending of the charm of music and the spirit of worship. In short, this committee could strive to give church music a God-ward tendency, and bring all the people heart and soul into the service of song.

ONE SOLDIER DEAD.

A fair young mother calmly read,
While one hand rocked the cradle bed,
Wherein her first-born slept away
The twilight of a summer day.
She carelessly the paper turned
Till "Latest War News" she discerned:
"Our loss was small," despatches said—
"A skirmish, and one soldier dead."

They troubled not to give his name,
Or e'en the troop from which he came;
For who, rejoicing in success,
Cares if there be one private less?
Only a soldier lying there,
With blood upon his sunny hair,
With no kind friend to raise his head
Or treasure the last words he said.

O, happy mother, do you know
That, not so many years ago,
That soldier was a baby, too,
With face as sweet and eyes as blue
As those within yon cradle there!
And knew a mother's tender care,
Who now must sit alone and weep
Because he wakes not from his sleep?

And other thousands also said:
"Only a private soldier dead,"
Without a passing thought that he
Might one of nature's nobles be,
Or that the words that line contained
Would wreck a life that yet remained.
His mother waits for him in vain,
For he, her only child, is slain.
—Jean Paul Wayne.