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HOWARD AGNEW JOHNSTON, D.D.

Representing the General Assembly's Evange-
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(See page 76.)

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TO ABIDE IN THE FLESH IS NEEDFUL.

By the Rev. H. T. Miller.

O tides of living bliss that never fall,
Rising, swelling, bounding to the shore;
On their stately breast I spread my sail,
And answer signs from lofty semaphore.

What if my joy post-dates the final hour,
Postpones the time of gladness and acclaim?
What if I ask suspension of the shower
Of plaudits, when I leave this troubled main?

I turn the key of Heaven's glorious door
Against myself, that I may labor on,
And serve my Master here a few days more
Before I strike the notes of glory song.

The fight is glorious, and reward is sure,
But souls in need yet urge their mighty plea,
O give me days of toil and nights of care,
Before I anchor in that glorious sea.

Beamsville, Ont.

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Optimistic World and Pessimistic Church

IS THE PREACHER RIGHT?

A CELEBRATED preacher from Great Britain, who has recently spent several months in this country, traveling widely and meeting in familiar intercourse men of all sorts and pursuits, has said publicly, more than once, that he was surprised at the optimism of business men everywhere in America, compared with the pessimism of the Church. In every department of business hopefulness is the rule and despondency the exception. Even when a noted banker returns a prediction of panic to come, the market only yields a few points, to react in a day or two to higher figures. The Boston prophet of disaster has been proved false in his predictions over and over again, and if he really believed what he said, and acted upon his belief, he would have been reduced to beggary several times during the past year.

Even the revelations of bribery, corruption, extravagance and incapacity in great trusts and companies do not seem to have shaken faith in the resources of the nation, in the value of its enterprises and undertakings, and in its onward movement towards prosperity and greatness. Business men, manufacturers, agriculturists, heads of large companies, presidents of literary and scientific institutions, are not only talking cheerfully but acting in accord with their talk, proving their faith by their works, and setting sail for distant ports as if all skies were clear and all winds were fair, and such hopefulness is moreover always an important element in success. In this country at least, pessimism in business usually means decay, decline and disaster, however it may be regarded elsewhere.

But it cannot be truthfully said that this is the attitude of the Church, nor of the majority of individual Christians. It is true that in some places a better condition prevails than elsewhere. The influence of the Federation Conference has been decidedly helpful, and the inauguration of new revival missions in Chicago and Toronto, to be followed by meetings in Atlanta and Philadelphia, has been encouraging to those who have read of the success of the evangelists in Great Britain; but there is no widespread expectation of similar results here, no such enthusiastic success which swept over the land in 1857 and at other times of great awakening. The position of the Church seems apologetic rather than confident; conservative instead of aggressive.

It is claimed by some that the age of doubt is gradually giv-

ing place to a settlement of belief; that the pretensions of many scholastics have been scrutinized and their conclusions reduced to a minimum or entirely discredited, and that the word of God is coming forth, as it has often done before, stronger, clearer and more authoritative than ever. Much is also made of the manifold and increased activities of some parts of the Christian Church, and of the union of ecclesiastical bodies. We believe that all of these things are indeed hopeful signs and should encourage believers in Jesus to firmer faith and renewed effort.

But it must be confessed that the standard of personal piety is different from that which existed even a quarter of a century ago, and quite at variance with that which was universal fifty years earlier. It is not necessary to give reasons and explanations for such a condition. Few people will admit that attendance upon the services of the church is as constant and regular as it used to be; that the Sabbath day is hallowed as it once was in Christian communities; that family prayer and the careful training of children in religious habits and Biblical knowledge and doctrine are general, and that the attitude of the Church and its members toward what are called amusements is generally changed. There is even much question whether Christian charity and the consecration of property to religious uses have kept pace in proportion to the increase of means and opportunity, with the benevolence and self-denial of other days, even though the amount is vastly greater.

Upon the other hand, it may be said that there never was so much diligent and intelligent study of the scriptures as now, nor so earnest and sincere devotion to endeavors for the uplifting of the ignorant and degraded, nor so large a manifestation of philanthropy which has its spring and support in the Christian Church, nor so widespread an interest in questions which have to do with the spiritual life. The age is less retrospective and more practical, it is less dogmatic and more open to inquiry, and if the teaching and training of the Church are less towards belief they are undoubtedly directed as never before toward making its members good and true men and women, even if they are less perfunctorily religious and not so pharisaically critical. To the superficial observer it may seem that there is reason for despondency and lamentation; but to those who look deeper and take a broader view of what the gospel of Jesus Christ has accomplished, and is to-day doing in this country for the masses of people who have grown up in the land, and have been poured into it by millions from other countries, there is no cause for discouragement or loss of heart.

The hindrances and assaults which have to be overcome should only act as stimulants to greater endeavors; changes in popular life should be met by changed methods of dealing with men and things; and faith in the Divine Master should grow stronger, as His disciples come to understand that success is not dependent upon human wisdom and power, but upon the guidance and blessing of the Holy Spirit.

Augustus.

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Worrying furnishes a less ethical motive than the philosophers could wish, but we should recognize its practical value in the affairs of life. To do right and to be right only because we are afraid of the consequences of the failure so to do and so to be, is not so fine a thing as to do and be the best we can for the sake of this doing and being. In other words, it is better to be driven by love than by fear. But still, worrying has its advantages.—H. R. Palmer.

believing in Christ and the Bible has saved me from becoming what you are."

The man dropped his head for a moment. Then he said:

"If I am an honest man I ought at least to be willing to consider it, ought I not? Will you teach me?"

Dr. Winslow consented, and the physician of the mind became the physician of the soul. He showed the young man from the Bible the way out of darkness into light. In three or four days his doubts were all gone, and he went back to France with his mind at rest, for he had settled the question of "Eternity, and where shall I spend it?" He would spend it with Christ in glory.

"Eternity, and where shall I spend it?"

Thank God I know where I shall spend eternity. Do you?

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DR. CHAPMAN IN SYRACUSE.

By Miss Rachel Kollock McDowell.

THE Rev. J. Wilbur Chapman, D.D., of the General Assembly's Committee on Evangelistic Work, with the greater part of his corps of evangelists and singers, will conduct a religious campaign in Syracuse, N. Y., beginning on Sunday and lasting three weeks. Forty churches are banded together for these simultaneous meetings, and a great revival is anticipated. Dr. Chapman will have charge of the central district, and the other clergymen who will labor in Syracuse are: Henry Ostrom, of Green Castle, Ind.; Fred E. Taylor, of New York; Henry W. Stough, of Wheaton, Ill.; Daniel S. Toy, of Baltimore; Robert A. Walton, of Owingsville, Ky.; Arthur J. Smith, of Richmond Hill, Long Island, and Charles T. Schaeffer, of Winona Lake, Ind.; Mr. and Mrs. William Asher, of Minneapolis, Minn., will also work with Dr. Chapman.

Fred Butler, of Yonkers, who gave up singing in the Alice Neilson Opera Company, to take up evangelistic work, and Charles A. Allen, of Winona Lake, will assist Dr. Chapman with the singing. The other singers will be John P. Hillis, Harper G. Smyth, W. H. Collison, Frank Dickson and O. F. Pugh.

The Syracuse pastors are making great preparations. Funds for the expenses of the meetings are being raised, and much in the way of advertising is being done. There will be meetings in each of the six districts every night, except Saturday, and many daily meetings in the center of town. Special noon sessions are being arranged for the students in Syracuse University. The Alhambra Auditorium, one of the public buildings with the largest seating capacity in town, has been rented for mass meetings.

Mr. and Mrs. Asher, who have come to be known as "the saloon evangelists," will conduct meetings in saloons. Dr. Chapman found the Ashers last fall in Minneapolis, while he was conducting a similar campaign in that city. Already he considers them a vital part of his force of workers. Mr. and Mrs. Asher since then have labored in saloons in Paterson, Jersey City, Newark and New York. At present they are conducting a saloon campaign in Atlantic City. Mr. Asher does not preach a sermon on temperance, but gives the men a simple Gospel message. Mrs. Asher sings and accompanies herself on a little portable organ given her by the saloon men of Minneapolis.

Mr. Schaeffer, who is called "the Children's Evangelist" will hold special meetings for the little folks in the afternoon. All his talks are illustrated. While the Syracuse campaign is going on, Mr. John H. Elliott, of New York, will preach every night at Fayetteville, and the Rev. Frank Granstaff, of Marion, O., will hold meetings at Fulton, both being towns near Syracuse.

Christian Activities in New York

MANHATTAN.

Mr. Cauldwell Licensed

The Presbytery of New York on Monday licensed M. J. Cauldwell as a local evangelist, and transferred him to the Presbytery of Alaska.

Friends of Christodora

The annual meeting of Christodora House was held on Tuesday afternoon at the home of Mrs. Arthur C. James, No. 92 Park avenue. Miss C. F. MacColl, the head worker of the House in Avenue B, presented the work of the year and outlined the plans for the year to come.

"The Lady of Shalott"

Miss Ellen Bowick, a well-known English reciter, is to make her first public appearance in Mendelssohn Hall on Monday afternoon, when she will give "The Lady of Shalott," by Tennyson, with a musical setting by Amy E. Horrocks, for violin, cello and piano, it being the first performance of this work in New York.

Laymen on the Forward Movement

A meeting of laymen will discuss topics of missionary interest to-day in the Presbyterian building. There are to be a number of ten-minute addresses. From 2.30 p. m. to 4.30 o'clock, the general topic will be "The Forward Movement." At the evening session, "The Laymen's Part in the Forward Movement," will be considered.

Week of Prayer Fruits

Eleven members were received into East Harlem Church on Sunday. Several of them were brought to a decision for Christ through the special services held during the Week of Prayer. The pastor, the Rev. Charles Herbert Scholey, is now giving a series of Sunday talks in the Sabbath school that are preparatory to a decision day to be held in February.

United Study of Missions

A study class will meet at 156 Fifth avenue, at eleven o'clock on Thursday, for six weeks, beginning to-day. The subjects will be "Africa" and the text-book, "Christus Liberator." The class will be conducted by the author of the book, Miss Ellen C. Parsons.

The committee extends a hearty invitation to all women interested in the subject to share in this exceptional opportunity, whether or not they are connected with missionary societies.

Well Known Men to Speak

Mark Twain, Robert C. Ogden and Booker T. Washington will speak from the same platform at Carnegie Hall on Monday evening in a discussion on Southern problems. The meeting, which is to be held under the auspices of the Armstrong Association, will be presided over by Jos. H. Choate, former Ambassador to England, and promises to be a notable affair.

Students of the Hampton Institute of Virginia will sing negro folk songs during the intervals of the programme. Admission to the meeting will be by tickets, which can be obtained from the secretary of the Armstrong Association, No. 39 East Forty-second street.

Oratorios and Their Traditions

The widespread popularity of the Oratorio introduced at special musical services throughout the country, demands a thorough knowledge of the subject by organists, choirmasters and vocalists, who are to interpret the works of the great

masters. As an aid to students of the organ and the voice, William C. Carl will deliver a course of four lectures under the auspices of the Guilman Organ School, on "The Messiah," "Elijah," "Creation" and "St. Paul," on Thursday afternoons, January 18, February 1, 15, and March 1, at 4 p. m., in the chapel of the First Presbyterian Church, Fifth avenue and Eleventh street. The soloists will be Miss Kathrin Hilke, soprano; Mrs. Rollie Borden-Low, soprano; Miss Effie Stewart, soprano; Mrs. Adele Laeis-Baldwin, contralto; Mr. Edwin Wilson, baritone. Cards of invitation may be obtained by addressing the Guilman Organ School, 34 West Twelfth street.

Dedication Services on Sunday

The new building of the Lenox Presbyterian Church at St. Nicholas avenue and 141st street, will be dedicated on Sunday. The funds for the building and furnishing of the church have been raised as needed, through the efforts of the church and its pastor, the Rev. Thomas W. Smith, and of the New York Presbytery, and the new home of the congregation is entirely free from debt.

Dr. Charles L. Thompson will speak in the morning, and Professor Charles P. Fognani in the evening. The service of dedication will begin promptly at four o'clock. The Moderator of the Presbytery will attend. Dr. George Alexander, of the University Place Church, will speak. Dr. Wilton Merle Smith, of the Central Church, will preach the sermon. Dr. Thomas S. Hastings will offer the prayer of dedication. Morris K. Jesup, president of the Chamber of Commerce, and others have also been invited to speak. A thanksgiving offering will be made.

Love Expressed by Flowers and Gold

The ladies of Faith Presbyterian Church, in this city, tendered a reception to the Rev. Robert R. White and his wife last Thursday evening. A purse containing \$350 in gold was presented to Mr. White and a large bouquet of flowers to Mrs. White. Addresses were made and a collation served. Five years ago Mr. White came to New York from Macon, Ga., to become pastor of the church as the successor of the Rev. James H. Hoadley, D.D., who had occupied the pulpit for twenty-eight years, and who shortly before had accepted a call to the Thirteenth Street Church. The new relationship ripened into one of affection for Mr. White and hearty co-operation with him in the arduous task of maintaining the efficiency and growth of the church, so that to-day the membership is larger and all departments of the work show encouraging progress. Faith Church has never had a dollar of debt, has no pew rents, and is supported entirely by the freewill offerings of the people.

BROOKLYN.

Mr. Dawson Resigns

After six years of labor in the Irving Square Presbyterian Church, the Rev. John P. Dawson has resigned the pastorate to make way for a younger man. Mr. Dawson founded the Irving Square Church, his son, the Rev. Roland S. Dawson, having called attention to the possibilities of the field. The society grew rapidly and Mr. Dawson declares that he feels able to sever his connection now with the assurance that the society will prosper. The Irving Square Church has a membership of over two hundred and a Sunday-school roll of over five hundred.