

Christian Nation

"BE THOU FOR THE PEOPLE TO GODWARD."

VOL X, Whole No. 243.

NEW YORK, JUNE 12, 1889.

TWO DOLLARS PER YEAR

Christian Nation.

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WESTERN OFFICE, ESKRIDGE, KANSAS.

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God, who is the source of all authority, has appointed our Lord Jesus Christ the Ruler of Nations. The Bible, God's revealed Will, contains law for Nations, and is the standard by which all moral issues in political life are to be decided. National acknowledgment of this authority, and obedience to this law, constitute a truly Christian Nation.

EDITORIAL BRIC-A-BRAC.

WORDS are simply inadequate to express the feelings of the people generally concerning the terrible flood which so recently inundated Johnstown, Pa., and the Valley of the Conemaugh. At this writing it is believed that no less than fifteen thousand persons were drowned. In all the history of America nothing to equal this calamity has been visited upon her people, and we are awe-stricken in the presence of such an extraordinary revelation of the hand of our God, in affliction. "The floods have lifted up their voice," and we have heard it in deepest sorrow. The duty of the hour is generous aid to the survivors of the flooded district, and earnest prayer that God will help us to realize that such visitations are by no means causeless, and that He will touch the heart of this nation and open her eyes to see what it is He will have it to do.

"God works in a mysterious way
His wonder to perform,
He plants his footsteps in the Sea
And rides upon the Storm."

The dead are ours in memory. Let us honor their memory by more faithfulness to the living, and greater loyalty to God.

WE listened with a great deal of interest at the meeting of the Synod of the R. P. Church to an address on the work among the Colored people of the South, by the Rev. Mr. Curtis, a white missionary in Selma, Alabama. Some of Mr. Curtis's facts are as humorous as edifying. He told of the great ignorance of many of the so-called colored preachers in the South, who cannot either read or write, and who glory in their lack of education. Said one colored preacher: "I am a better preacher because I cannot read or write. Anybody can preach who can read, but to be able to preach without being able to read, requires the direct inspiration of God." Another colored Deacon said to Mr. Curtis that in the days of slavery there were more Christians among the colored people than now, as the people were driven to the Lord. "Then," said Mr. Curtis, "it would be better for the colored people if slavery had never been abolished." "Well," said the colored brother, "We felt all that; but we knew that slavery was driving our white brethren into hell, and we didn't want to see them all lost."

THERE is much difference of opinion as to the probable result of the election in Pennsylvania on the approaching eighteenth of June. Will the Amendment to the Constitution carry? Will the Christians in Pennsylvania take their stand on the Lord's side in this matter? The people of that State are mourning because of the deluge that has drowned fifteen thousand of her citizens. The hearts of the people are stirred with sympathy and respond to the cry for help with unmeasured generosity and haste. Oh that they would heed the fate of the thousands of fellow-citizens who are every year destroyed by the deluge of rum, and respond to the heart-broken appeals from rum-stricken homes for help! Dear voting readers in Pennsylvania, will you not hear and heed this cry also? Your help is needed. Your help on that day may mean the saving of thousands of souls to the Redeemer.

One of the very finest papers on the question of temperance that has been given to the public in recent years is the Report on Temperance, read by the Rev. R. J. George at the Synod of the R. P. Church last week. The Report says in part: The liquor traffic is entrenched in three powerful lusts of the depraved heart—the lusts of gain, of power and of appetite. The lust of gain leads a class of citizens to seize upon the hard-earned wages of millions, snatch the bread from the mouths of defenceless women and children, and fill their coffers with gains reeking with the blood of souls. Government shares its revenues and gorges the national treasury with the price of blood. Through the lust for power men ally themselves with the system of evil, barter their principles for ballots, and sacrifice the dearest interest of the home on the altar of the saloon for the political ends. Christian men stifle their consciences and give their support to political parties known to be dominated by the liquor power. The lust for pleasure leads the votaries of the cup to disregard every warning voice, and rush madly forward to a drunkard's grave, and drop into the pit of hell. There are three methods of dealing with the liquor traffic. First, leave it free while seeking to rescue its victims by moral suasion; Second, by license, high or low; and third, by complete prohibition. The advocate of license argue this: (1) License is partial prohibition—prohibits all unlicensed persons from selling at certain times. It prohibits the sale to certain persons. It is restrictive and condemnatory—expresses disapproval by fixing hard conditions upon the traffic. We reply: The licensing of the liquor traffic is an utter disregard of the purpose for which civil government was instituted. The government consents to the business and wickedness and protects it in its work of death.

IT is well known that the Reformed Presbyterian Church forms at least the nucleus around which, or rather by the moral influence of which, the National Reform Association has grown up in our midst. It is therefore of great encouragement to know that this Church, at its present Synodical meeting is impressed with the very great progress which the movement has made and is making. We were deeply impressed by the stirring addresses made, and by the evidences of progress brought out by the speakers. It was argued by many that in the twenty-five years of agitation, the movement has reached that point where a more frequent and determined presentation of the Christian duty of political dissent is demanded, but a resolution to that effect could not be carried. The majority thought the time for this had not yet arrived. There was perfect agreement, however, in this fact: that the time was never so auspicious as now.

W. W. CARITHERS WRITES ABOUT HIS INDIAN MISSION.

FORT SILL, INDIAN TERRITORY.

To the Editor of the CHRISTIAN NATION.

So many sorry accounts have been carried back by the Oklahoma boomers, that failed to get any land, that probably many people think the whole Indian Territory is about as fertile as an old brick yard and very much the same color.

I have never seen Oklahoma. We ran through that country in the night. But others who have been there for months have told me that the soil is red and thin and will probably, as a farming country, do better for raising cotton than any thing else. They also report very little timber as compared with this part of the territory. On the land set apart for our use there is an abundant supply of timber, if properly cared for, to answer all our purposes for firewood; a stream runs along the Northern line, and along this is a strip of timber; just close to our tents are two walnut trees that would be over four feet in diameter. For about one quarter mile on the south of this creek there is a rich, black, loamy soil. Then it rises and the land is thinner, but still it raises a good heavy crop of grass. On this elevation we expect to set the buildings. It has many inhabitants at present for it is the site of a prairie-dog town; the inhabitants will sit up and bark at us as we work. Along the creek we have perhaps ten acres, broken and planted in corn, sorghum and pumpkins, but the ground got too dry for plowing and the seeds planted are almost all waiting for rain. Everything is needing rain badly and a strong South wind that has been blowing steadily for six days is drying up what little moisture is left.

We have the posts set and the wire is on the road to fence about one hundred and thirty acres. We have a good deal of the material on the ground to put up a picket house that we will live in for the present, and afterwards it will probably be given to the horses for a shelter. A picket house is made of small logs set on end in a trench, and the cracks between the logs daubed with mud. It is, I believe, a Mexican contrivance and makes a right comfortable house when well made.

We are at present trying to get a well down; how far we will have to go for water no one knows, for no one has a well anywhere near here. The Indians all live along the creeks and use the creek water. It has been almost impossible to get any help here for some time, all being gone on the Oklahoma craze, but we are looking for the rebound to load this country with men looking for work. And while the great majority of them are just as worthless as they can be, and live, yet we hope to get some help in getting up the buildings and getting the work along from them.

Running Northwest and Southeast is a line of low mountains, and this is about two miles from the corner of our land. They are almost solid limestone, not having enough dirt over it to support grass, but various kinds of plants get a foothold; just now in many places they show very yellow with some kind of bloom. I have not been near enough to know what it is. Thousands of cactus grow over these mountains, of the pin-cushion variety, their buds are just ready to open. If any of the ladies would like specimens of the cactus they can write to me and I suppose it would be but fair that they should enclose stamps for postage. Along the base of these mountains are numberless springs. These feed the streams that run through this region with an almost unfailing supply of water, but as it travels it dries up and sinks into the sand, so that in the dry season many of them are dry some distance down the stream, while at the head a good stream is running. Our stream runs a strong stream of clear water. I wish I could add that it is cold.

Along these streams are the Indian camps, about six or eight tepees usually compose a camp. And perhaps a mile away another camp. Or you may travel five or six miles before you

reach another one. Their tepees all standing in the edges of the timber, and so low down, makes it very difficult to find them if not well acquainted with the country. Around these camps the children play, but at the first sight of a white man they take to their heels, and he is viewed from the folds of the tepee. They are just as much afraid of a white man as an ordinary white child is of an Indian, but we hope to convince them that we come as their friends, and to tell them of the Friend that is kindest of all.

Your brother,
W. W. CARITHERS.

THE EIGHTH ANNUAL CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOR CONVENTION.

The coming International Convention of Christian Endeavor Societies, in Philadelphia, July 9th, 10th, and 11th promises to be a very important and inspiring gathering. The probability is from the number who have already indicated their intention of going that at least six or seven thousand young people will assemble from all parts of the United States and Canada. The Convention will meet on the afternoon of Tuesday, July 9th, in the Armory Hall of the First Regiment on Broad Street, where the principle sessions will be held, though some of the neighboring churches will also be used and the sessions of one afternoon will be held in Fairmont Park. Such practical questions as "The Three Characteristics of the Society, Loyalty to Duty, Loyalty to the Church and Loyalty to Christ," "The New Prayer Meeting," "St. Paul's Advice to the Sisters," "The Society Interdenominational not Undenominational," "The Young People and Temperance," "The Missionary Uprising," "The World for Christ," and "Christ for the World" will be discussed by eminent ministers and laymen.

The convention sermon will be preached by Rev. C. H. Wells, D. D. of Montreal. Among the prominent speakers will be Rev. A. T. Pierson, D. D., Rev. Wayland Hoyt, D. D., Rev. C. F. Deems, D. D., Rev. O. P. Gifford, D. D., Rev. J. W. Hamilton, D. D., Rev. S. V. Leech, D. D., Rev. C. H. Farrar, D. D., Rev. B. B. Loomis, Ph. D., Rev. L. T. Chamberlain, D. D., Rev. J. W. Chapman, Gen. O. O. Howard, Mr. R. P. Wilder and it is hoped Governor Beaver of Pennsylvania.

The railroads throughout the country have very generally given greatly reduced rates. Raymond and Whitcomb have charge of the excursions from New England and individuals in other States, East and West, have been appointed who will make arrangements for excursion rates. These Conventions are always managed on the principle of self entertainment, and accommodations for several thousands have been secured at Philadelphia hotels and boarding houses, at rates ranging from \$1.00 to \$3.00 per day. Further particulars will be given to any who may apply to Wm. Shaw, 50 Bromfield St., Boston, Mass.

MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

The Executive Committee of the National Reform Association met in Pittsburgh, on Friday, the 24th ult., in the elegant parlor of the Y. M. C. A. Eight members were present, including the honored President of the Association, Mr. Brunot, whose health is somewhat restored. The Committee sat, with a brief interval, throughout the day, from half-past-nine in the morning, to nearly five in the afternoon. An earnest and hopeful spirit filled every heart. The noon day concert of prayer was observed with special supplications. The members parted feeling anew how blessed is the fellowship which we have with one another in this holy cause.

The following outline of the proceedings is furnished by the Secretary:

At a meeting of the Executive Committee of the National Reform Association held in Pittsburgh on the 24th ult., the following matters of general interest were acted upon: