



OUR RELIGIOUS COLUMN

ITEMS OF INTEREST TO ALL DENOMINATIONS.

To-Day is the Day of Salvation—How John Bunyan Got Out of Prison—What There is in the Word 'Friendship'—Notes and Comments.

Now is the Time.

We can not call back yesterday. We can not rectify the errors, undo the wrongs, or gather the wasted opportunities of the days that are gone; nor can we reach into the days to come, and pluck from them those fruits which we desire. Our only day is to-day; we must make the most of it. Our only time is now, we must improve it. The swiftly flying moments hurry from us; it is of our duty to stamp them with a record of duties well accomplished, services rendered, blessings...

There are some patent medicines that are more marvelous than a dozen doctors' prescriptions, but they're not those that profess to cure everything. Everybody, now and then, feels "run-down," "played out." They've not got power to generate vitality. They're not sick enough to call a doctor, but just too sick to be well. That's where the right kind of a patent medicine comes in, and does for a dollar what the doctor wouldn't do for less than three or four.

Let us, with soberness of mind, with steadfastness of purpose, with reverence and with godly fear, address ourselves to the duties of to-day, being diligent in every good work, showing ourselves servants whom God can approve. And if there be one unsettled thing, one unforgiven sin, one shadow between our souls and the pure light of Heaven—let to-day end all that, and witness our emergence into the clear sunshine of blessing which God alone can bestow. "Behold now is the accepted time; behold to-day is the day of salvation. To-day, if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts."—The Christian.

How John Bunyan Got out of Prison. Bunyan was a sturdy controversialist, and was often very severe on the Quakers. But he learned that through the intercession of that sect he obtained his release from prison.

It is a somewhat noteworthy fact, now well authenticated, that Charles II. liberated Quakers and Puritans from confinement through the personal intercession of the Quakers, among whom was Richard Carver, who was the mate of the fishing vessel which conveyed the king to France after the famous battle of Worcester, 1651. This honest Quaker sailor, after twenty years had roamed away, appealed to the king in person in behalf of those who were in prison. When the fugitive king fled for life, this sailor conveyed him on shore. The vessel was bound for Poole, coal-laden, with two passengers, who passed for merchants running away from their creditors. The fugitive king and Lord Wilmot were landed at Feamp, in Normandy, upon the back of a Quaker, and the vessel recrossed the channel to Poole.

When the honest sailor appeared before his majesty, the king expressed his astonishment that he had not previously sought some reward. The sailor replied that he had merely done his duty, and God had rewarded him with peace of mind.

And now, since we ask nothing for myself, but that your majesty would do the same for my friends that I did for you; set the poor, pious sufferers at liberty, that you may have that peace and satisfaction that always follow good actions.

King Charles thereupon pardoned 471 Quakers, and many Independents and Baptists—among them John Bunyan. Ever after Bunyan was a friend to the Quakers.—Christian Witness.

Friendship.

How little some see or feel in this word "friendship." Yet how much there really is in it. Few there are without friends, but though most of us have what we term friends, few of us have the real, faithful friend for which the heart yearns. Whoever has worldly prosperity has what the world terms "friends." But let the prosperous man lose his wealth, and the vast army of flatterers vanish as snow before a warm sun. Or let ones character be charred a trifle, and scores will wait to see the drift of public opinion and fall in with the majority. When one has a friend to stand every test, then he has something to prize.

Among those most liable to be true friends we name first our mothers, sisters, fathers, brothers. Sometimes we find these real friends among strangers, and a sacred tie binds heart to heart. The best friendship is always Christlike, and the purest earthly love is enjoyed only by Christians.

The friendship of our Savior is always unfeigned and can be depended upon. We know from experience, it is the only friendship we are absolutely sure of having for the asking, and by asking for it, it is ours for all eternity. Dear one, have you this friendship?—Our Prison Missionary.

How a Girl Built a Church. The result of every act is judged by the faithfulness of the doer. We may not have the ability to accomplish great things ourselves, but we have the power of setting such an example of readiness and fidelity that others may be influenced to do that which

we are too weak to accomplish. Here is an instance showing how the ambitions of a child were brought to fulfillment: A poor child in Philadelphia, the daughter of a very poor widow, died a year or two ago. During her long sickness her heart was full of peace and the sweet love of the Saviour.

Just before she died she put into the hands of her minister a small paper box that had contained some of her medicine. In the box were fifty 3-cent pieces, which she had been saving up for a long time, and she had earned each piece by hard work. She said to her minister: "After I am dead I want you to take this money and build with it a church for the poor people in this neighborhood."

The minister could not keep back his tears as the box was given to him; and there came to him the purpose to make the little box a means of carrying out her design. The minister took the box of coins and showed it to a rich lumber merchant, who had never cared anything about religion. The merchant at once offered to give lumber for building the church. Other people who saw the box and heard its touching history gave money, and very soon the pretty mission church will be finished. The poor Christian child's lamp will grow into a light-house to guide many souls to a higher, better life.

Faithful Chiseler. The steadfastness of many of the Christian converts in China during the recent persecutions has called forth the admiration not only of the natives, but of many friends who have witnessed the fidelity of these converts. During some of the late riots the leaders of the secret sects said to the Christians, "Sacrifice to the spirit of Confucius, and you shall go." But they would not sacrifice, though painful and violent deaths awaited them. Many who have been skeptical hitherto as to the character of the converts in China confess that they have not understood the strength of their convictions, and the genuineness of their faith.—Missionary Herald.

Church and Clergy. Bishop Brooks says the way to start a church is not to wait until a few leading families call for one, but to start the church and call in the families afterwards.

The Rev. J. W. Wilson of Indianapolis has entered upon a vigorous crusade against church fairs, grab-bags, rallies and other schemes to raise funds for church purposes in illegitimate ways.

The Methodist General Conference decided in favor of equal representation of lay and clerical delegates. The pews are rapidly taking equal place with the pulpit in directing the policy of this great church organization.

The Christian Union lays it down as a fact that a deteriorated quality of young men are going into the ministry nowadays. It doesn't attempt to account for it, but leaves the reasons to be inferred. Probably the chief one is that the salaries are not up to those paid to similar talent in other professions. A clergyman cannot be expected to support his family on that.

The Methodist Episcopal General Conference at Omaha decided that pastoral relations shall not be extended by abolishing the present time limits of five years. The vote disclosed the fact that 142 delegates favored abolition of the limit, while 238 were recorded in opposition. Contest over this question is not ended, but many years will elapse before the opponents of itinerancy succeed.

The Rev. Dr. Rainsford of New York has made a startling suggestion. He proposes that church people and others concerned for the improvement of popular morals should establish and maintain drinking saloons of a superior kind, where light wines and coffee shall be sold, and where billiards and other harmless games may be played. His suggestion will hardly be adopted with a rush, but it would secure a new rush for the churches, even with the coffee dropped from the project.

The Preaching That Kills.

The preaching that kills, says the Methodist Christian Advocate of Nashville, may be, and generally is, orthodox, dogmatically, inviolably orthodox. We love orthodoxy. It is good. It is the best. It is the clean, clear-cut teaching of God's word, the trophies won by truth in its conflict with error, the leaves which faith has raised against the desolating floods of honor or reckless misbelief; but orthodoxy, clear and hard as crystal, auspicious and militant may be, and the letter well shaped, well named, and well learned, the letter which kills. Nothing is so dead as a dead orthodoxy, too dead to speculate, too dead to think, to study, or to pray. The preaching that kills may have insight and grasp of principles, may be scholarly and critical in taste, may have every minute of the derivation and grammar of the letter, may be able to trim the letter into its perfect pattern, and illumine it as Plato and Cicero may be, but it does not study it as a lawyer studies, but it looks to form his brief or defend his case, and yet be like a frost, a killing frost. Letter preaching may be eloquent, enameled with poetry and rhetoric, sprinkled with prayer, spiced with sensation, illumined by genius, and yet these be but the massive or chaste costly mountings, the rare and beautiful flowers which cotta the corpse.

It is equally dangerous to give a sword to a madman, and power to a depraved man.

Popularity of Postal Savings Banks.

The system of postal savings banks was introduced in France in 1882. During 1890 the 6,917 branch postal banks received 1,193,373 separate deposits, representing a sum of \$30,465,932.47, which is a far larger sum than was handled during the previous year. The number of new accounts received during the year was 348,493, which was the largest number received in any year since its organization, showing clearly the increased popularity of the institution. Of the above number of new depositors 150,787 were women and 499,806 were men; one-fourth of the entire number were minors.

As an evidence how largely these French postal banks are patronized by the poorer classes it may be stated that in 1890 there were 486,862 individual deposits, amounting to \$4 and under, \$20,240 in sums between \$4 and \$20, 155,345 of from \$20 to \$40, 216,620 of from \$40 to \$100, and 41,964 of sums above \$100. Of the entire number of depositors one-half or more are credited with sums of less than \$20.

That the system is one of great value to the people of France is indisputable. Indeed, it would have been strange had it been otherwise, as in England, Canada, and elsewhere, where it has been long and vigorously maintained, have fully met the expectations of their founders.—New York Sun.

Always Late.

It was Archie Cole's wedding-day. From boyhood he had been late at school, late at church, late everywhere. "I'll wager," said his brother John, laughing, "that you can't be first even to kiss your bride at the wedding!" "Oh, I'll not be late, then," said Archie.

Two hours later Archie stood with the pretty maiden by the flowers in the parlor of her home. The guests were seated. The minister rose. Archie's face was white as the prediction were known to them all. Nevertheless Archie knew he should not be late now, for his dear old mother had made all the guests promise not to precede him in kissing the bride.

"I don't ever get relief. But after all I was soon convinced that there is a real remedy which really cures epilepsy. In the month of April I commenced to take Pastor Koenic's Nerve Tonic, the effect of which was so marvelous that only once since then has the fit returned, but now five months have elapsed and not a symptom of the disease showed itself. I am, therefore, convinced that the Nerve Tonic is a real cure for epilepsy and that I have hold it in grateful remembrance. A MUCKENSTUM.

Free a Valuable Book on Nervous Diseases sent free to any address.

This remedy has been prepared for the treatment of all nervous diseases, and also 95% and is now prepared under his direction by the KOENIG MED. CO., Chicago, Ill.

Reid's German Cough and Kidney Cure.

A summer cold is a disagreeable thing. It comes from exposure to the dews of evening or to the night air, and it is almost always followed by an attack of malaria or by cholera morbus. When you feel chilly, which is the first symptom, take a dose of REID'S GERMAN COUGH AND KIDNEY CURE. This great remedy is the best thing for throat complaints and, obstinate maladies that arise from a cold, such as asthma, catarrh, and bronchitis. All of these begin with a cold that is neglected, until it develops into a settled disease. REID'S GERMAN COUGH AND KIDNEY CURE contains no poison, and it can be taken freely and given to children without danger. It is a never-failing remedy for croup and will relieve the worst case instantly. Ask your druggist for it, and do not let him give you anything else. The small bottles are 25 cents, the large ones 50 cents.

The Only One Ever Printed—Can You Find the Word?

There is a 3-line wordy advertisement in this paper this week which has no two words alike except one word. The same is true of each new one appearing each week from the Bradfield Regulator Co. This house places a "crecuto" on everything they make and publish. Look for it, send them the name of the word, and they will return you BOOK, MATCHES, LITHOGRAPHS, or SAMPLES FREE.

Should Loosen Their Corsets.

A French physician explains the gurgling noises which some ladies complain of as emanating from their abdominal regions, by saying that the corset so constricts the stomach as to divide it into two parts, and then the act of respiration causes the gases and liquids to pass from one part to the other in a noisy current. He claims that such sounds cease when the stays are removed and are heard again when they are applied.

Very Important to Lovers of Music.

Lovers of music, 53 Monroe street, Chicago, have just issued the catalogue edition of their land catalogue, which contains 400 beautiful illustrations and describes every variety of musical instrument obtainable. Better send in your address for one to-day.

Easter.

Easter may come as early as March 22 or as late as April 25. The rule was adopted 1,500 years ago, making Easter the first Sunday following the full moon after the first sunrise the equatorial line in the spring.

LONDON has the largest telegraph office in the world, where more than 3,000 operators are constantly employed.

The man who courted an investigation says it isn't as good as courting an affectionate girl.

PLEASEBURY, WILTSHIRE, ENGLAND. These advertisements apply to HALE'S HOME or HOUSEHOLD SOAP.

THE REASON A DOG CAN LOOK SO KNOWINGLY because he can't say anything to spoil the effect.

If you are troubled with malaria take Houghton's "Pills" speedily, nothing like it. 25 cents a box.

The True Laxative Principle.

Of the plants used in manufacturing the pleasant remedy, Syrup of Figs, has a permanently beneficial effect on the human system, while the cheap vegetable extracts and mineral solutions, usually sold as medicine, are permanently injurious. Being well-informed, you will use the true remedy only. Manufactured by the California Fig Syrup Co.

"Do you consider this piano any more reliable because it is upright?" inquired the caller. "No, sir," answered the dealer; "those others are perfectly square."

If afflicted with Sore Eyes, use Dr. J. A. Thompson's Eye Water. Druggists sell it.



Scrofula In the Neck.

The following is from Mrs. J. W. Tillbrook, Mayor of McClelland, Tenn.: "My little boy Willie, now six years old, two years ago had a very bad case of scrofula in the neck, which the doctor lanced and it discharged for some time. We then began giving him Hood's Sarsaparilla, and he has never been very robust, but now seems healthy and daily growing stronger."

PASTOR KOENIG'S NERVE TONIC An Infallible Remedy.

I am 57 years of age now; since I was 16 years old I was afflicted with epilepsy. In Germany I was treated by one of the best physicians for five years, but no relief. It then came to America and here I tried many so-called cures for that terrible disease, but I was so disappointed that I gave up all hopes of ever getting rid of it. I didn't ever get relief. But after all I was soon convinced that there is a real remedy which really cures epilepsy. In the month of April I commenced to take Pastor Koenic's Nerve Tonic, the effect of which was so marvelous that only once since then has the fit returned, but now five months have elapsed and not a symptom of the disease showed itself. I am, therefore, convinced that the Nerve Tonic is a real cure for epilepsy and that I have hold it in grateful remembrance. A MUCKENSTUM.

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CHILD BIRTH MADE EASY!

"MOTHERS FRIEND" is a scientifically prepared Lincture, every ingredient of recognized value and in constant use by the medical profession. These ingredients are combined in a manner hitherto unknown.

"MOTHERS FRIEND"

WILL DO all that is claimed for it AND MORE. It Shortens Labor, Lessens Pain, Diminishes Danger to Life of Mother and Child. Book to "MOTHERS FRIEND" containing valuable information and voluntary testimonials.

YOU NEED NOT FEAR THAT people will know your hair is dyed if you use that perfect imitation of nature,

Tutt's Hair Dye

It imparts a glossy color and fresh life to the hair. Price, 51c. Office, 20 Park Place, N. Y.

AN AKERS' CURE FOR PILES

AKERS' CURE FOR PILES. It is a simple, safe, and effective remedy for piles. It is sold by all druggists and by mail. Sample free.

LOVELL DIAMOND CYCLES

For Ladies and Gent. Six styles of Diamond and Gemstone Cycles. Superior Frame, Steel Drop Springs, Steel Tires, Adjustable Ball Bearings to all running parts. Strictly HIGH GRADE in Every Particular. Send 6 cents in stamps for our 100-page illustrated catalogue of Bicycles, Tricycles, Sporting Goods, etc.

BARLOW'S INDIGO BLUE.

The Family Wash Blue, for use by Grocers.

LYON & HEALY

Will sell you their ready-made suits, overcoats, and all the latest styles of clothing and furnishings, at the lowest prices.

"August Flower"

Miss C. G. McCLAVE, School-teacher, 753 Park Place, Elmira, N. Y. "This Spring while away from home teaching my first term in a country school I was perfectly wretched with a human agony called dyspepsia. After dieting for two weeks and getting no better, a friend wrote me suggesting that I take August Flower. The very next day I purchased a bottle. I am delighted to say that August Flower helped me so that I have quite recovered from my indisposition."

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C. K. WILBER, General Agent, CHICAGO.

WE WANT YOU TO GO.

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HARTER'S LITTLE LIVER PILLS

DO NOT GRIPE NOR SICKEN. Sore cure for SICK HEADACHE, Biliousness, Constipation, Indigestion, Nervousness, etc. It is a safe and reliable remedy for all these ailments.

DR. HARTER MEDICINE CO., St. Louis, Mo.

DR. T. FELIX GOUBAUD'S ORIENTAL CREAM OR MAGICAL FRIGORIFER.

Removes Tan, Freckles, Pimples, etc. It is a safe and reliable remedy for all these ailments.

EWIS' 98% LYE

The strongest and purest Lye made. Unlike other Lye, it being a fine powder and packed in a can with removable lid, the contents are always ready for use. Will make any clogged pipe, drain, or sewer, clear in 20 minutes without boiling.

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For Eastern Property: Good Farming Lands, Counties, etc. Good Building Sites, etc. For Southern Property: For Full particulars address RALPH ROGERS, 217 West First Street, Los Angeles, Cal.

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Dr. J. Phelps Brown, the eminent Epileptic Specialist and Hereditary Hunter, has discovered that Epilepsy is caused by a diseased condition of the stomach and prepared his celebrated HERBICURE, a natural remedy which has cured THOUSANDS of cases. Send for particulars, testimonials and literature on the Cause and Cure of Epilepsy.

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PATENTS! PENSIONS!

Send for particulars, testimonials and literature on the Cause and Cure of Epilepsy.

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For Ladies and Gent. Six styles of Diamond and Gemstone Cycles. Superior Frame, Steel Drop Springs, Steel Tires, Adjustable Ball Bearings to all running parts. Strictly HIGH GRADE in Every Particular. Send 6 cents in stamps for our 100-page illustrated catalogue of Bicycles, Tricycles, Sporting Goods, etc.

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Please say you saw the advertisement in this issue.

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Sold by druggists or sent by mail. Dr. E. T. Hamilton, Warren, Pa.