

OUR RELIGIOUS COLUMN.

To Sabbath School Teachers. Dr. Tyng recently warned Sabbath School teachers against the round-about way of praying and teaching; it reminded him of the Vermont boy who crooked his gun-barrel to shoot around a hay-cock. There are too many teachers of the "salt and sugar" character—afraid of rain, or cold, or dew. Punctuality was wanted, and a persistent effort, renewed week by week, for the accomplishment of the great purpose. Put on the harness, and do not fail to improve every opportunity for good. In Philadelphia, many years ago, he found a little girl crying at night, in the storm, having been lost on her way to church. She was cared for, her Christian education was attended to, and she became in time the wife of a clergyman and the means of the conversion of many souls, among whom was the son of the speaker, the late Rev. Dudley A. Tyng.

Answer to Prayer. "Ask, and ye shall receive." So fully has this promise been verified to me in my labors in the Sunday-school, that I have been led to give some account of it, in the hope that some fellow-teachers, fainting under the burden of responsibility, may be led to seek more earnestly at the throne of grace for Divine strength and guidance. In this great work, may be encouraged, cheered, and stimulated in this labor of love.

Mine was a class of boys, ranging in their ages from eight to twelve—bright, active, restless spirits. I realized fully all the qualities essential to their judicious moral and religious training, and how unequal I was to the task. I had no love for the work; only a fearful sense of duty and responsibility. It was a burden under which I was well nigh sinking, until I was led by the spirit to cry earnestly to God for strength in my great weakness, for wisdom for a spirit of love and patience, for earnestness, and faith, everything which I needed to fit me for the training of immortal souls.

I bore each precious one by name to the throne of grace, asking of my Heavenly Father gifts for each, according to his needs. He graciously heard and answered my petitions. There was a marked change in the spirit of the class. The very things I asked for each one individually seemed granted, while He graciously filled my own soul with such a love for the work, such a tender, earnest, loving interest in each one, that what had been a burden became a joy and delight. And I rejoice in the assurance that He will continue to hear my prayer, and that the seed sown in these young hearts will spring up and bear fruit to eternal life.

O, why are we so backward in coming to God, when we have the full assurance in His blessed Word that He is only waiting to be inquired of, to pour us out a blessing. Fellow-teachers, plead His precious promises in faith, and you will receive the blessing; plead with God till you have the spirit of your blessed Master in this great work of saving souls; plead earnestly till each precious soul committed to your charge is gathered into the Saviour's fold.

SUMMARY OF GENERAL CHURCH NEWS. PRESBYTERIAN.—The following despatch was sent over the Atlantic cable after the votes in the General Assemblies in New York, on the question of reunion:—"NEW YORK, May 29, 1899.—Thomas Nelson, Editor of the Christian Register, has been elected to the office of Moderator of the General Assembly, which will meet in Middle Tennessee, May 30, next. One hundred thirty-three Presbyteries, 1,000 ministers, and 1,000,000 members, are expected to be present."

Dr. Robert Davidson, delegate from our Assembly to the Free Church of Scotland, read this despatch in the Free Assembly, in the midst of great applause. The Rev. Drs. Boggs and Baily expressed their gratification at the result, in a speech which was warmly welcomed by all parties in the Assembly.—Presbyterian.

We learn from the New York Observer that the General Assembly of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, met at Murfreesboro, Tenn., May 30. This Church is next to the Old and New School, the largest body of Presbyterians in the country—and was the only branch that was not divided geographically by the war. In 1810 their first Presbytery of three ministers was organized in Middle Tennessee. They number 30 ordained ministers, and over 100,000 members, 23 Synods, and about 90 Presbyteries. The Assembly expressed the conviction, that it would not be for the best interest of the Church for the ministers of two races to meet in the same pulpits, and recommended the formation of Presbyteries of colored ministers, and the establishment of a theological seminary for colored students.

The pastoral relation of Dr. Eells with the First Presbyterian Church of San Francisco was dissolved by Presbytery on the 1st instant. His people having reluctantly consented to the same at a very full meeting of the church and congregation on the evening previous. The Presbyterian Church at Oakland, California, and the Second Presbyterian Church of Cleveland, which Dr. Eells served with much acceptance in years gone, were applicants for his services. Deciding in favor of the latter, he was duly dismissed accordingly, to take effect July 1.

The United Presbyterians' report this year shows a membership of 45,224, while another represents it as a small gain. There are 565 ministers, of whom 401 are in service, 726 congregations, 24 churches organized or received, and 14 dismissed or dissolved, 597 Sabbath schools, and 1,000,000 members. For home missions the appropriations for next year are \$31,400, for freedmen's missions \$12,200, for foreign missions \$70,000. There are 74 students in 5 theological seminaries. The total salaries of pastors and stated supplies were \$888,278; contributions, \$2,141,923; general contributions, \$78,725; total contributions, \$2,141,923; average per member, \$11.38; legacies received by the boards, \$39,943; average salary of pastors, \$2,141.92.

The Scottish Presbyterian Assemblies recently closed their annual meetings. A correspondent of the New York Observer writes that "The Free Church still stands at the head of these denominations in respect to liberty. Through its members are by no means rich, they have raised for religious purposes the large sum of \$430,000. Next to it, in this connection, is the United Presbyterian Church, whose income this year is \$318,000; while, last of all, comes the Established Church, whose voluntary contributions amount to only \$153,000. It is something to say of a small and poor country like Scotland, that it gives well to a million a year for the cause of Christ; but it is a significant circumstance that the church in which gives most for missions, etc., is the church whose ministers are supported by the State. There is hardly such a thing as education in the habit of giving as well as in every other good thing, and it is evident under the shadow of an establishment that the habit does not find free scope for exercise." The meetings were harmonious, and there were indications that soon a promise an ultimate union of the various branches of the Presbyterian Church in Scotland.

The Rev. George H. Smyth, of the Sixth Church, of Washington, D. C., accepts the unanimous call of the West Church of Wilmington, North Carolina.

The Rev. James A. Little, of the Third Presbytery of New York, has accepted a unanimous call from the church in Holkondeau, Pa.

The Rev. G. A. Dickey, formerly of the Fourth United Presbyterian Church, Allegheny, as received and accepted a call to the First Presbyterian Church (New School) at St. Louis.

BAPTIST.—The Baptist General Association of Virginia

reports 443 Sabbath Schools, of which 400 have 24,843 teachers and scholars, and report 130,928 conversions. The State Convention has appointed 15 for and 0 against; Green street, Philadelphia, 15 for and 0 against; a colored church in Baltimore votes 309 for and 1 against.—Independent.

—Rev. Charles E. Cheney, of Chicago, who is to be tried by an ecclesiastical board for the offense of omitting the words "regenerate, etc.," from the office for the baptism of infants, has been informed by Bishop Whitehouse that none of the signers of the late protest against Ritualism and High Church notions will be allowed to sit on the Court. The Right Rev. Henry J. Whitehouse is the fit bishop of that diocese, which has struck out the word "Protestant" from its name. He packs his juries.—Independent.

—In the largest Episcopal church in Mobile, after a contribution is taken up, it is ceremoniously handed to the pastor, who asks all who have contributed to the offering, what solemnly consecrates the collection with prayer. Every one gives something.

—Bishop Armitage refused to attend a recent Bible Society meeting in Milwaukee, as "it was not in accordance with his principles to participate in mixed societies like the American Bible Society."

—A Protestant Episcopal rector of Chicago recently preached a communion sermon on the duty of receiving the bread with hands crossed, and of casting the bread on the floor, and touching it with the fingers.

—The following remarks are timely—"In some of our 'fashionable' congregations a man without kid gloves is as much out of place as his would be on an evening at a distinguished professional boots. And it is because they feel that they cannot vie in elegance with their neighbors that the poor often stay away from church." To which the *Advance* replies—"True, but where there is one such church as this, there are ten which are glad to shelter the poor and the destitute, such a strong indictment, yet keep the poor away for all that! They leave their kid gloves at home, perhaps, but their well-to-do indifference toward the poor as repellent as the dainty version of the former. They don't want to be disturbed in their ways, they don't want the trouble of making the acquaintance of these people; they do not exercise Christian cordiality. They never think what a comment on their lives is the life of Christ!"

—The Rev. Dr. Pendleton, in a letter to the *Southern Churchman*, reports a very extensive religious interest in the Military Academy at Lexington, Virginia. On Whit Sunday he presented sixty-six candidates to Bishop Whittle for confirmation, of which number "four were young ladies, distinguished professors of the college and institute, four assistant professors in the institute, and forty-eight cadets."

—The last suit against the Trinity Church corporation, New York, is based on the ground that it has forfeited its rights to its funds, because it has converted them to other uses. Its rector having joined Dr. Ewer in calling Protestantism a failure; and also because the corporation will give no account of its funds, and perverts them to the destruction of morals by leasing its property to those who keep houses of ill-fame.

—Dr. Joseph Cross, formerly a minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church, afterwards a minister of the Methodist Episcopal Church South, and still later a minister of the Protestant Episcopal Church, has recently accepted a call to the rectorship of the John's Protestant Episcopal parish, Buffalo, N. Y.

QUAKER.—The modified character of modern Quakerism, by which it is assimilating itself in spirit and work with other Christian bodies, is seen in the issue of the *Monthly Record*, an English journal devoted to the home and foreign missions of the Friends. An account is given of numerous breakfast meetings held last winter in London, some attended by 1000 men and others by a many women, and addressed mainly by Quakers and Quakeresses; but "several of different denominations have, under the restraining influence of the love of Christ, at times vespally taken a part in the religious meetings." On one occasion "two clever men of the press were present to produce a satirical article for their newspaper; but the Word of the Lord came with such power to their souls, that their evil purpose was forsaken, and both are now zealous laborers to build up the faith they once sought to destroy." Mention is made of half a dozen missionaries now in Madagascar. A similar movement is going on in this country, especially in the West, and a new life is being infused into a body which seemed slowly disintegrating. The remarkable revival in Richmond, Ind., in which the Friends have taken so active a part, is an example in point.

MORAVIAN.—The Moravians of the world are all connected in a single bond, which is now in session in Herrnhut, Saxony. There are 44 members present from Germany, Great Britain, the United States, Canada, South Africa, Surinam, Antigua, Jamaica, Greenland, and Labrador. The election of President brings out one of their peculiar notes. On the first ballot, Rev. Felix Ernst Reichel received 41 votes. He declared himself unable to decide to accept the position without the use of the lot, which was in the negative. On the second ballot Rev. Gustav Reichel received 34 votes; but also requested that the lot be used, which was in the negative. On the third ballot Rev. Levin T. Reichel received 35 votes, and accepted the position. The first session ever held was called by Count Zinzendorf, and met December 6, 1736. It had but 10 members, and but a single subject of deliberation—the speedy decay of the Gospel over the world.

CATHOLIC.—On May 30 there was witnessed at Broadford Catholic Church one of the most imposing sights ever witnessed in Kildare, Ireland. It was the close of a Mission opened by three of the Obleate Fathers of Inchicore, the Rev. Messrs. Kirby, Ryan, and Gaughan. In inviting these preachers to his parish, the Rev. Father, Rev. Felix Tracy, has added considerably to the deep debt of gratitude which his affectionate flock owe to him.—*Tablet*.

—The will of Rev. John Kenyon, late P. P. of Templebury, Ireland, by which he bequeathed all his property to the Christian Brothers, has been established. The will was impeached on the ground of undue influence by Mr. Peter Gill, who had retained forcible possession of the house and property.

—The Feast of the Blessed Sacrament was celebrated on May 30 in the Church of the Passionist Fathers, at Highgate, with great splendor. There was Solemn High Mass in the morning, and in the afternoon grand Vespers were beautifully sung, a sermon was preached by the Rev. Father Vincent.

—The editors of the *Revista Universale* announce that, with the approbation of the Archbishop of Genoa, they have organized a committee to collect and forward to the diocesan authority funds out of which substitutes may be provided for poor ecclesiastics drawn for the conscription.

—The corporation of the City of Manchester, in a spirit of justice and generosity, has agreed to contribute £3000 towards the Catholic Industrial School, provided an additional £3000 be added by the Catholic inhabitants.

—On May 30 his Lordship the Bishop of Liverpool held his triennial visitation at St. Joseph's Church, Ribblesdale lane, Preston.

—Another effort is about to be made by the Government of India to remove the Catholic missionaries who are in captivity in Tibet.

—On May 30 the Lord Bishop of Galway administered the Sacrament of Confirmation in the Pro-Cathedral of St. Nicholas, Galway, to 640 persons of both sexes.

A pastoral letter to the clergy and laity of the diocese of Westminster, from his Grace the Archbishop of Westminster, was read in all the churches and chapels of the diocese on May 30.

The cathedral of Killarney has been suitably supplied with an organ of proportions and of qualities that make the instrument second to none in the empire.

A neat and beautiful little chapel was opened in connection with the convent of the Sisters of Mercy, Hamstead, near London, on June 1.

Cardinal Antonelli is reported to be in a dangerous state of health.

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