The * Star.

Subscription 24.00 per year in advance.

CHARLES S. LORD Editor and Proprietor

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 1910 Entered at the postoffice at Reynoldsville

SUMMERVILLE PELEPHONE NO. 61.

"A VALID RELIGION FOR THE TIMES.

A Review of a Book Recently Written By Rev. Parley P. Womer, a Former Reynoldsville Man.

searching criticism to which all Christian teaching has been subjected in recent years, was sorely needed in the interest of a purer and more rational faith. Now that its work in the main is accomplished, and its intensity has begun to abate we are confronted with the task of dealing properly with the message of truth that is left.

With these words the Rev. Parley P. Womer, a former Reynoldsville man who is now pastor of one of the largest Congregational churches in St. Paul, introduces a new volume entitled "A Valid Religion for the Times," which has just been published by a prominent New York book house. It is throughout an attempt to recordle the old and the new in the conflicting beliefs of the Christian church, an effort to show the reasonableness of seeking scientific basis on which to rest faith in the doctrine of Christianity. It is meant for the busy and practical people who are deeply concerned with the truth of their religious belief, but who have not the time to follow the processes by which the trained thinker obtains his results. As devoted a believer in Christ as it is possible to be, Rev. Womer yet recognizes the need of taking a more advanced stand in teaching the truth of the gospe! than is common in our churches and does not hesitate to free his mind from the restraints of bigotry when such limitations corflict with the evidence of modern research. in presenting the book he makes little claim for its originality, but states that he has simply laid under tribute many writers and has gathered that which has brought immeasureable satisfaction and uplift to himself, in the hope that it may meet like needs in others.

The foreword to the book is from the pen of Dr. Washington Gladden, and that emment churchman expresses his sincere pleasure in assenting to the truth of the work. Nor is it easy to see how any one, honestly and conscientiously seeking for a rational interpretation of Christianity in the modern world can dispute the evidence

The writer never stumbles in his path while gazing at the stars. He is journeying to an Eternal World, but does not forget that the path thereto Hes through a very practical world. The altar and the temple are good, but he has studied Spencer to some purpose and that a faint suspicion that many holy rites have more of man than God in them. Eestatic devotion is allow-God" also. He cannot sneer at "mere morality" as many churchmen do, seeing that "obedience to the moral sense is an essentially religious act." He has learned that it is possible to worship God without naming Him.

There is a verse in the older versions little sympathy. The Revised Version is to him more plausible: "Every Scripture given by inspiration of God is profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for instruction that is righteousness." The former quotation has been cited in support of the contention that the content of the Bible had been dictated to its writers in such a way that they were the mere tools and instruments of the Divine Being.

In point of fact the statement is not that the Bible as we now have it was thus dictat-



I will visit Reynoldsville October 5 and Brookville October 6. All the newest in lens and the best methods for testing the eyesight. If your eyes need care call in.

> G. C. GIBSON, OPTICIAN.

WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH REYNOLDSVILLE?

A LITTLE RHYME AND A LOT OF COMMON SENSE.

Did you ever sit and ponder Just what made the old town dull, And just why things were simply on the blink; Does your mind reflect and wonder Just what caused this awful lull? If you haven't done so yet it's time to think.

You have heard some people knocking, There are some who kick and swear, And some awful things to you they'll say; But when they want a stocking, Or some other things to wear, They send to old Chicago, U. S. A.

But when they want a small donation To help a friend in need, They tell a hard luck story every day; Is there any hesitation? There shouldn't be indeed, To send to old Chicago, U.S. A.

Let's "boost" this town with all our might, And do not run it down, But say we've got the best town in the State, And don't be so "all fired" tight. Just spend your cash in town, Then this town will "get there" sure as fate.

ed, but merely that every Scripture, or comby inspiration of God, is profitable in a moral and spiritual way. The statement referred at the outset to the Hebrew writings, most of which are included in the Old Testament. but it is no violation of the spirit of the statement to make it include every writing and every book that possess a real spiritual value... We have come to recognize that all truth is from God ... The statement of Paul applies of course to the Bible, but it applies with equal force to every other book that possesses a real spiritual worth.

In dealing with the Bible, the author subjects it to the same test that he would any other book claiming authority, confident that that which is true cannot suffer from honest investigation. He finds that-

It is unquestionably true that the Bible as whole is profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction... but it is not all equally profitable, and there are some parts which are not at all profitable as teaching or as reading matter. ... The stories of barbaric cruelty in the Old Testament, of murder, of wicked bloodshed in war, of sexual lewdness, and other portions of a similar kind, can scarcely be regarded as profitable in a moral and spiritual way There is, in fact a real and urgent need for an expurgated text that is put in good modern English... and that contains only such parts as are profitable to

Rev. Womer's religion is the sane belief of a sound-minded, reasoning man, who does not believe that scientific truth can be one thing and religious truth diametrically opposed. In expounding the Bible to his congregation he has not hesitated to discard those portions of the text which will not stand the scrutiny of modern re search, and regards many parts as merely figurative. He has no time for pious "twaddle" and allows no false reverence to stand in the way of a critical analysis of all things, however able, but "a sense of duty is a sense of sanctified by ancient custom. He is convinced that by such study alone may the world advance closer to the Kingdom of Truth, which is God.

The religion he upholds is not a negative, but a positive force. He abbors materialism and holds before his readers constantly the sacrificing love of of the Bible to the effect that "All the Great Example. The love of God Scripture is given by inspiration of and the love of our brothers are closely God," with which Rev. Womer has allied. In the last chapter of the work, "The Fellowship of Sympathy and of Upward Striving," the writer deals directly with the Church as it is to-day and seeks a reason for the apparent lack of interest in it among the great body

> radically different basis from that which for fifteen centuries it has recognized. Instead of a tight ecclesiastical fraternity erected upon a dogmatic foundation, it must be converted into "a brotherhood of a new life," into a fellowship of sympathy and of upward striving... There are indications from many quarters that the church will be forced eventually to take this attitude and when it is taken, the hard problem of Christian Unity;; that has been confronting the churches for centuries, will have been mastered. Sympathy is constructive and unifying. It draws the souls of men together. Sectarian divisions cannot long continue when the churches have become reestablished upon a basis of sympathy, when they stand pre-eminently for brotherhood and service rather than for dogma ... Let it be remembered that the church began without the creeds; and it has no more need for them now than it had at the beginning.

> For such a church many earnest souls are walting. Good men do not stand aloof from the organization as it now is because it is too religious, but because it is not religious enough. They see it uncertain and hesitating in its i message, concerning itself with what seems unreal and paltry, weakened by its divisions and rivalries, and they cannot respect is. Many who are now without the Church would greet with ardor a church life that offered them a new and abiding life in Christ, that took no thought for itself, that dared to stund squarely and firmly upon the principle of Jesus; "he that leseth his life shall fine it." and that without pretense or equivocation was a fellowship of sympathy and of upward striving.

["A Valid Religion" for the Times," published by The Broadway Publishing Company of New York City, \$100.1

the proved time military at Flo Best's

If you want a sweater for a child, late or man, buy it at the Peoples AULD LANG SYNE.

The following items appeared twenty-eight years ago in THE REYNOLDSVILLE PAPER, then edited by G. C. Brandon.

John Dillman has been confined to his home for a week past with mumps.

Mr. J. C. Barto has opened a grocery and confectionery store in the building adjoining de Gontard's jewelry store.

There are quite a number of new buildings n course of erection about town at present. This speaks well for the place.

The yield of maple sugar this year is small— very small—but the supply of "fresh maple syrup" made from old sugar is larger and nastier than ever.

Our Catholic fellow citzans intend holding monster picnic in this place on the Fourth of July.

The Cincinnati ENQUIRER says:-"One of he most promising young artists in New York is Will S. Reynolds, who a few years ago conducted a small country paper in Reynoldsville, a lumber town in Pennsyl-

W. S. Ross, proprietor of the Ross House, is having a threestory addition put to the hotel which will make a great improvement in the appearance of the house

There will be a match game of ally ball in Reynoldsville on Saturday. The contestants are John Lee and Foly White against John Bassett and Ed. Bolger, four of the best players in Reynoldsville. They play for a purse of fifty dollars.

Are we going to have a Fourth of July

Mr. J. C. Wilson, principal of the borough schools, was the happy recipient of a very handsome gold toothpics—a present from his pupils on the last day of school. The presentation was made by Miss May E. Iseman in behalf of her school mates.

The desertion of John O. Sheatz from the ranks of the Keystone party supporters has its counterpart in Jefferson county, where the chairman of the convention held in Reynoldsville, which sent delegates to the Phila delphia convention which nominated Berry, has parted company with the movement, believing, as Sheatz does, that it no longer represents a true fusion reform movement, but has, by its endorsement of Democratic legislative and congressional candidates, allied itself inseparably with the latter party. As the election draws closer, sentiment in the county seems to be crystalizing in favor of either the straight Republican, or the straight Democratic

PITTSBURG EXPOSITION.

Low Rate Excursion via Pennsylvania Railroad.

On Wednesdays, September 7, 14, 21, 28, October, 5, 12 and 19, the Pennsylvania Railroad will sell excursion tickets to Pittsburg from Driftwood, Lawsonham, Sligo and intermediate stations at low rates. Tickets good on all regular trains on day of issue andgood returning within four days, including date of excursion, Consult Ticket Agents.

Stubborn As Mules

are liver and bowels sometimes; seem to balk without cause. Then there's trouble-Less of Appetite-Indigestion. Nervousness, Despondency, Headache. But such troubles fly before Dr. King's New Life Pills, the world's best Stomach and Liver remedy. So easy. 25c at Stoke & Feight Drug Co.

Drop in and see the new fall styles of men's shoes with the high heels. Adam's Boot Shop.

Display of fine millinery at Flo Best's Thursday, October 16th.

A. Katzen has bought a large stock of goods for the fall and winter and has great bargains for everybody. Don't miss seeing them. Call and see.

New line of silk waters at Bing-Stoke



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THE kind of clothes that skilled tailors are proud to make are the kind that you can be proud to wear.

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