

MAY THANKSGIVING BE FOLLOWED BY REVIVAL?

It is so customary for us to connect humiliation with the prospect of a blessing, that we may not be prepared to expect a revival in the wake of a thanksgiving service.

We hope with trembling that such was the prevailing temper of the thanksgiving services held in many of our States last week.

There had not been such intensity of love, but for sins forgiven; never such power of faith, then, as for the cross in which to trust.

Even as a cheerful temper becomes the Christian's under cross, and in a dungeon or on a bed of sickness, honors his master far more than would a penitential gloom and constant brooding over his sins.

THANKSGIVING DISCOURSES.

[From the discourse of Rev. E. E. Adams on "Samson's Riddle" we give the following extract.]

But what we have specially to say is—Sin is a destroyer. It is fierce and strong. It eats out the life of body and soul.

And yet such is God's economy, such his glorious purpose and agency of love, that even sin has food for the soul.

discipline whereby the soul grows strong, and pure, and hopeful; resisting, and marching upward; seeing more clearly the ideal of perfect life, than they would have learned were the whole earth an Eden, and there were perpetual praise from altars on which a sin-offering was never laid.

But for sin "the majesty of mercy" had never come to light; but for sin there had been less sympathy, for there would have been no suffering among men; less benevolence, for want had not counted its victims; less sense and comprehension of good, for evil had not put good in jeopardy; less virtue on the whole, for it had not been buffeted into strength and greatness by temptation; less moral force and development, for the pliancies which press into action the moral powers of man had not been resisted, had not conquered.

Then take into view, if possible, the more wonderful development of the divine administration! How much is revealed, in and by Jesus Christ! What a fact was his holy life! What a miracle his death! How far above the loftiest conceptions of man is the system of moral good in him!

"The great salvation brought by Jesus Christ; that he sank an Adam to reveal a God; and never came but at the call of sin."

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THANKSGIVING DAY IN OLDEN TIMES. Rev. Mr. March spoke of "Thanksgiving" as a memorial, domestic, and patriotic festival.

Our annual Thanksgiving is a memorial service. It is a festival of grateful recollection, in observing which we call up the joys and sorrows, the trials and blessings of the past in thankful remembrance before God; we go back to the dark and troublous period when this anniversary was instituted, and we join our voices with those of the ever afflicted yet ever rejoicing exiles of the wilderness, who sang praises to God amid the storms and the dim woods of the New World, and

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pers quietly brush the snow from their seats with their bear-skin mittens as they enter their pews. But nobody shivers, nobody complains that the sexton has not done his duty in heating the house or providing free ventilation, nobody is afraid of taking cold.

Another says, "The Lord, who is the author of our life, is the author of our death. Let us have faith in the future. Progress must be made; the darkness, so it is called, must be dispelled by the light of God. From this terrible war we are to learn the question of our earthly justice or injustice."

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And the domestic life of our fathers' days was correspondent to the rude and reverent simplicity with which they worshipped God in the sanctuary. There was no Sabbath school instruction; no weekly or monthly gazette, "Well Spring," or "Child's Paper" found its way to the family.

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am for the cause in which they are enlisted. We have space for but a few extracts. Says one: "Come on, the well-being of the soldier and the enthusiasm of the negro soldiers, and a thousand white bayonets, held by black boys, with some extravagance, but with the truthfulness we suspect, that the greater part of the regiment are whiter than their dummies. Let it be known that we have no objection to receiving everybody in the ranks of traders in human flesh. The books of the regiment will satisfy you of the morality of our men."

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LAGERNESS OF THE SOLDIERS FOR RELIGIOUS READING.

[A correspondent, on duty as a distributor of religious reading in the army, volunteers the following cogent reasons for sending the American Presbyterian and other religious reading to the soldiers.]

WASHINGTON, D. C., Nov. 25, 1862. As you are making an effort, and your readers doubtless readily responding to the call, to circulate your excellent paper among the soldiers of the army, it may be interesting to learn something more about the wants of the men, from one who has had considerable opportunity of witnessing the facts.

Good, religious reading may be said to be one of the great wants of the better class of our soldiers. This want is greatly increased by the peculiar circumstances of many of the men. They have long been separated from the usual facilities of gratifying a taste for reading, which is one of the prominent characteristics of Northern men, especially the reading of the Daily Newspaper.

Persons at home, who now look as regularly for the morning or evening newspaper as they do for their meals, have only to suppose themselves as separated for a brief season from that one privilege, and they can to some extent imagine how thousands of intelligent men feel who are for weeks and months deprived of nearly all reading facilities. What intellectual craving, how monotonous the daily incidents of the camp, how blank must be the life of these men, isolated from social and business intercourse! Add to this, many of these men when at home were in the habit of reading works of a scientific, historical and religious character, many of them were useful Christians and practised daily devotional reading.

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tens of thousands—both in camp and hospital, will most gratefully receive what we long to give, but can only give as means are put at our disposal for this purpose.

Some extracts from letters on this subject may not prove uninteresting. The following letter from a chaplain in the field has been forwarded to us. We shall send him a small supply of the "Soldier's Friend," and more hereafter, if we have the means of so doing.

A soldier of the regiment to which I am attached who was on guard before my tent showed me, a short time since, a copy of the "Soldier's Friend," which had been presented to him by a pious friend before leaving home. He seemed to prize it highly, carrying it in his coat-pocket, and now and then stopping to read out of it. On examining it, I found it so well adapted to the soldier's wants, comprising as it does within a small compass, meditations and passages for each day in the month, and selections from Psalms and Hymns, that I resolved to write and see, if you had a few copies to spare for my boys. Many books and tracts have been furnished me by the Tract Society, but I have seen none of their publications that pleased me so much, or contained in the same space more of the sincere milk of the Word.

"Our regiment numbers 840 men. Many are pious, consistent followers of Jesus. We hold prayer-meetings in the different tents as often as possible, and their influence is plainly perceptible for good. I feel that it is good for the ministers of Christ to go down into the camps and mingle with these men of the musket, and cheerfully endure the privations and hardships of camp-life, since by so doing we may be instrumental in saving some and do our part in stemming the tide of evil which flows in an endless stream through our camps. Let the brethren at home pray for us and give what aid they can to their brethren who are daily going down not only to temporal but to eternal death."

Chaplain 13th N. J. Vol. A lady, who has devoted herself with untiring zeal and devotion to the comfort and spiritual instruction of the sick and wounded in the great military hospital in West Philadelphia, writes to us:

"I would have immediately acknowledged the receipt of the package of books received from you, but I wished to wait until I could give you some account of the way in which they were distributed. The two books entitled 'Martyrs of the Mutiny' were retained for the 'Library,'—one, to loan as library stock; the other, to loan in a private way—by my own hands. I filled a basket with the tracts and the 'Soldier's Friend,' and went early one morning to the Hospital. I parted with a good many tracts in different wards, and then sought out those going to rejoin their regiments, to whom I gave copies of the 'Soldier's Friend,' reserving that dear little book especially for them.

"As I went on to the 'knapsack room,' where the men who were being returned to regimental service were, for the purpose of putting on their equipments, I stopped at the door and said, 'Boys! would any of you like to have one of these little books?' The men, with one eager mind stepped forward and reached out their hands; and when the supply failed, I felt so sad at disappointing the rest, that the tears would involuntarily come in my eyes. I then handed them the basket with the remaining tracts and told them to take them. They quickly disposed of them, as they could be so easily carried.

"If I could tell you how gratefully I felt in that hour to be your almoner of the precious words of Jesus, it would more than repay you for your kindness and trouble. There is a sad feeling in my heart; that I had not enough for all; but I am thankful that some precious words have been carried to the camp. Poor fellows! they were glad of a little kind remembrance from a parting friend; for these men who have languished in hospitals for months are not full of the flush of fight as when they first went forth, and I think they are more ready to take the courage the Gospel supplies.

is indeed such a friend to him that when possessed they never part. I am constantly cheered by the discovery that one and another has given his heart to God and consecrated himself to his Saviour.

"I beg that you will express my obligations as well as gratitude to the Committee for their great kindness towards us, and the hope that they will not cease to remember us in their prayers.

"I shall be happy, at all times, to be remembered by tokens such as those in your package, which I acknowledge with great thankfulness.

Will our friends aid us in meeting such calls? New Publications.

MESSRS. TICKNOR & FIELDS have issued another (we believe the last) of Theodore Winthrop's posthumous works, "The Canoe and the Saddle," with "Ishimiana," books of travel among the Indians of the Maine frontier, and the Central-American isthmus. The scenes and characters are fresh; the style free—juvenile, one might say, the lightness and jocosity of tone grow wearisome at length; there is an opore trifling kept up from beginning to end which helps to weary the reader; yet the entire novelty of the successive scenes, and the occasional bursts of really fine writing and occasional sentiment draw the reader on in spite of himself.

MARGARET AT HOME, or the Leaven still working; is a valuable and timely book, planned and written with no little skill. Its design is to exhibit the earnest purpose of a young, motherless girl, with a worldly-minded father, to engage in the work of evangelizing the neglected children of the city. Her trials, her conscientious obedience to an unsympathizing father, and her success are described in a deeply interesting and profitable manner. It will prove peculiarly attractive to all engaged in such benevolent labors. New York: A. D. F. Randolph. For sale at the Presbyterian Book Store.

LETTERS OF REV. JOHN SMITH TO REV. PETER SMITH. These are plain, direct and homely letters on the points in dispute between Arminians and Calvinists, the writer representing a Presbyterian minister addressing a Methodist. Although on some points, extreme views of Calvinistic doctrine are advanced, we have no hesitation in commending the work to those who seek instruction on the subjects, or ready weapons in controversy. Published and for sale by J. B. Lippincott & Co., Philadelphia: 16mo; pp. 188.

MAGAZINES, PAMPHLETS, ETC. THE ATLANTIC MONTHLY for December is more interesting and perhaps abler than for a month or two past. "Life in the Open Air" continues Theodore Winthrop's last work, since issued edited by Messrs. Ticknor & Fields. Dr. O. W. Holmes gives an amusing account of the difficulties attending a search for one's friends who may have suffered casualties in the army, under the title, "My hunt for the Captain." Mr. C. L. Brace, groups in an effective manner what he considers the evidence for the existence of "the Pre-Adamic man;" one of those articles in which the conductors of the Atlantic, about twice a year (not so often as formerly) wrong and insult their evangelical-thinking readers who imagine they are buying a literary organ, but find themselves in the hands of a clique aiming to reproduce the Westminster Review in this country.

THE GREEK ACCORDING TO JOHN, IN GREEK, and in which is appended A Critical Annotation; also, The Authorised English Version of the "Protestant Church, and A Comparative View of the Catholic Translation from the Vulgate; together with Historical and Grammatical Notes, by Geo. William Heintz. Philadelphia: Charles Desilver, 1229 Chestnut street. This book presents facilities for reading the Gospel of John to those who have never made the Greek Language a study, which are not found elsewhere. We are satisfied "there is no royal road to science;" nor, to a thorough knowledge of the Ancient Languages. But there are advantages to be derived to those who have not had such opportunity, from those who have. This book presents these, in a concise form. Mr. Desilver has done good service to the community by publishing the classic, in a similar form, to this book. We have first here, an *Interlinear Translation* placed side by side with the "Original Greek." In the translation, the words are transposed so as to suit the natural order of construction. Then, the authorised English Version is side by side with the Original Greek unchanged—so that, upon opening the book, we have before us the Greek in order with a translation, *verbatim* under each word, on the left, and the Greek, as originally written, with our common Version, on the right hand page. We have, also, critical notes at the bottom. As one who has long been, and still is a teacher of the Ancient Languages, I give here a full recommendation to this book. The paper and doing up are fine, thus giving the volume a body as well as a soul.