

THE ITINERANCY.

When the itinerant wheel has made

Its yearly revolution,
Not like the earth, it stops awhile,
Then starts with resolution.
It stops a while to be repaired,
To have the preaching business aired,
Plans for another year prepared,
A normal evolution.

The preachers all get off a week,
Waiting its lubrication,
They hear each other pray and speak,
And have a fine vacation.
It's short. They just step off and then
It's "All aboard!" and on again,
The wheel revolves to make for men
Hope, faith and consolation.

Well, here we are! In a new place
Almost before we know it,
No time to find it on the map—
(Perhaps no map would show it).
But he who gave the Lord his case
Has found his most appropriate place
For work of cultivating grace,
To plant and often hoe it.

Some say the wheel has ropes and wires
And up-to-date appliances
Behind the scenes; that he gets left
Who has no self reliance.
And if of such you should inquire,
They say no preacher can get higher
Unless he pulls a little wire
And uses modern science.

But many preachers still believe
God's grace can be relied on;
It's greater than all man-made plans,
And all schemes men have tried on.
Still unto Him they make request,
And in this comfort safely rest,
"No man can know what place is best;
God holds this wheel they ride on."

—Elizabeth H. Fenn, in *Northwestern Advocate*.

IMPERIAL UNITY.

BY REV. J. R. PATTERSON.

THE unity of our Empire! Why at first sight it seems as if it could have no unity. Look at its complex diversity.

1. Consider first of all its great territorial extent and teeming population. Nothing of previous ages approaches unto it. "We hold a vaster empire than has been."

What does this mean? It means approximately that if the earth's surface were parcelled out in farm lots every fifth farm would be held by British law. It means that if the races of mankind were ranged in ranks and King Edward were to pass along the lines, every fourth man, woman or child would salute him as their king. If King Edward's subjects, in single file, were to march past their sovereign day and night, it would take them seventy years, or two generations to pass the reviewing stand. Its vast extent and its teeming population, men say, naturally make for disintegration.

2. Think of our far-flung boundaries. We hold "dominion over palm and pine."

The Britisher is at home in every degree of latitude or longitude, and has fellow-subjects in every clime.

Take hold of the wings of the morning,
And fly round the earth till you're dead;
But you can't get away from the tune that they play
To the glorious old flag overhead.

This is not poetic rhapsody, but sober fact. Six o'clock, and the bugles are blowing reveille in Wellington barracks, London. Westward goes the sound, passing Gibraltar and the Bermudas until it is taken up at the fortress city of Halifax. Onward it speeds to Quebec; from Quebec to St. John's; from St. John's to Toronto; from Toronto to Winnipeg; from Winnipeg to Regina, where it rouses our warders of the plains; from Regina through the mountain passes to Esquimaux; then over the broad Pacific, while east becomes west and west becomes east, calling to the islands of the seas as it goes, until Hong Kong is roused by its martial strain. From Hong Kong to Singapore; from Singapore to Colombo; from Colombo to Bombay; from Bombay to Aden; from Aden to Suez. Meanwhile under the southern cross it rings over the wheat fields of New Zealand and sheep walks of Australia. Now it is heard at Cape Town, and the cities of British Africa signal one another. Cape Town calls to Kimberly; Kimberly to Mafeking; Mafeking to Bulawayo; Bulawayo to Salisbury. Beyond Tanganyika's waters Uganda hears the echo and sends it on to Khartoum, and Khartoum passes it on to Cairo. Cyprus now has caught the stirring note and sped it on to Malta; Malta sends it on to Gibraltar, and once more we are in the longitude of Wellington barracks, London. We have marched westward, "following the course of the sun, and keeping company with the hours," and if you will take down a military map of the British Empire you will discover that we have not passed through a degree of latitude, nor has there been a degree of longitude that has not been vocal at sunrise with the martial airs of England.

Consider the cosmopolitan character of the Empire.

Think of all the varied races, of all the different languages and religions in our empire! Think of all the kingdoms and creeds of India, of the races and religions of Africa, of the foreigners by birth who have settled in Cape Colony, Australia and Canada! If Samuel Johnson, who loved a mouth-filling phrase, were to rise from the dead and describe our Empire, he would doubtless call it a "heterogeneous conglomeration of all sorts and conditions of men." What a strangely varied procession passed before the Queen at her jubilee in 1897.

If representatives of every race subject to our throne had gathered at the coronation of King Edward, there would have been a more motley assembly than that which heard the words of truth and grace at Pentecost. And if all were to join in the national anthem, each in his native tongue, babel would have been out-babelled.

Once more, think of the fact that this Empire is apparently loosely held together; that very large liberties are

allowed to each component part, and then say if the existence of such a nation in this democratic age does not prove that truth surpasses fiction. For were it not existing in fact before us, a description of such an imperial domain would be deemed a pleasing though extravagant romance.

The question arises can such an Empire continue? and we are not surprised to hear some persons say that it cannot. On the Sunday before the Queen died, E. Benjamin Andrews, Chancellor of Nebraska State University, speaking in one of the leading churches of Lincoln, Neb., said that after the death of Her Majesty the stately edifice our statesmen had been ages in erecting would collapse; that no monarch like Victoria would follow her, and consequently Australia would revolt and declare her independence. South Africa would next throw off the British yoke, and Canada would soon follow suit. Thus, he declared, we are within measurable distance of the time when the British Empire, as we now know it, will be no more. I have already shown that there are forces in connection with our Empire which make for disintegration, and now I propose to show that there are other and more powerful forces which make for cohesion.

1. The first thing that makes for imperial unity is the fact that our Empire is of long standing and gradual growth. Newfoundland was colonized in 1583. Canada was conquered in 1759. Australia received its first settlers in 1788. Captain Cook discovered New Zealand in 1768. Cape Colony was formally ceded to England in 1814. Clive won the battle of Plassey, which laid the foundation of our Indian Empire, in 1757. Thus it will be seen that the youngest of our great colonies is almost a century old. What do these facts signify? First, that Great Britain has, or ought to have, large experience in colonial administration, and is, or ought to be, a past master in the art of empire building. Second, that in the five great colonial centres British law has long been in force, and British institutions have become thoroughly established, with the result that British feeling in those centres is strong. In Canada, in Australia and New Zealand, largely in South Africa, and to a surprising extent in India, the people have identified themselves with British interests, and have retained or adopted the traditions and history of the home land as their own. From these loyal centres colonial expansion has gone on. Canada has grown from the United Empire Loyalists' settlements; British Australasia from Sydney; South and Central Africa from Cape Town and Port Elizabeth; India from Calcutta. Again, these expanding centres have leavened the surrounding districts with feelings kindred to their own. There one native state finds it easier to become a subject people when it sees a rival neighbor flourishing under British rule. Then in times of trouble on the frontier these places have formed safe bases from which men and supplies could be forwarded to any expeditionary force sent into the regions beyond. In this connection it should be remembered that we have not, as a rule, annexed territory