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Contents of this Number.

EDITORIAL.

Christian Observer.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The man who never retracts his own opinion, the only man is pure. The wisest man may sometimes be mistaken. It is the part of wisdom to correct opinions when we discover that they result from error of fact or of judgment.

Methodism is made by resistance. The best type of development and strength results from the overcoming of obstacles. Emerson said of a bright young man who graduated from Harvard, "He lacks but one thing. If he could lose his popularity with his class, or some one would slander him, or some great misfortune should come into his life, it would make him a man of influence." Obstacles are opportunities. They are blessings in disguise. He is wise who is not deceived by the disguise, but views them as opportunities for overcoming.

The awakening of the South to its educational needs, that has resulted from such conceptions as the one held recently at Pinehurst, N.C., suggests the responsibility and the opportunity that the minister has in aiding in the present crisis. The South is generally the best educated man of the community. He is welcomed heartly by any school or any association that should attend teachers' institutes and give encouragement and helpful suggestions to the earnest teachers of the children. They will welcome his suggestions.

He should make it a part of his regular work to keep himself informed about the progress of the great educational movements. He will find a great deal of opportunity for usefulness that has been neglected too long. The minister, as was his last, is a teacher and nothing is foreign to him that concerns other teachers.

Another thought is suggested by the agitation of the educational needs of the South. It is part of our business in our public worship for the teachers of our public schools. Such prayers are rare, and only recently has it been called to the attention of the writer that there is neglect just here. It is a great sin to omit prayer for those who may have the thoughts and life of the children during their most impressionable age. We pray for teachers in Sunday schools and in our church schools and colleges, but when have we heard in our public worship prayer for the public school teachers?

Relishiness steals from the soul its purest aspirations and its noblest impulses. It destroys the fountain of goodness and greatness. No selfish soul ever grows to be truly great. Both God and men honor most the man who forgets himself and gives his powers to promote the general well-being of others. The favorite theme of most, orator or historian is the deed of self-sacrifice, the life lived for the uplifting of others. It is the sublime paradox of the soul that the more it forgets itself, in order that it may help others, the greater its powers and its enjoyments.

The parable proclaimed by Jesus is peculiarly suggestive. When he said, "So is the Kingdom of God, as a man who cast seed into the ground and went to sleep and rose night and day and the seed sprout and grow up, he knew not how." He expressed most strikingly a great truth about the spiritual life. The seeds of truth spring up and grow in a man's heart "he knoweth not how." The power does not derive from the seed growth. He cannot tug and pull and make the sprouting up. He plants it in soil prepared for it, under favorable conditions, then he must acknowledge that a power independent of and greater than himself must make it grow. So we cannot by a mere act of will make our character grow into what God desires. We must let ourselves be taken over in the softening, quickening influences of God's grace and His Spirit will cause us to grow "we know not how."

Since the last issue of the "Christian Observer" was sent out, news has been received of the death of three of our ministers. Rev. Louis Burnell Johnston, the pastor of the South Boston church, in Virginia, died at the Litchfield Hospital, Richmond, on Tuesday, June 8th. He was a son of the late Frederick Johnston, an honored ruling elder in the church at Salem, Va. Dr. Johnston was born December 26, 1838. He was educated at Hampden-Sidley College, and Union Seminary, Va., and was ordained in August, 1871, by the Presbyterian Church of West Virginia. He was greatly loved in West Virginia and Orange counties, in Harrisburg, and at South Boston, where his usefulness as a pastor is held in high esteem. He was a member of the Board of Trustees of Union Seminary, and Chairman of the Home Mission Committee of the蹋onoke Presbytery at the time of his death.

Mr. W. G. Neville, the President of the Presbyterian College of South Carolina, died of heart disease at his home at Clinton on the same day, Saturday, June 8th. He, too, was cut off in the midst of a very useful life. He was a man of decided convictions and splendid character and worth. His death is a serious blow to the Presbyterian ministry, but to the cause of education in South Carolina.

The Rev. J. L. Williamson died at his home in Newberry, S.C., on Friday morning, June 21st. He was a consecrated and energetic pastor; a pastor beloved by all, Fuller said, "Mr. D. H. Carr and Mr. J. L. Williamson are two of the most valuable men in America." He will be found on page 22. In the great majority of ministers, the death of three efficient workers in two days' time, from a human standpoint, is a very great calamity to our Church and Church day it proves a message from above to young men who are preparing to enter upon the active walk of life to consider seriously the question whether God has a work for them which is taking up the unfinished work of those "who have called above."

The future says, "The immense benefactions of money that Princeton Seminary has received in recent years are not as important for an award of the institution as the wise gift of Mr. John H. Converse, who has presented to the trustees, a residece property in Philadelphia to be used as headquarters from which the students will, on Saturday, May, 10th, move into the city in stately coaches. The weekly inauguration of the school will be a great event, if not in the theological education, at least in "theological education at Princeton."
Life and Service

THREE QUESTIONS.

Voices, said with sin and suffering.
When I am in a happy frame of mind,
Ever came in pleasing accents.
While I am in a happy frame of mind,
I can sing a song of gladness and joy.
But I strove to answer "No!"
I can sing a song of gladness and joy.
As I was in a happy frame of mind.
Still I mused, till growing pily
Touched and filled my inmost soul.
I could not let go.
Of the Love that made whole;
Yet, I yet wandered.
Pondering always "Shall I go?"

Then I saw as in a vision,
In the midst of the unuttered thoughts.
A Face of tender yearning.
Oh, those heavens!
At his feet I bent mine low,
Whispering softly, "I go," and I go?
—Selected.

BRYAN ON BELIEF.

In an address at Springfield, Mass., to "the largest audience ever assembled in the city," the Reverend Dr. W. S. B. Bryan, said:

"We have all some conception of God and our relation to him, and in proportion as it is a true one it moulds our lives for good. There is nothing in this world that so largely determines a man's life as this relation which he establishes with God. We have the germs of all our actions in our hearts. The propo-

We are convinced that anyone who does not take God into consideration in his plans and purposes cannot have the blessed assurance that he cannot have, and the existence of this assurance.

The experience with doubt.

"I passed through a period of doubt and skepti-

Christian Observer.

June 19, 1907.

Christians make the claim that there are certain things which are so near to God and heaven that they cannot be disregarded.

Who is the man of God?

The Christian has a great responsibility to bear.

CHRISTIANITY AS A PRESENT ASSET.

Christianity's chief value is for this world,—wholly for this world, and not for the next world as well, as for the future, than any other investment we can make. To be sure, that is never one's reason for following Christ. He who would not be a Christian Well and the immediate and temporal gain of Christianity is one of the un-

CHRISTIAN LOVE.

Love is a compound thing. Paul tells us it is the love of God, the love of Christ, the love of the race, the love of the world, the love of the church.

"I do not understand all the mysteries of the Bible, but if we live up to all the things in the Bible, we shall be happy."

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"Who is the man of God?"

The Sunday School

BY REV. E. P. MICKEL, D. D.

SPECIAL MISSIONARY LESSON.

Sabbath School Lesson for June 20, 1907.

Sons of the Church have a wonderful influence over the world.

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LESSON COMMENTARY.

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After his resurrection, Jesus taught his disciples that "the Son of man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again." (Luke 24:46). So today the work of the Church is to present Christ to the world, to be the Saviour of the world through the work of missions. The word "Mission" means "that for which one is sent," and to preach the salvation of the world is the work of the Church from the Lord to the world, in what he has sent the Church to do for others. In fact what we have named last, God puts first in the great commission to His Church, "Go ye therefore and teach all nations;"—then follows the command to "Go ye therefore and teach all nations." The Church is the work of missions.

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