

SPECIAL
ARTICLES

Our Contributors

BOOK
REVIEWS

ALL-ROUND ADDITION.

(By Rev. Henry Dickie, M.A.)

To grow a well-rounded, symmetrical Christian character is no easy task. It calls for life-long diligence and painstaking care. Peter makes this very clear when he says, "And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; and to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; and to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity."

The word epichoregos here used and translated "add" in the Authorized Version, is well worth noting. It refers to a choir of well-trained singers. In Greek-speaking countries, in the Apostle's day, at the great national festival, there were contests in music, as well as in athletics, oratory, etc. And we can readily understand the painstaking work the leader or choragus would bestow on a choir enlisted for such an occasion, in order to bring it to the degree of perfection that would entitle it to the first prize.

This brings home to the Christian the nature of the task to which he is called. It is no less than the training of a choir, a choir in which there are, or should be, seven parts, namely, virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly love and love. And just as the old choragus neglected no part of the choir under his tuition, but diligently strove to perfect every part in harmony with the rest, so should the Christian, in the development of his character, neglect none of these graces or virtues, but diligently seek to bring them all out, that he might present to the world a well-rounded and thoroughly symmetrical life.

The average Christian, we fear, gives far too little thought to this all-round addition in character-building. He grows up at random, and the result is a lopsided character. What, undoubtedly, is needed, is more of that effort and painstaking diligence in the development of character, which the old choragus displayed in the training of his choir for a great musical performance. We see clearly enough, that in his case one bad voice would ruin the effect of the whole choir; but do we realize in regard to ourselves, that the failure to bring out one of these graces in our life may spoil the whole life?

There is a singular charm in the singing of a well-trained choir, where part blends with part in sweetest melody; and is there not also something wonderfully fascinating to the world about a symmetrical Christian life? The music that goes out from such a life, beyond contradiction has an irresistible attractiveness. And whenever each Christian shall be seen presenting to the world a life like that, then will Christianity make the progress in the world that it ought to make.

Toronto.

HAUNTS OF FISH AND GAME.

The above caption is the title of a concise, interesting and instructive book, issued by the Grand Trunk Railway System and contains valuable information regarding the hunting and fishing territory reached by their lines. It is handsomely illustrated with half tones reproduced from direct photographs, gives the game laws in force in the different states and provinces, contains maps and all information desired by the hunter. The publication is sent free on application to J. Quinlan, District Passenger Agent, Bonaventure Station, Montreal.

WORLD-WIDE MISSIONS.

The Bible Evangelizing Company is a Japanese organization now three years old. Pastors, Bible women and other workers engage in its work, which consists of reading one Gospel from beginning to end at fixed times and with explanations to one inquirer. This method of concentration has had good results.

In the Swiss Romande Mission at Lourenco Marques, Portuguese East Africa, a teacher explained to her black but bright pupils the parable of the king who invited people to his feast. When she finished speaking, one of the boys who had long seemed near to the kingdom, came to tell her that he wanted to follow Jesus. Then a smaller boy said the same thing. "Have you felt for some time that God has been calling you?" asked the teacher. "No," said the little boy, "it is only today; but I listened right off when He called." Then, the little fellow's older brother felt obliged to explain. "I haven't followed Jesus because He hasn't called me yet." Both boys spoke with a sincerity that interests one in the unfolding of character among those Africans.

An uprising of the natives in the Southern part of German East Africa is causing a good deal of anxiety last year. The actual sufferers so far reported are the Roman Catholic Benedictine stations. A bishop two missionaries and two sisters were killed a month or two ago on the road from Kilwa to Ifwale. Two of the inland stations of this mission have been attacked and the missionaries forced to fly to the coast. Anxiety is felt for the University Mission on the Rovuma River and for the Berlin Society's station which stretches across from Dar es Salam to the head of Lake Nyasa. So far no news has been received of injury to any of these stations, but the disturbances seem to be spreading and distance from the Coast may put the Missionaries in serious danger.

In the Reformed Presbyterian Mission at Takhing (Tetzing) Kwantung, China, the way the leaven works has been actually visible to the eye. A little village two days distant is occupied by one family—an old woman of ninety being at the head, and her descendants to the fourth generation living about her. A man of the third generation went away to work and was converted. When he came back he was punished. But he stood firm, told his friends what the Lord has done for him and prayed for them steadily. Then one of the fourth generation went away and was converted. There were now two to testify and to pray. Next two more of the third generation were converted and there were four to pray. Last fall two more of the third and one of the fourth generation were converted. These then invited the missionaries to visit the village. Out of the forty persons living there one only was still an idolator and she was the mother of all. In April of this year some of the ladies of the mission succeeded in coaxing the old woman to learn the Lord's Prayer, and while the volume of intercession grows there is reason to hope that she, too, will yield her proud will.

It is not by passing resolutions that the glory of Christ is promoted, but by doing the good things that are resolved.

THE PREACHING MEET FOR THE AGE.

The Belfast Witness.

We think no apology is needed for taking up and dealing with a subject which is to the vital welfare of the Church of Christ as the preaching needed for the age. Specially is it necessary in these days when so much is made of form and ceremony, and often so little of the spirit of religion, to have brought before our hearts and minds what is required to make the Church strong and prosperous as well as a joy and a praise in the earth. We should never lose sight of the fact that the Church is composed of individual members, so the aim of the preacher should always be to bring each individual soul into personal contact with Jesus Christ, who alone can give life, hope and victory. It is not enough to deal in generalities and truisms, which amount to thin air, leaving no trace behind them, but we must get to the very heart of the Gospel, and proclaim full deliverance from sin, complete victory over sin, and final blessedness in heaven, because Christ Jesus bore our sins in His own body on the tree. . . . Week by week in every congregation there are hungry souls to be fed, so we must bring them the Bread of Life; there are sorrowful hearts to be comforted so we must present the comforts and consolations of the Gospel; there are lives which need building up and strengthening, so we must give them the sincere milk of the Word to promote spiritual growth; and all such edification, so we must rightly divide the Word of Truth. But in addition to all this we must never forget that in the public congregation there are un saved souls—some careless, others anxious, to quit the evil of their ways and live better lives. To all tendencies we must warn these of the wrath to come, and in all love give them the invitation to come to Jesus and obtain pardon and healing. . . . The preaching for this age and for all ages must be Biblical, having our Lord Jesus as its centre and substance, and the preacher must ever be consumed with a holy zeal for the salvation of immortal souls. It must be modelled on the preaching of the Apostolic age when Christ Crucified, risen, ascended to glory. Christ the sinless Saviour and the saint's home was the theme. No ethical gospel, no philanthropic gospel, and no so-called gospel for the masses, meet the inmost needs of humanity, and so they pass away one after another to be replaced by others which will be discarded in their turn; but in the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ we have that which meets every need, supplies every want, satisfies every longing, and fulfills every aspiration. Our great poet Tennyson says it very aptly: "Our little systems have their day."

They have their day, and cease to be;

They are but broken lights of Thee,

And Thou, O Lord, art more than they."

The gospel needed is one that will bless and beautify the individual life, sweeten and purify human society, elevate the masses, and cause righteousness to abound in our midst. Christ is still the power of God and the wisdom of God to the salvation of souls, and it is our bounden duty to hold Him up in all His wisdom and attractiveness, in all His power to save and bless the vilest sinners, in all His ascended glory as the Great High Priest who has passed into heaven that He may plead our cause with the Father, as the sympathetic Brother who feels for us in all our trials, troubles and temptations. We know that if He is lifted up souls will be drawn to Him, and the duty of every preacher