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REVIVALS AMONG CHILDREN.

Christian people are prepared, we think to grant that children may become subjects of converting grace at a very tender age. They are prepared, possibly, to go further, and to say that they ought to be converted in early life; that it is a misfortune for them to reach the age of twelve years unconverted; that every proper effort should be made to prevent such an occurrence. Yet we fear that the idea of a children's revival, when many very young persons may be deeply and simultaneously impressed with religious truth, and under some degree of excitement, with some peculiar measures, and some pressure, brought into the fold, is regarded by many good people with decided mistrust. If the regular influence of home piety and Sabbath-School instruction fail to develope early evidence of conversion, there is a disposition to acquiesce in the state of things, as if it were an unavoidable Providence, and all hope of conversion is deferred to a maturer period. There is frequently a disposition manifested to keep young children away from all scenes of religious excitement, as of positively injurious tendency, even when all the ordinary influences of home and Sabbath-school instruction have failed to produce saving impressions. But there are earnest, persevering parents and teachers who cannot consen to abandon the case of the young children, when ordinary means have failed. They will be on the look-out for some other agencies, for some other manifestation of Divine power and grace toward this deeply interesting class. A simple principle which they adopt, and which seems to us worthy of general acceptance, is, that young children like other persons, may, and ought to be subjected to any influences, which sound Christian judgment, not wanting in courage and faith and aided by experience, would indicate as likely to lead them to Christ. Seeing that parental and Sabbath-school training and regular pastoral labor, after all the good which by the Divine blessing they do accomplish, leave a vast amount undone; seeing that at any given period in the Church's life, there is a multitude of her young people outside of the fold, giving no satisfactory evidence of a change of heart, besides another multitude of worse cases, among the neglected and abandoned quite beyond her borders, they are prepared to welcome, and to pray and labor for a general and powerful religious movement among this class. and to recognize it,-although far different from ordinary religious training in its phenomena, and more rapid in its results,-as a true and appropriate and blessed work of the Spirit of God. Why should there not be CHILDREN'S REVIVALS? Why should not the children by multitudes be brought into the fold of Christ in their tender years? Why should not their tender consciences, their fresh susceptibilities to religious impressions, their quickly-moving emo-, tions, and their unselfish sympathies be largely used for gracious ends,-as they now are for worldly ones,-and pre-occupied with Divine things? Why may they not enjoy the advantage of a large degree of that mutual influence, for good, which is so potent among them. at a very tender age, for evil? Why may not "the Holy Spirit successfully use the vivacity and impulsiveness and sociability of the young" in promoting a revival? Why are not their minds, so open to impressions from Bible-truth, so ready



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cile, so humbly trustful of others, the children" whom he had dismissed from very ones of all in which the great, wide- catechising, gathering around him in spread revival influences of the Spirit tears, and inquiring what they should do; may be expected to appear? Why and whom he could not prevail on to ligious impressions be suspiciously guard- | with them, until night came on, when he ed against any large or special operation was obliged to go out with them, and of Divine influence, as if it were really a literally force them away. A Long dangerous peculiarity, instead of a gift, to Island pastor of a century ago speaks of be most assiduously cultivated? Why pre- | a revival of extraordinary power, the subfer for the large experience of Divine influ- jects of which were from six or seven to ences, an age in which the process of time above seventy years of age. Rev. Mr. has hardened the sensibilities, destroyed | Butler, of Auburn, Maine, speaking of a half the tenderness, simplicity, and candor of the child-nature, has settled many habits, broken up many social ties, and created the isolation and self-reliance and pride of more advanced years? Why wait until high barriers of prejudicé and obstinacy and pride of consistency, and memories of past grievings of the Spirit. and of worldly and carnal lusts are raised to make a stout resistance to every advance of the truth upon the sinner?

Some one expressed his astonishment to Rev. Dr. Hatfield, on hearing of numerous instances of the conversion of children which had recently taken place in his church, exclaiming, "Is anything too hard for the Lord?" "Too hard," replied Dr. H., "how mistaken the application of these words! It is not in the case of such conversions that the mightiness of the Spirit's operations is most exhibited; but in the case of the full-grown sinner, hardened against the truth by long continuance in sin and rebellion. How easy, comparatively, to bring the simple-hearted child to receive and embrace the gospel."* It is true, in the language of a recent, pamphlett on the subject, that "the inexperience and immaturity of children make it necessary that they should walk humbly. They cannot bear to be thrust into prominence and be made conspicuous. Religion always, and especially in a time pride and ambition." But are not all

at any time, or under any circumstances,

duty upon heart and conscience, so do- speaks of as many as a hundred "little revival in which he labored twenty-five years ago, said that, "very many little children from six to ten years of age indulged a hope in Christ, and wished to unite with the church. Great fears were entertained that they would not hold out. But those fears were groundless. They are now the pillars of the church." And in our day a very marked combination of circumstances points to young children as the field of special hope and effort for the Church. A vast literature, with some of the most talented of living writers, has arisen for their benefit. Great publishing establishments devote themselves, in whole or in part, to the work of providing a religious literature for quite young readers. Our Sundayschool system is elaborated and discussed as never before, and broader views of its ring your stay among us." responsibilities and capacities for good are cherished by a vast army of Christian teachers, comprising nearly all the active elements in the Church. Multitudes of warians who have toiled, not altogether the young of our congregations, under in vain, to bring their State, and its en Sabbath-school training, have acquired a knowledge of all the essential doctrines of Christianity, and of the whole process in the work of conversion. They are fit most devoted friends. The delicacies, material for the reviving work of the the substantial stores, the garments, the Spirit on a large scale; they need not surgical preparations which have gone to fall into gross delusions on matters of hospitals and places of entertainment for doctrine and duty, or be swept away by unthinking excitement, but may well be prepared now, in large numbers, for long | borers in every good work, that we may very privileges of superior enlightenment to a suffering world. young converts, of any age, children in and culture at such an early age, may

this respect? And what is conversion otherwise but harden their hearts, and

to yield to the requirements of truth and | the reality of her conversion. Dr. Griffin | Wilmington, and has been a leading | freedom constitute. The black man has member of that congregation from the fairly earned in this war, not merely pay time of its existence. His liberality has and bounty, not merely freedom for himlargely contributed to the success of that | self and his family, but with dripping important and remarkably successful enwounds, and with the torn banner which terprise. His relations with its pastor he has borne successfully through the were those of the most cordial, intimate, fray, he comes to us asking the removal should this characteristic openness to re- depart, even after prayer and exhortation and delightful friendship. His extensive of the humiliating barriers of caste which acquaintance with-one might almost have hitherto made even his freedom a say his mastery of-English literature, dubious advantage. He comes asking his large experience and observation as by these eloquent tokens, of every candid a traveller, his familiarity with theolo man, of every one accustomed to give a gical questions and with the Scriptures. reason for his conduct, of every patriot and his remarkable command of all his and every one capable of recognizing resources made him one of the most entrue nobleness of character, the sacrifice tertaining and instructive companions a of the mere prejudice with which he has minister or any one else could wish. hitherto been regarded. Justice and Few men excelled him in the courtesy Christianity support him on either hand, and refinement of his manners, and in and we believe the heart of the nation is opening to admit the reasonableness of the delicacy, yet cordiality of his regard for the interests of his friends. Socially his appeals.

he was the delight of every circle in which To what practical results this removal he moved, The members of the General of caste distinctions may lead, it is not Assembly which met in Wilmington, in necessary now to inquire. Some who 1859, will remember the generous and would admit the colored man to an equal share in the travelling conveniences elegant hospitality with which he entertained the entire body, on one occasion, offered to the public, or to the pews of in his delightful mansion and elegant our churches, and benches of our audigrounds, and how, in response to the vote ence rooms, may be startled at the idea of thanks given him, he stood upon his of allowing him the exercise of the right portico, with his venerable head uncov of suffrage. Yet no allusion was more ered, and with the enchanting landscape warmly applauded at the great meeting of meadow and winding stream and rein this city, a fortnight ago, on the submotely flashing Delaware at his feet. deject of permitting the colored people to clared, what all who knew him knew to ride in the street cars, than those which be the true sentiment of his generous intimated the propriety of allowing them soul:""Gentlemen;" said he; "it is not to vote: And we were deeply impressed you that are obliged; it is I that feel mywith the political significance of these self favored and honored by your comallusions and this popular enthusiasm. pany, and I rejoice to have the oppor- It was always coupled with allusions to tunity of adding to your pleasure, duanother race among us, whose hatred of the blacks is proverbially bitter and im-Mr: Latimer was true as steel to his placable, and whose vulgar and unchriscountry in her hour of calamity and tri- tian prejudices have been indulged and al. He was one, of those noble Delapandered to by Northern politicians, for the sake of their votes; thus spreading, strengthening, and perpetuating the pretire policy into harmony with the great judices already existing in the breasts of movements for freedom in our day. In native-born American citizens. In short, him, and his most excellent, energetic the political importance of the compact, lady, every suffering soldier had two priest-ridden, raw Irish Catholic vote in this country, and the deep and disgusting subserviency of politicians to the low prejudices of this class of our population was shown, rather by way of passing the soldier from that princely mansion and indirect intimations ..., which the peoalone, would stock a country store. And ple quickly and keenly apprehended-to so single-minded were these two co-la- be the great barrier to the recognition of in comparison with the folly and the weakany right of citizenship in the colored of a revival, is in danger from spiritual lives of piety and usefulness. Their be sure the stream of charities will not race. And it was manifest to the dullest cease while either of them is still spared We offer our sincere condolence to the the other went down in proportion.

cury, three days before the fall of Fort widow, to the friends, to the congrega Should we therefore admit the colored Fisher, praised the "nerve" of General render them less susceptible, in riper tions and to a bereaved pastor. His man to the right of citizenship, what Sherman and the discipline of his army, s were mature. He had reached would be involved in that concession? which it says is "an army of soldiers, he natural term of life. He had reaped Not merely the extension of a right to not a mob of ragamuffins." Sherman its treasures of knowledge, of experience, him which has long been allowed to a is a general. The condition of the race no-worthier, no loftier in mental Confederate soldiers-continues the Merqualifications, no fitter by birth and early cury-in this department (and others are associations for the privilege than he; no better) is a disgrace to the cause and but the introduction into our political the country, and to the whole science of combinations of an element-heretofore tained by faith in a crucified and risen so difficult to find calculated to antagowrong courses, and especially in retainnize the deadly influence of the Irish ing imbeciles, private tools, and dema-Catholic vote. We should add nearly a gogues in command of his armies, is million to the Protestant votes of the country from a people who would underexisting troubles. stand and value better than any fraudu-Still more significant is the charge of lently-naturalized, foreign, popish emi-TREASON, recently paraded in bold capigrants and ignorant devotees ever could tals at the head of a communication in the republican institutions under which the reputed organ of Davis in Richmond, they, by personal bravery and sacrifice, and aimed at certain secret proceedings had gained a status. And any attempt of the rebel Congress, understood to lean on the part of politicians to use the once strongly to the opening of peace negotiaformidable weapon of the Irish Catholic tions with Mr. Lincoln, independently of vote for objects manifestly injurious to the rebel Executive. This article apthe principles of republicanism, or to the peared in the Sentinel on Saturday. On, advantage of the Papal church in this Sunday Fort Fisher was captured, and country, would instantly rally the vote of on Monday the rebel Legislature, under the colored citizens of the country to the the fresh light given by that event, took side of freedom and of Protestanism. In up the obnoxious article, and discussed allowing the colored man to vote, there- it amid the most violent excitement. fore, nothing is sacrificed but prejudice, When a vote was taken, thirty-two out, while real strength would be added to of sixty-eight members of the House put the cause of Protestantism and true rethemselves in an attitude of opposition publicanism. Indeed, there may be a to the Sentinel and the rebel President, time when, in the struggle with Popery so far as he was identified with that which many look for in our land, we shall paper. keenly feel our need of the very aid which Other accounts, in rebel papers, say we are now considering whether we will that the streets in Richmond are no admit to our ranks or not. Mr. Lincoln longer lighted at night, that the negroes, has said that we could not carry on the free and slave, are flying from Richmond war without the 200,000 blacks now in to escape conscription, making their way the army. Shall the loyal people throw through the woods, that everybody, away three-quarters of a million of votes, negroes and all, are turning their prowhich may, ere long, be equally necessary perty into gold at any cost, and that gold was SIXTY to ONE as compared with to frustrate the combinations of unprincipled politicians, North and South, with paper money. Finally, the Richmond ignorant, vicious, priest-ridden foreigners, Whig of the 17th instant, says that the to overthrow the very liberties we have people are more depressed than by any? just re-established, and to nullify the previous disaster. We quote a few senimportant advances we hope to gain at tences as a fit conclusion to our article : the cost of this war? Whatever may be "This fit of depression has been longer that have ever engaged in the cruel the answer to these questions, we much and more violent than formerly, because) doubt whether there can be any solid they see that Congress to which they nay turally turn for encouragement, trifling on hope for the future of our country, unless the very edge of the abyss, with the reckless Northern prejudices against the black disregard of their situation, which prompts man go down with Southern slavery. the sailors when the ship is about to go down to break open the spirit room, and drown SOMETIMES people are aroused to the their fears in liquor." sense of their habitual sins by falling

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THE DESPERATE PLIGHT OF THE REBELLION.

The capture of Fort Fisher, at the nouth of Ĉape Fear River, N. C., almost the last of the coast fortifications in the hands of the rebels, and the last of any great importance for us to repossess, has been felt more seriously than any disaster which has befallen their cause. It comes after a brief period of exultation at Gen. Butler's failure of three weeks ago. It follows upon the heels of a series of heavy blows from Sherman and Thomas. It closes up their only outlet of communucation with their allies in Liverpool, Havana, Nassau and Halifax. It crushes their cotton loan. It lowers their military prestige and elevates our own. Admiral Porter, who was on the famous Malakoff tower a few days after its capture, says Fort Fisher was three or four times as strong. It fact, it was a perfect nest of fortifications, one within the other, each one of which had to be assailed and taken, almost as if it were an independent fort. Already deep gloom had pervaded the hearts of the stontest rebels. So desperate was the military situation, months ago, that they were prepared to arm and free their slaves to retrieve it. They had coolly begun to discuss the proposition of offering themselves, as colonial dependencies, to Great Britain, France, or even Spain (!) The paper regarded as Jeff. Davis's organ, the Richmond Sentinel, calmly entertains the subject as one popular with the people, not "out of gloomy forebodings, but as a man in health speaks of [making] his will." The Richmond Examiner, a bitter opponent of the Sentinel, scoffs at the proposal, and asks, in regard to the nations mentioned, "How would they receive such an invitation as this, now that we are sinking and perishing under the mighty power of the Yankee nation." This was written nearly two weeks before the capture of Fort Fisher. Furious assaults are made in rebel papers upon the military policy of Jeff. Davis, and in the unwelcome light of recent events, -the results of the well contrived policy of Mr. Lincoln and his generals-thev are beginning to discern the superior qualities of our President, and are actually lauding the wisdom and good sense of our civilian in conducting the war. ness of their own Mississippi Colonelthe graduate at West Point-the hero of observer that as the political importance the celebrated V formation in the battle of one race went up in the scale, that of of Buena Vista! The Charleston Mer-

but becoming as little children, and as years, to the claims of the gospel. such, needing wise guidance and caution,

as much as literal children? As the pamphlet goes on to say: "a revival among children must be full of excitement. But it should be more like the liberality towards every good work, and of harmonious excitement of an orchestra, than the tumultuous excitement of a mob. There should be a wise adaptation of all the teaching, exhortation, warning, entreaty, associations, and prayer and exercises to the years, the culture, the susceptibilities, and attainments of children." We should not move a pen in defence of revivals among children, if it were not understood that all precautions of the kind described, and all others needful to exclude a mixture of mere human elements, would be taken.

We need not pause to argue the abstract question. There have been CHIL-DREN'S REVIVALS in the remoter and in modern times, like the wonderful outbreaking of that preordained song of praise, from the mouths of habes and sucklings in the temple, when the Messiah, the Lamb of God, entered it on the first day of the week of his passion. Multitudes of young people were converted in the great awakening of one hundred and twenty years ago, in the time of Whitefield. Johnathan Edwards, the Tennents, Dr. Griffin, and others. One authority says of this revival : "The souls of very many little children have been remarkably enlightened, and their hearts wonderfully affected and enlarged, and their mouths opened, expressing themselves in a manner far beyond their years." Another authority | says: "It is well known that the revival showed its greatest power, and won its greatest triumphs among the young." The story of Phebe Bartlett, a convert of these times, as told by Jonathan Edwards, is a Christian classic. She was but four years old when she experienced a change of heart, and a consistent life of sixty years attested

* "Little Ones in the Fold :" Introduction. * "Revivals among Children," a paper prepared for the Suffolk County, New York, Sabbath-school Association by Rev. Epher Whitaker, and recently published by the Association. t "Revivals among Children."

JOHN R. LATIMER.

When a man of intelligence, energy and activity, of warm sympathy and generous noble and amiable personal traits of character. has even passed the allotted term of three score years and ten, there is no preparation in the public mind or in the hearts of his friends for his loss. . He has their wise, and generous use of their adlived into so many places of interest and of importance: he has become, in human judgment, so necessary to the welfare and success of so many undertakings; he is so closely entwined in the happiest and best associations of so many lives, that he is like a chief pillar in some stately edifice, which would be imperilled in every part by its removal.

Mr. JOHN R. LATIMER, of Wilming ton, Del., had just past his seventy-first year, when, on the morning of the 18th instant. without an hour's warning, he was called away to another state of being. Many, very many, have heard this intelligence with the same shock as if it had befallen a valued friend, in what is called the prime of life.

"He arose," says a Wilmington journal " on the morning of his sudden death, in his usual health and cheerfulness, and after attending to some little matters on his place, he started for town, and on his way he was attacked with severe pain in the region of the heart. Turning his horse homeward, he reached his house, and in about half an hour expired in his accustomed chair in his library. Thus ends the earthly course of one of our oldest, most distinguished and useful citizens.

"Mr. Latimer was born near this city. and had just passed his 71st year. In early life he entered a counting-house in Philadelphia, and after a few years of severe application to business, he was permitted to gratify the desire of his boyhood, by going to Canton, China, where, in connection with several large commercial houses in Boston. New York, and Philadelphia, he spent nearly twenty years. Having been successstrife of war. ful in business, he returned with a competence, which was all he desired; purchased and made his home the beautiful spot near this city, which has been rendered all that fine culture and good taste could secure for the residence of a gentleman of leisure and wealth.

"There he has spent nearly thirty years as happily as otten falls to the lot of men. Yet with all the inducements to ease and inactive luxury, he has ever been active in every good work." and the stated to be Mr. Latimer was a regular attendant

on the services of the Central Church, as these great services and sacrifices for of raising a man up merely to fling him down. American Tract Society (Boston).

of wealth, of honor, and of affection. We may cherish, too, a hope that, though unconnected with the church by outward profession, he knew the power of religion, which he always honored, and was sus-Redeemer. The world can spare such men, only in the hope that the example of vantages of wealth and station will stimulate others to like pobleness of character and conduct.

RIGHTS OF FREE COLORED PERSONS IN THE NORTH.

The war will ever be memorable as having afforded to a down-trodden and desnised race a chance to right itself, by displaying the highest qualities of manhood in the fiery ordeal of battle. A prejudice against the colored people at the North, as strong, in the minds of the majority, as the sentiment of caste in heathen nations, was with difficulty so far overcome as to allow them to enlist in the army of freedom. The alacrity with which they flocked to the standard_ so long an emblem of oppression and wrong to their race-the noble indifference they showed to the unjust distinctions which were observed towards them in the matter of pay and bounty; their extreme docility and subordination; their ready acquisition of all the essentials of the military character; their cleanliness, sobriety, and high moral tone, as compared with many others in the ranks; their steady bearing in the thick of the conflict; their heroic charges up to the very muzzles of the enemy's guns, into the jaws of death, as at Fort Wagner, Port Hudson, before Petersburg, and on the north of the James, have won for them a place, as brave and daring soldiers, by the side of the most illustrious armies

"Charge !" Trump and drum awoke, Onward the bondmen broke; Bayonet and sabre stroke Vainly opposed their rush, Through the wild battle's crush. With but one thought aflush, Driving their lords like chaff, In the guns' mouths they laugh. Frampling with bloody heel Over the crashing steel, All their eyes forward bent Rushed the black regiment.

parody. Human nature cannot possibly resist

war." The obstinacy of Mr. Davis, in his boldly denounced as a chief cause of the

into some sin which is against their REV. A. M. STEWART will preach on habits; sometimes by a revelation of the Sabbath next, (29th,) at 101 A.M., in true excellence of which their fault is the Rev. Dr. Dales' Church, and at 31 P.M. in Rev. A. Barnes' Church. On both such an appeal for honorable recognition, AMBITION often plays the wrestler's trick occasions he will present the cause of the

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