

Miscellaneous.

GIVING AS AN ELEMENT OF CHRISTIAN WORSHIP.

The presentation of offerings needs to be recognized as an act of the purest, most elevated Christian worship.

That we are to take the words of the Bible in a literal sense, and "bring an offering" when we come into his courts, as we bring a prayer and a psalm, many do not understand.

Under the ancient economy, a large part of Divine service consisted in presenting offerings. Of old, men used their tongues less in serving God, and their hands more.

The first worship of which we have an account, was not by prayer, nor by singing, nor by sermon; and no sacraments were administered.

Is there anything in Christianity that changes this? The sacrifice is abolished, the priesthood has given way. Prayer and praise are as needful as ever.

Then what a mistake those wise men made who came from the East when they heard Christ was born, and brought gifts, gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

Our Saviour made almsgiving of the very essence of the Gospel. He received the most costly gifts presented in homage to himself.

An offering expresses feelings with an emphasis no other mode of worship does. It is a symbolical act of acknowledging that God is entitled to all our possessions.

The Gospel has developed a spirit of benevolence which makes charitable institutions the characteristic of Christian civilization.

The Sabbath profaned by making offerings to the Lord! It is the day, and the church is the place, for this most imper-

ative, most grateful and hearty, most acceptable and solemn, act of worship. While we are not to abstain from charity, as we do not abstain from prayers, on the other days of the week, there should be a more marked and thankful offering made on the Sabbath, as a special tribute of praise to the Redeemer.

AFTER THE WAR.

There is a thought in connection with our recent war which we often dwell upon with pride. The most sanguine supporters of the war did not conceal from themselves, at times, a certain degree of anxiety as to the future of the great armies devastating the United States.

Look at the rank and file of the army! Where are the hundreds of thousands of gallant sun-bronzed men who marched up Pennsylvania Avenue not many months ago?

Then look at that vast multitude of routed, beaten, discomfited men, whose valor has almost atoned for the sins of rebellion.

What dreadful things they were going to do! They would make the South a Mexico. They would be like the Spaniards when a Bonaparte was placed over them.

They would become the most desperate bandits on the earth. The guerrillas would be mere haberdashers compared with them. They would burn, murder, destroy. Woe to the Yankee trader who came among them!

They would turn, murder, destroy. Woe to the Northern laborer or capitalist who presumed to take an acre of their most sacred soil. Better they had never been born.

They would become assassins, and shoot them at night, on their farms—yes, in the very church, at the foot of the altar. Lee's capitulation ended the war—only to begin a strife infinitely more deadly.

moved upon at Donelson edits an indifferent newspaper at New Orleans, while the Commander of the rebel cavalry at Corinth is his local reporter. Marshall practices law in New Orleans; Forrest is running a sawmill; Dick Taylor is now having a good time in New York; Roger A. Pryor is a daily practitioner at our courts; and so with the rest of this bold, vindictive, ambitious race of men.

MR. RUSKIN ON MAMMON WORSHIP. "A nation cannot last as a money-making mob; it cannot with impunity—it cannot with existence—go on despising literature, despising science, despising art, despising compassion, and concentrating its soul on pence."

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No. 117 contains: Dr. Bigelow on the Limits of Education; Mrs. Gaskell on the Bolton Estate; Wives and Daughters; Poetical works of Henry Taylor; The Brothers' Trust; by Jean Ingelow; The Black Game; Grand White on the Genes; Adelaide; Adelaide Anne Proctor; The Economic Value of Justice to the Dark Races; Egypt; Ancient and Modern; and thirty Poems, one of which is by Jean Ingelow.

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Presbyterian and Theological Review. THE JANUARY NO. VOL. IV. Contains several articles of unusual ability and interest, on Sermonizing, Relations of the Old Testament to the New, the Nature and Validity of Induction, the War for Independence and the War for Secession, the Patriotic Doctrine of the Sacraments, the Westminster Confession in England and Ireland, Mill's Examination of Hamilton's Philosophy, and Bushnell on the Atonement, by Prof. Shedd, H. B. Smith, Harbaugh, H. N. Day, and Drs. Wm. Adams, Schaff, and Gillist.

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Mortgages, Real Estate, Ground Rents, &c., 297,278 86 Loans on collateral security secured, 112,899 62 Premium notes secured by Policies, 26,604 70 Cash in hands of agents secured by bonds, 60,000 00 Cash on deposits in U. S. Treasurer, at 6 per cent., 50,331 67 Cash on hand and in banks, 10,454 10 Accrued interest and rents due, Jan. 1, 1866, \$966,461 79

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