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Faith Cures and Christian Science

ON a summer evening, I was strolling up Madison Avenue in New York, and as I neared Twenty ninth-st., an open church door on which was the following sign, attracted me: "Christian Science testimonies to-night at eight o'clock." I walked in and took a seat. The building was familiar. There the old Rutgers congregation used to worship, and I had heard Drs. Conkling, Stevenson and Booth preach there, and had twice supplied the pulpit myself, as a favor to Dr. Booth in his absence. A woman sat in a chair on the platform behind the "sacred desk," as the pulpit used to be called. There were one hundred and seventy five people in the congregation, and the sexes were about evenly divided.

When I went in a man was speaking from one of the pews and he spoke for a long time. His testimony was remarkable; indeed it was so incredible that I could not believe it. He testified to his personal recovery from skin disease, dyspepsia, tuberculosis, and a number of other ailments, by simple faith in divine healing. He went farther than this, and said that although he had never been able to see without glasses, and was as helpless as a blind man without them two years ago, that he was suddenly cured. His experience was as follows: He was at the seashore, dropped his glasses, accidentally stepped on them and crushed them to atoms. He could not replace them and was helpless. He exercised faith, saw clearly at once, and had never worn nor needed glasses since. He offered to bring witnesses to prove his statements, and gave his name and address. He spoke simply, without manner or rhetoric, and said that he gave his testimony whenever he had a chance, to glorify God and advance Christian Science.

There were several other testimonies, by women, but they were emotional and hysterical and amounted to nothing. Christian Science hymn-books were in the pews, and there was occasional singing. It was a very hot night and after an hour's sitting I went to my hotel. The cir-

cumstance made more impression upon me because I had recently received several letters, asking my opinion upon faith healing and similar subjects. The Christian Scientists teach that spirit is the only entity, that matter is entirely subject to spirit, that all spirit is of God and in God, and, therefore, if my spirit is in perfect harmony with God, I cannot suffer or be diseased. Hence they say that what are called suffering and sickness, are imaginations and simply show that my spirit is not in perfect accord with God at the time. Faith healing resembles this theory thus far that those who expect a cure because they pray for it and believe in it, think that their special sanctification and the indwelling of the Holy Spirit warrant them in expecting special results, both bodily and spiritual, from their prayers.

For a careful, reverent, and thorough discussion of this subject, from the point of view of a Christian man of Science, though not a Christian Scientist, I would refer to an address made by Dr. Willis E. Ford, of Utica, before the Young Men's Christian Association of that city in November, 1887, upon "Miraculous Cures." From this paper, I venture to quote a few sentences of a general nature, which are illustrated by many cases of personal experience in an extensive practice:

"Faith in the efficacy of mysterious and miraculous means for curing diseases is the legacy of centuries of superstition, of mistaken religious teachings, fostered in later days by the pretensions of ignorant or designing persons, by the half-implicit sanction of some religious bodies, and by the teachings, as well as the manners, of many physicians of the age just preceding ours. * * *

"The doctrine of the faith healers or those who employ the prayer cure, seems to be based upon a misconception of the meaning of certain isolated passages of Scripture regarding the efficacy of prayer. Now the intelligent religious world believes in prayer, its necessity for the good of the subject, its efficacy in the manner appointed by God, but it does not believe that fervent prayer, with faith without any other effort can, or ever does, or ever has since the time of the Apostles, changed the fixed and wise laws of Nature, solely to please and possibly to benefit any individual. If it be admitted that these great laws may be changed, that the order of nature may be reversed in a single case, then it is fair to assume that the laws were and are defective, or that personal solicitation may accomplish what God is unwilling to do for the race, either proposition being abhorrent to any orthodox Christian man. The egotism and assumption of those who promise cures by this means is simply appalling. That the doctrine has not been vigorously attacked by the churches is probably due to the fact that any disparagement might be construed into a general declaration against the efficacy of prayer. There is a great and vast difference, it seems to me, between praying for an object and trusting God for the manner in which prayer shall be answered, and the dictating to the Almighty that He shall do a specific act in a prescribed way and at a given time.

"Carried to its logical conclusion, faith-cure would prevent any such thing as death, and similarly if men set about it, the laws of gravitation, of light and heat could be changed. The whole economy of nature was not set in motion to minister to the personal wish or comfort of any individual or set of individuals, not even men of great faith,

Dr. John R. Davies Dismissed:

New York Presbytery at a meeting held last Tuesday afternoon dissolved the pastoral relation between the Rev. Dr. John R. Davies and the Fourth Avenue Presbyterian Church. Dr. Davies was dismissed to the Presbytery of Philadelphia. The Rev. Dr. F. C. Shearer was appointed to declare the pulpit of the Fourth Avenue Church vacant on Sept. 11, and the Rev. John Bancroft Devins to act as Moderator of the session. Dr. Davies is now pastor of the Bethlehem Church of Philadelphia.

New Synagogue Dedicated

The synagogue of the Congregation Hand in Hand, in One hundred-and-forty-fifth-st., near Brook-ave., was dedicated last Sunday afternoon, Rabbi A. Blume conducting the services. Addresses were made by Rabbi Silverman, of the Temple Emanu-El; Rabbi Kopfstern, of the One-hundred-and-twelfth-st. synagogue, and by the Rev. Dr. Boyd, of the First Presbyterian Church of Morrisania.

FROM MANY FIELDS**PRESBYTERIAN****God-Speed to the Rev. R. H. Milligan**

The Church which is at Babylon, N. Y., on Aug. 28, had the privilege of hearing the Rev. Robert Henry Milligan, who has gone as the minister of the Babylon church to Africa. In May, Mr. L. D. Wishard on invitation of the pastor, the Rev. John Dietrich Long, visited Babylon in behalf of the Foreign Board, and asked the Church to assume the salary of a missionary. This was about ten times as much as the church had been in the habit of giving to foreign missions, but it is so much easier to raise money for a person than a cause, that the amount asked for by Mr. Wishard to send Mr. Milligan to Africa was raised. Mr. Milligan addressed the church twice, and also spoke to the Sunday-school and the Endeavor Society. On the following Monday afternoon he was tendered a reception, and in the evening a farewell meeting was held at which the Rev. C. O. Gray, of Smithtown, L. I., represented the Presbytery. Mr. Milligan sailed by the Ethiopia on Saturday, Sept. 3.

Lima Presbytery

Lima Presbytery on Aug. 23 released the Rev. Dr. J. R. Mitchell from the pastorate of the First Church of Findlay, with many expressions of esteem from the Church and Presbytery, the latter adopting resolutions of appreciation of Dr. Mitchell and his work.

The Rev. V. B. Carroll at Tenafly

In the absence of the pastor, the Rev. F. H. Booth, of the Tenafly church, the pulpit was acceptably supplied on Aug. 7 and 14, by the former pastor, the Rev. Vernon B. Carroll.

PROTESTANT EPISCOPAL**Brotherhood Men to Fleet**

Not less than two hundred members of the Brotherhood of St. Andrew from the local assemblies of New York, Long Island, Newark, and Westchester are preparing to go by special train to Baltimore, to attend the National Convention in that city Sept. 28 to Oct. 2. Prominence will be given in this convention to what may be called National topics. For example, the closing meeting will have for its topic "Our Responsibility as a Church in the Life of the Nation." Bishop Satterlee of Washington, formerly rector of Calvary Church, this city, will preside, and the speakers will be Bishops Doane of Albany, Lawrence of Massachusetts, and George Wharton Pepper. Another subject that will be made prominent is industrial conditions. A popular mass meeting will be held on Sunday afternoon, when the topic will be "Industrial Ethics." Robert Treat Paine of Boston, will preside, and two of the speakers will be Jacob A. Riis "For the Worker," and R. Fulton Cutting, "For the Consumer."

OBITUARY**Mrs. Elizabeth H. Moffett.**

Mrs. Elizabeth H. Moffett, of Charleston, S. C., daughter of the late Charles S. and Elizabeth Simonton, and wife of the late George H. Moffett, entered into life eternal on September 7, 1897, at Portland, Maine.

"Thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

Like a deep and placid river, strong in its currents and noiseless in its flow, blessing every bank that it touched, and upbearing many a bark, reflecting the beauty of Heaven as in a mirror, and through desert and garden, sweeping onward to its goal, such was the life which has gone from us into the life eternal. It is not often in this world of incompleteness, that one meets with a character so symmetrical, in which intellect and heart and will are kept in such perfect relation, and the several graces developed in such just and fine proportion, not often that an ideal wife and mother is also an ideal friend, and worker in the wider fields of usefulness, rarer still, that a Christian is able to keep the sweet serenity of the closet amid the active duties of life, and to unite a robust faith, fed on the "strong meat" of the Word, with that spiritual exaltation in which the rapt spirit sees visions of God and hears voices from Heaven. Yet it was this harmony which seemed to us the crowning grace in our friend. Other lives have as brightly illustrated particular virtues, and have been as admirably adapted for special work. She seemed to gather the broken colors into the shining ray, the various notes into the full sweet chord.

Her strength was always gentle, her calmness was never cold. Her love never flattered, and her reproof never gave pain. The unconscious influence of such a character and life, God alone can estimate. For the common troubles of every day, her sympathy was as ready, as for the great crises of life. The doubting and perplexed sought her wise councils as confidently as the broken heart turned to her for comfort, and none ever went away empty.

Such elect spirits are chosen in the furnace of affliction, and are purified by fire. Not without suffering are vessels made meet for the Master's use, and prepared for every good work. Many and sore were the storms which burst upon her path. Again and again was the sword of bereavement sent through her heart, and the cup of pain pressed to her lips, but in the darkest hour her faith never let go its hold upon the covenant, nor questioned the sovereignty of the hand that inflicted the blow. And so did the moulding grace of God prepare her for her mission of great usefulness in the home, the church and the community. Many will be the stars in her crown, and many the children of poverty, suffering and sorrow who will rise up to call her blessed.

A few months before her death she wrote to a friend, "Under the shadows seems to be my appointed lot, but with mercies overflowing, how can I but rest in the will of God concerning me." Into the sunshine for evermore, she has passed, and to those she loved, who wait still in the shadow, her memory is a benediction and an inspiration.

Miss Anne R. Simonton

Miss Anne R. Simonton, daughter of the late Charles S. and Elizabeth Ross Simonton, entered into her heavenly rest, November 16, 1897, in Charleston, S. C.

She was one of those elect spirits whom the grace of God early fashions as a "vessel of honor meet for the Master's use," and whose consecrated life entitles her to be enshrined in "Memory's holiest urn."

She was gifted by nature with those gentle qualities which constitute the charm of womanhood, and which are distinguished from the Christian virtues only by the added beauty and fragrance of divine grace; and with a vigorous and

clear intellect, which, when developed by a liberal education, and a varied culture, admirably fitted her for her chosen vocation. In 1846, she united with the Second Presbyterian Church, under the ministry of Dr. Thomas Smyth, and for fifty years was one of the most devoted and useful members as a teacher, and for many years Female Superintendent in the Sabbath-school, and as an active worker in the church societies. In 1859, she became teacher in the girls' department of the Bennett school. Her rare gift for teaching and controlling pupils was soon recognized and appreciated, and in 1866 she was promoted to be head of the department; and in 1869 was elected to the honorable and responsible position of Principal of the Memminger Normal School, which she filled with great ability and acceptance until a few months before the close of her life.

The qualities of her character were so evenly balanced that she was never known to lose her self control under the most trying circumstances. She was as firm as she was gentle, and commanded at once the reverence and love of her pupils. She maintained the strictest discipline, without causing them to feel that their sense of right or freedom was in the slightest degree infringed. Her own lofty sense of truth, of honor, and of right was impressed upon their characters, and the moulding influence of her noble example will be felt in the generation she so faithfully served, and ripen in future harvests.

A larger attendance upon a funeral service has seldom been witnessed in Charleston, a well deserved tribute to one so generally honored and beloved in the Church, and the community. "Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord, they rest from their labors, and their works do follow them." PASTOR.

The Rev. John Lafayette Girardeau

The Rev. Dr. John Lafayette Girardeau, one of the most distinguished ministers of the Southern Presbyterian Church, died at his home in Columbia, S. C., in June in the seventy-third year of his age. He was born of French Huguenot lineage, on James Island, near Charleston, was graduated with first honors of his class at Charleston College, completed his theological course in Columbia Seminary and spent his whole ministerial life with the exception of the period in which he served as chaplain in the Confederate army, in his native State. He was an ardent South Carolinian.

Dr. Girardeau was a man of rare gifts. He had a remarkably fine physique, a brilliant intellect, ardent affection, strong emotion and a great power of oratory. Few more eloquent, stirring, and effective preachers have ever graced the pulpit in the land. And undoubtedly the grandest work of his public ministry was that among the negroes of Charleston, to whom he preached the Gospel with great simplicity, clearness, earnestness and power, before the vast congregations which constantly thronged his public services. While yet a young man, Dr. Girardeau was called away from his first and happy pastorate in a country charge, to undertake this work in the city. And so rapidly did it grow in his hands, that one house after another was overcrowded, until in a few years, the white supporters of the work erected the largest church building of the city which still stands, as a monument of their zeal for the religious instruction and salvation of their slaves and even this spacious auditorium was literally packed, galleries, aisles and all, Sabbath after Sabbath to hear him preach. But the scattering of the inhabitants of Charleston by the issues of the Civil War, broke up this great work, and Dr. Girardeau went as chaplain of a South Carolina regiment to Virginia. In this new field, he served with his accustomed zeal and efficiency, and was as popular among the soldiers as he had been among his colored parishioners in Charleston. Near the close of the great struggle, in April, 1865, he was taken prisoner by the Federal forces and con-

ined on Johnson's Island, where he was kept imprisoned until June, several months after the surrender of the Southern armies. But ever zealous to serve the Master, during his confinement amid severe hardships of prison life, he taught with great enthusiasm and success a theological class composed of his fellow prisoners, some of whom still serve in the ministry and testify to his wonderful power as a teacher of theology.

In 1875, when a vacancy had occurred in the chair of Didactic and Polemical Theology of the Columbia Seminary, the General Assembly elected Dr. Girardeau to that important chair; in this capacity he continued to serve until 1895, when having attained the age of seventy, he insisted on retiring. Dr. Girardeau was a noble preacher. With a melodious voice, graceful action, beautiful language, profound thought, and fervid eloquence, he proved to be a very "Master of Assemblies." Few who sat under his ministry will ever forget its impressions. He was also a successful teacher and a gifted writer.

T. H. L. W.

J. S. T. Stranahan

J. S. T. Stranahan, of Brooklyn, N. Y., died at Saratoga Springs, Sept. 3, from an attack of apoplexy. He was born in Peterboro, N. Y., on April 25, 1808. His active career in Brooklyn, with which his public career has been identified spans half a century. It began after the village period of Brooklyn until the city was rapidly nearing its million mark. During that time he was the active promoter of three great enterprises which give Brooklyn a distinct individuality among the great cities, the Atlantic docks, Prospect Park and the Brooklyn Bridge. Of the latter two he was the creator and not merely the promoter. The man and his works and influence are well known and honor his antecedents and training. But to form a true idea of Mr. Stranahan's labors for the advancement of Brooklyn, it needs only to recall the Brooklyn of 1844 and contrast it with that of 1897, or with the greater city which the twentieth century will see. Those are the changes and growth of which Mr. Stranahan could have said, "All of which I saw and part of which I was." He was buried at Greenwood cemetery on Sept. 6, his old time friend, the Rev. Dr. R. S. Storrs, conducting the funeral services at the house and the grave.

The Rev. Thomas Heywood

The Rev. Thomas Heywood died Sept. 2, at his home, 31 Third-st., Elizabethport, He was sixty-six years old. He was born in Manchester, England, and was Past High Chief Ranger of the Independent Order of Foresters, of which he was one of the founders in the United States. He was Deputy Supreme Chief Ranger and was attending a session of the Supreme Court in Toronto, Canada, when he was seized with his fatal illness. He was brought home by his daughter, Mrs. Gillespie, who had been sent for from Elizabeth, and sank steadily until his death.

Mr. Heywood was Past Worthy Patriarch of the Sons of Temperance in Great Britain and was the first person to introduce General Neal Dow, of Maine, to an English audience. For ten years he was pastor of the First Congregational Church of Elizabeth. He was ordained and settled at Chenango Falls, N. Y., after which pastorate he had charge of the Presbyterian Church at Wyoming, N. J., for several years. Since the expiration of that pastorate he had been engaged in the manufacturing business in Elizabeth, having taken charge of the shirt factory owned by his son-in-law on the latter's death. He leaves a daughter and two sons. His wife died some years ago.

Ashbel Green

Ashbel Green, the well known lawyer, died, Sept. 4, at Sunny Hill, Tenafly, N. J. Mr. Green was seventy-three years old. He was the general counsel for the New York Central Railroad, and was at one time a trustee of Princeton University.

He was a member of the bar Association of the city of New York, the Law Institute and the Transportation, University and Riding clubs, and an alumnus of Princeton University.

Mrs. F. H. Masters

The tidings of the death of Mrs. F. H. Masters came as a sad surprise to all her friends. She suddenly passed away at Kineo, Maine, last Friday, of heart failure. The remains were brought to her home in Dobbs' Ferry, and the funeral services were held in the Presbyterian Church on Tuesday afternoon. Mrs. Masters has lived in Dobbs' Ferry about twenty-one years, and she was greatly beloved by all who knew her. Man will mourn her death, and the remembrance of her words of sympathy and encouragement and her deeds of kindness will be rich and permanent treasure in numerous households. Her kindness to the poor and rich was unvarying; her courtesy to strangers was most attractive; she was "given to hospitality," in her tongue was the law of kindness." She loved enthusiastically God's house; she revered His Word; she was abundant in good works. She led a beautiful, gentle, noble life among men, and the force of her example will long abide in the vicinity, and in the hearts and lives of the many young people who have enjoyed the privilege of intimate intercourse with her through the past years. She is absent from her friends here, but she is "at home with the Lord."

The Rev. William H. Ford

The Rev. William H. Ford died Aug. 23, at his home, 513 Bainbridge st., Brooklyn. He was born in Philadelphia Sept. 12, 1848, and was a graduate of the Union Theological Seminary, this city. His first charge was in a small country church in this State, where he remained for a number of years, and in 1883 accepted a call the Middle Reformed Church, Brooklyn. For four years he was the pastor of this church, and in 1887 he went to the Old Bushwick Church, in Humboldt-st., Brooklyn. Two sons and one daughter survive him.

The Rev. James Stephenson

The Rev. James Stephenson, of Jamestown, Ohio, dropped dead from heart trouble Sunday morning at the High Street Methodist Church at the beginning of his sermon.

EDUCATIONAL

Lasell Seminary Doings

Lasell Seminary for Young Women, Auburndale Mass. will put one more year of literature into its already pretty full course letting it be an elective for the Solid Geometry, and Trigonometry. Prof. Herbert L. Rich, who has taught Natural Sciences at Lasell Seminary for several years past, will next year do some special studying at the Johns Hopkins University. His place is taken by G. M. Winslow, who prepared for college at Lyndon Institute, Vermont, graduated A. B. at Tufts in 1895; held the Olmstead Fellowship in Natural History for the next two years, and last year continued his post graduate studies taking Ph.D. in Biology, June, 1898. Miss Carpenter resumes her classes in literature and history. Miss F. E. Wilder assists Prof. Rolfe in the Shakespeare classes. Mrs. Norton will give a course of lectures in home Sanitation.

Chosen Dean at Boston University

Samuel C. Bennett, son of Judge Bennett, the late dean of the Boston University Law School, has been chosen dean of this department of the university. Mr. Bennett has been acting as dean for some time. The trustees were unanimous in electing him. Dean Bennett was graduated from Harvard in 1879, and form the Boston University in 1882. He served as instructor in the law school for many years.

Dr. Bickford Called to a College Presidency

The Rev. L. F. Bickford, Ph.D., has accepted the presidency of the College at Glen Rose, Texas. He begins his labors with fine prospects for a successful year.

CURRENT NEWS

NAVAL AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Commodore J. W. Philip has been detached from command of the battleship Texas at New York and placed in command of the second squadron of the North Atlantic fleet, with the cruiser New York as his flagship. He thus succeeds to Admiral Schley's command and to Admiral Sampson's quarters.

Acting Secretary Allen last week appointed Rear Admirals Sicard, Matthews and Norton a board to consider and report upon all cases of officers deserving of reward for meritorious services during the war.

Passed Assistant Engineer Norton has been ordered to Newcastle-on-Tyne, England, to supervise the completion of the machinery of the cruiser Albany, purchased just prior to the outbreak of the war.

Bids for the three new battleships authorized by the last Congress were opened at the Navy Department, Sept. 1. There were four bidders.

A Washington despatch says that the Navy Department will deliver at Cramps, in Philadelphia, the four vessels of the American line to be restored to the exact condition in which they were when taken for use in the war.

Acting Secretary Allen of the Navy Department, has ordered the release of Admiral Cervera and the crews of the vessels made prisoners in the engagement at Santiago de Cuba on July 3 and they will be promptly transported to Spain at that government's expense.

The report of General H. V. Boynton, upon the condition of affairs in Camp Thomas, Chickamauga Park, has been received by Secretary Alger. In General Boynton's opinion much of the sickness was caused by the filth which too many regimental officers permitted to dominate their camps, contrary to orders. The hospitals as a whole he found to be well equipped with an abundance of supplies, and faithful, hard working doctors and nurses in attendance. When the sickness was greatest there was much inconvenience. The stories of insufficiency of food General Boynton declares originated in the refusal of the nurses to give convalescents all they called for.

The report of Lieutenant Godfrey, commanding officer of the hospital corps with the army before Santiago, has reached Washington, and gives a graphic description of the difficulties under which the work of caring for the wounded was done.

The War Department in order to keep the regular army up to the maximum will have recruiting officers at all stations where volunteers are mustered out, with a view to giving the men an opportunity to enlist in the regular service.

Major General Merritt and his staff sailed from Manila, Aug. 30, on the transport China, leaving Major General Otis in command.

Since the customs house at Santiago has been in the hands of the United States military authorities \$102,093 has been collected. The expenses have been cut down from \$40,000 per annum to \$28,000 and "that in time can be materially reduced."

Orders have been issued by the War Department that all regular army regiments now at Montauk, which were stationed previously east of the Mississippi river, shall return to those same stations.

A large insurgent hospital was opened on Sept. 1 in the outskirts of Havana. It was thronged by visitors from the city.

Orders were issued from the Navy Department, Sept. 2 putting out of commission the auxiliary vessels Restless, at New York, and Suwanee, at Norfolk.

President McKinley spent five hours at Camp Wikoff on Sept. 3, visiting the hos-