

SPECIAL  
ARTICLES

## Our Contributors

BOOK  
REVIEWS

## THE BIBLE AND LAW.

By Rev. R. G. MacBeth, M.A.

There are some people in the world who minimize the importance of law as a guiding influence in life. They claim that moral suasion from without, helped by the presence of principle within should be all that is necessary to secure rightness in life and conduct. But these people, forgetting that this world is not yet ideal, are living in a fool's imagined paradise. Some of them come down from the clouds of dreamland to the commonplace earth when they are driven by circumstances to call the aid of authority to their counsels. When the prowling thief or the silent burglar is at work the policeman's baton proves a better protection than persuasive speech.

Theorists sometimes overlook the fact that there is always some work in an unregenerate world that has to be done with a club if it is done at all. The club may not always be a real and brutal weapon, but it is something that stands for authority. The mace in our parliamentary halls is apparently an elegant and harmless piece of legislative furniture, but it is really the old British war club in a new dress. It stands for authority and is as strong as the Empire, just as the war club of our ancestors stood for the chief who enforced his commands by the prowess of manual strength. The present method is less frankly physical but the principle of authority is the same and has always been a recognized and necessary factor in human society. Anarchy is the invention of demons, and society without law is unthinkable. Lawlessness is chaos and chaos is not society.

The Bible stands for law and against anarchy. God is not the author of confusion, but of order, says the Apostle, and order in a world of sin is impossible without law. The enactments of the law of God cover the whole sweep of human existence and to this day the only true sphere of the legislator is to unfold the principles of Divine government. According to Paul the legislator is the minister of God unto us for good—if he is not that he has no right to be in Parliament or legislature or council. Any lower conception of the function and office of law-makers is from regions that are below Heaven.

Every earnest student of law knows that although our best laws are founded on Bible enactments we are still far behind some of the Mosaic and other Divinely inspired legislation. Neither our land laws nor our sanitary regulations equal those of Moses and last Sunday's lesson on the Cities of Refuge reveal a wonderful union of protecting the man who had no malice aforethought and at the same time punishing one whose carelessness was criminal. If present day legislators studied that simple piece of lawmaking we would have some remedy against the idiotic scorching and the didn't-know-it-was-loaded fool.

Paris, Ont.

## WHO IS GIPSY SMITH?

By G. A. Campbell Morgan.

My first acquaintance with Gypsy Smith was made in 1886, when I entered upon work in Hull, which he had originated. Going at the invitation of the committee then in oversight of the work at Wilberforce Hall to conduct services for fourteen days, I remained thirteen months, and thus had opportunity to observe the results of his labors. I found very many whole-

hearted followers of Jesus Christ in dead earnest about the conversion of others. These, most of them, had been brought to God under the preaching of this man. Many of them remain in the churches of the town unto this day, and retain their first love to Christ and devotion for His cause. During this time I often met Gypsy, and from the first my heart was joined to his as a brother beloved, and I count him still as my close personal friend and a highly valued fellow-laborer in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ.

During these years I have noted with great joy his remarkable development, until today he stands at the very front of those who are doing the work of the evangelist. His early life consisted of certain facts which were against the chances of his success, and yet, taking a higher viewpoint of consideration, they were in his favor.

His lack of educational advantages would have seemed likely to bar his progress. He recognized this, and set himself from the first with a devotion and earnestness which were magnificent to remedy the defect. He has been a hard worker and a hard reader and this has found its reward in the fact that today he has acquired a style and delivery that is full of force and beauty. One of our great London dailies said of him recently that he is one of the finest exponents of the possibilities of Anglo-Saxon speech since the days of John Bright.

It is possible to hear him again and again, as I have done, without detecting a flaw in his grammar or pronunciation; and one is filled with wonder at his wonderful triumph in this direction.

In his case the very early lack has been the stimulus of constant effort, and there has been no arrest of development consequent upon the mistaken notion—alas, too common among more favored men—that he had his education long ago.

Greatly in his favor is the fact that he was a child of nature, nurtured near to her heart. When that Spirit who breatheth where He listeth brought him into living contact with Christ the gain of this early environment was manifest.

To know him today is to catch the sweet, healthy freshness of the woods and flowers and dear old mother earth, and to breathe the fragrance of the life lived far from the stifling atmosphere of great cities. I never talk with him without taking in a wholesome quantity of ozone. His most remarkable growth has been spiritual. In tone and temper, and those fine qualities of spirit which are the fairest productions of Christian life, he has steadily advanced, and today more than ever is a child of God in outward conduct and inward character.

Though thus a child of the country, his mission has been pre-eminently that of a messenger of the Gospel to great cities. It is one of the most heart-stirring and spirit-reviving sights I know to watch a dense mass of city folk, tollers in the factories, clerks from the offices, professional men, and those of culture and leisure, listen to him as he pleads with tender eloquence the cause of the Master.

Gypsy Smith is an evangelist by right of a "gift" bestowed by the Spirit of God as certainly as there ever was such in the history of the Church. In his case, moreover we have a conspicuous example of the fact that the Spirit bestows such gifts on those by natural endowment fitted to receive and use them. There is no conflict between a man as God made him and the work of grace in him when he is utterly abandoned to the will of God.

London, England,

## NOTES FROM ILLINOIS.

By Rev. W. H. Jordan.

Illinois Synod's committee on Christian Education has undertaken a great work at Champaign, Ill., in establishing a Presbyterian pastor at the State University. More than seven hundred and sixty young men and women come from Presbyterian homes in the central west, and have been without the ministrations of a Presbyterian pastor until about five years ago, when the committee set a man at work there, and depended upon the contributions of the people to sustain the work. And even to this time the current expenses, amounting to \$3,000, has to be raised by apportioning two or three cents to each member in the synod. But while this is being done, the committee, led by that strong, level-headed man, Rev. W. S. Plumer Bryan, of the Church of the Covenant, Chicago, is making very much larger plans. It has already purchased a finely located Presbyterian Home, corner of John and 5th St., in Champaign, near the University, and right in the midst of the Fraternity and Sorority houses, where the newly-chosen student pastor, Rev. M. E. Anderson, of the last class of McCormick Seminary, can meet the students. Sabbath morning services are held in one of the University halls, but it is the purpose later to erect a Presbyterian house of worship on this lot costing about \$30,000. But before that is done an endowment of 60,000 dollars must be raised, so that the interest at 5 per cent. will yield an income sufficient to maintain the work. Already \$27,000 of this endowment has been pledged, and much of it paid in. One or two large gifts are conditioned upon the whole amount being raised by March 1.

The student pastor, Rev. M. E. Anderson, is the right man in the right place, proven by the immense amount of work he has accomplished the past few months.

Other churches also are attempting the work in behalf of their students, so that the prospect for religious influences around students at the rapidly growing state institution, with a student body of over 4,000, is increasingly bright.

The committee at its recent meeting had other great problems before it. Union Academy, the only Presbyterian institution in "Egypt," the southern third of Illinois, has lost its annual appropriation from the Board of Aid for Colleges. The committee hopes the board will yet sustain the academy, but the board's policy has been to discontinue academies as fast as good high schools are established in communities, as it is impossible to compete with well equipped high schools, and the few academy students are so often drawn from the immediate locality.

The Carnegie fund for pensioning aged teachers is proving attractive to some of our denominational schools, and they are here and there seeking release from church supervision.

Jerseyville, Ill.

Mrs. Pankhurst opened her address in New York by saying she was ~~not~~ there to tell why they wanted the vote in England, but how they are going to get it. "You have heard," said Mrs. Pankhurst, "much of methods, and you have condemned them; but whether they are right or wrong, objectionable or not, they have certainly accomplished our object of bringing the question before the British public as a practical political question. Our methods may be violent, but where did men get anything but by violence? Where would this republic be if your fathers had not thrown the tea into Boston Harbor?"