

The word of our God shall stand forever.—Isaiah xl. 8.

Our Mission.

ISSUED ON THE FIRST AND THIRD SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH.

Subscription Rates, per year, (post paid).

Single Copy, 50 cts.; Six Copies, \$2.50; Ten Copies, \$3.50; Twenty-five Copies, \$7.50; Fifty Copies, \$12.50; One Hundred Copies, \$25.00.

All business communications to be addressed, S. R. BRIGGS, Toronto Willard Tract Depository, Toronto, Canada.

Original or selected articles intended for insertion in the paper, should be addressed to ALF. SANDHAM, Editor, at same place.

and in house-to-house visitation he has proved himself the comforter of the sorrowful and the guide of the perplexed.

Mr. Bonar has ever exercised a special influence over the young. His Sabbath-school services in Kelso are still remembered with delight. He wrote for each service a hymn, which was sung by the boys and girls. Those hymns have since found their way to most Sabbath-schools. Among them were such favourites as "I lay my sins on Jesus," "I was a wandering sheep," "A few more years shall roll." After the singing came a short address, in which the love of Christ was told.

He is, however, best known by his literary works. He has written much and well, and his books are very popular with all classes. At many a fireside they have been welcomed. Bereaved ones have been comforted by his "Night of Weeping," and by his "Morning of Joy" their sorrowful eyes have been uplifted to that land where death never enters. By other volumes, Christian experience has been deepened and the mind of the Christian student enriched. Dr. Bonar is a well-known champion of the truth, and his "Prophetic Landmarks" is a hand-book for all those who hold the doctrine of the pre-millennial advent of our Lord; and a letter sent by him to the recent Conference on that subject, held in London, shows that while the natural force of the aged servant of God may be abated, his mental vigour and power to discern the signs of the times, are still in fullest exercise.

Dr. Bonar is now old and feeble. The last days of an aged saint seem to us like a summer sunset; they are full of peace and beauty. The strong sun has run its course, and as it sinks to rest it bathes the landscape in a golden glow, which makes the already beautiful more beautiful still. So is it with Horatius Bonar. His long life has been spent in giving light, and its close is aglow with the beauty of saintliness. Men feel better because of such a history, and in presence of such a career.

[For the substance of the above article we are indebted to that admirable paper, "The Christian" (London). Subscriptions received at our office.—ED.]

SPEAKING of worldly amusements, Mr. Arndt, a well-known German writer says, "Those who have no joys seek for pleasures."

OUR COLUMN FOR PREACHERS AND TEACHERS.

BY REV. JOHN McEWEN, Lakefield, Ont.

[April 18.] The First Miracle. [John 2: 1-11.]

Five disciples are following the Master. Three days have elapsed since last lesson. Jesus, on arriving at Nazareth, found His mother gone to a wedding, a few miles farther on. He and His disciples at once proceed to Cana, the home of Nathanael, whose guest Jesus probably was.

The other Gospel writers have indiscriminately used terms—miracles, wonders, signs. Heb. 2: 4. John, with a deeper insight, has selected the latter term, "SIGNS," (see Revised Version). Not a mere wonder to excite amazement—not a mere prodigy to awaken idle curiosity—but a SIGN, of

THE SUPREME POWER OF JESUS AS THE SAVIOUR, able to save to the uttermost. Heb. 7: 25. This first fact of the lesson is manifested by a Sign.

THE SIGN AS ATTACHED TO NATURE, v. 8. Not until the resources of Nature and her abundant means had been exhausted, did Jesus work. v. 4.

The last extremity of Nature in sickness, in perplexity, &c., is God's opportunity for displaying His will.

THE SIGN AS ATTACHED TO THE WELFARE OF SOCIETY.

The wine was not a necessity of nature, as was bread to the hungry or healing for the leper; but a luxury for a marriage feast—and a proper use of luxury, gratefully, humbly and joyfully magnifying God—in Nature this is what is signified.

We are not to confound this with a dram shop and its poisons, whose proper sign is a "TOMB STONE."

The sign and honour put on the Home and the Marriage Institution by His presence, and the display of His power. In our Modern life, its weakest point is the Home. The personal history of all criminals goes to show, that four out of every five started in this course from bad home influence, or the lack of home altogether.

One who had made large observation along this line for twenty years, states that of those uniting with his church, that one or both of the parents of seven-eighths were members of the church, and professing faith in Christ.

SIGN OF THE PERSONAL GLORY OF JESUS AS THE MESSIAH.

These signs do not convince the unbeliever; but they greatly deepen the convictions, enlarge the views, and heighten the appreciation of the believer, as these five men were—they are the signs of a large display of the Life, Light and Power of the Incarnate Word over nature and its processes.

[April 25.] Jesus and Nicodemus. [John 3: 1-18.]

Five or six weeks have intervened since the signs of the personal glory of Jesus was displayed at Cana. He seems to have left this place and Nazareth, and made His first visit to Capernaum, on the north-west shore of the Sea of Galilee; and as the feast of the Passover approached, He and His disciples went up to Jerusalem. For that visit, see chap. 2: 12.