

The Christian Messenger.

Halifax, N. S., November 22, 1882.

PUBLIC WORSHIP.

ESTHETICS IN CHRISTIAN CONGREGATIONS.

Christ was the perfect man. That the true Christian is the highest style of man is a position not now likely to be called in question.

Applying these principles to the modes of public worship, adopted by Christians, we may learn what is required to make it an acceptable service.

The more free modes of worship adopted by Baptist and other congregational Churches—praise, prayer, exhortation, and the ministry of the Word, we believe give fuller scope, and more opportunities for spiritual guidance and control, than where all is prepared beforehand on the printed page.

It is possible that the aesthetics of gospel worship are not duly considered by some congregations, and they fail to adopt the language, tone and manner most in accordance with gospel refinement.

Vulgarity has no place in the gospel nor in the House of God, and it cannot be one of the products of Christianity.

The culture of the New Testament is that of the heart, and the life; and the soul, imbued with this could hardly be content with such services as consist merely, or largely, of a rigid adherence to forms and ceremonies.

It is sometimes claimed that vestments add dignity to the officiating clergyman. We have serious doubts if they do not seriously detract from the spiritual effect of his services and become a barrier to his usefulness.

The order of worship, the singing and prayer and preaching should be so arranged as that the formalities are forgotten by the worshippers while the spiritual exercises are deeply impressed on their hearts, and they are led to deeper concern for the highest interests of their own souls, the souls of their fellow worshippers and their fellowmen generally.

ELECTRICAL DISTURBANCE.

On Friday and Saturday last, there were great disturbances in the electrical condition of the atmosphere, interrupting the telegraphic communication and making the despatches most unsatisfactory.

It was reported from Chicago on Friday that "fully two-thirds of the sky is ablaze to-night with aurora light of many colors, a rare phenomenon in this region."

And from Washington, "great trouble has been experienced to-day in collecting weather reports on account of the general demoralization of telegraphic circuits."

The following is given as the opinion of a well known electrician on the subject:

The latest astronomical theory is that at periods of about eleven years the conjunction of the minor planets affect the solar atmosphere, causing sun spots to be very marked. This results in profound electrical disturbances.

THE LATE REV. G. W. THOMAS.

The West Roxbury News, published in the locality where our departed brother last labored, has a very appreciative article referring to their affectionate regard for him and his labors.

He had just entered his thirty second year having hardly passed the threshold of what seemed a most promising career of usefulness. He was born in Nova Scotia, but received his training for the ministry at the Newton Theological Seminary.

He was watchful, impulsive and ardent, he threw his whole strength into the work of his sacred calling, he devoted all his gifts and acquisitions, that through a healthful christian growth, he might secure to his chosen denomination a permanent foothold in this community.

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THE CHRISTIAN MESSENGER

is the old established Christian newspaper of these provinces—the father of them all. A good religious newspaper has much to do with the happiness of every family into which it comes.

Thousands of Families who would be benefitted in every respect, and that to a very large extent, by becoming subscribers to the Messenger, who are now depriving themselves and their families of what they should know as well as those who are already subscribers.

Every New Subscriber who sends us his Two Dollars will receive THE CHRISTIAN MESSENGER FROM THE DATE OF OUR RECEIVING THE PAYMENT TILL DEC. 31, 1882. MAKING THE REMAINDER OF THE PRESENT YEAR, FREE.

Will the Ministers kindly announce this to their congregations at some convenient time, and speak a word to encourage those who are not subscribers to become so at once.

THE UNION EVANGELISTIC MEETINGS were largely attended last week in the Tabernacle, Brunswick Street.

On Saturday a stirring Temperance meeting was held and after warm earnest addresses by Mr. Chubbuck and others, upwards of eighty came forward and signed the Total Abstinence pledge.

On Lord's Day Mr. Chubbuck preached in Granville Street Church in the morning. In the afternoon a meeting was held in the Academy of Music, which was crowded by a most attentive and interested audience.

THE WESTESLEYAN of last week copies from the N. Y. Independent, an article on "Close Communion" which commences by saying:

Under the title "The Sins of Close Communion" the Rev. E. H. Pratt tells in The Evangelist several stories which have come in the experience of a single pastor, illustrating what are not, in the language of Professor Wilkinson, "The amenities of Close Communion."

THE REFORMATION, from a Baptist Point of View. From the Toronto Globe we learn that Professor Newman, recently gave a lecture on this subject at McMaster Hall. The report contains a summary of the lecture:

During the early ages of the Christian Church the imperfect process of assimilation that took place between the Christian, Pagan, and Jewish elements resulted in various forms of error being developed, such as Ebionism, Gnosticism, and other departures from the Apostolic faith.

Of course, we recognize the necessity of wisdom in dealing with awakened souls, so as to prevent, as far as possible, their thoughts being occupied with observations when they should be fixed exclusively on the Gospel of Christ.

The London Freeman of Nov. 3rd, received since our last issue, has an excellent article on "Evangelistic Services" referring especially to the course pursued by those evangelists, who in order to avoid giving offense to certain parties, ignore the ordinances of initiation and communion in Christ's Church.

The Boston Watchman says:—Rev. Charles Spurgeon, Jr., preached last Sunday, morning and evening, to immense audiences, at Clarendon Street in the morning, and Tremont Temple in the evening.

Arabi has written to the Times declaring that the late war carried on by him was in accordance with the laws of God and man and consonant with a solemn decree of a council under the presidency of the Khedive and Der-vish Pasha.

A PROPOSAL.

A horse is an animal for everybody. If you have not a horse yourself and do not need a book about the animal you know some one who has one and who would highly value a book on the subject.

Every one of our Subscribers who sends on his subscription for 1883 for the 1st of December, 1882 shall receive a copy of DR. KENDALL'S TREATISE ON THE HORSE AND HIS DISEASES, post free, by sending a request for it with their subscription.

On Friday night the theatre at Gross Reeskerd, Austria, was set on fire, by the upsetting of a petroleum lamp and the building was partially destroyed.

On the Mongolian frontier of Russia there were last month, large prairie fires raging and covering 70 square miles and consuming numbers of Cossack outposts and villages.

Byterian friends to determine. Whether they are accustomed to administer the communion to a dying woman, they may know better than we do. If they are, and did so, as stated in this case, we may only regret that she had not received better Protestant teaching, but we are glad to find that her husband, while offering no objection to his wife's wishes being complied with, yet gave no countenance by himself joining.

Such setting aside of the Lord's revealed will would be reprehensible in any one, it is especially so in those whose action professes to be a fulfillment of the commission in which that will is expressed.

The Admiralty have received information from Egypt of the recovery of the despatch book of Prof. Palmer, who with his party was murdered by Bedouins.

President Grevy is reported to have had an attack of apoplexy. A duel with swords was fought between Cornudet, a member of the Paris Chamber of Deputies, and the editor of a Democratic paper.

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The various estates in the Finland Dioc, have petitioned the Czar for permission for the introduction of a bill granting full liberty to the press in Finland.

In the New York Customs on Wednesday, a package which ought to have contained diamonds to the amount of about \$80,000, shipped on board the steamer City of Chester, and consigned to Louis Strassburger & Co., Maiden

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News of the World.

In the House of Commons on Monday of last week, Mr. Yorks moved for a select committee to enquire into the alleged treaty with the Irish members of Parliament imprisoned in Keltmainham jail before their release.

Heavy gales were blowing on the western coast of England on Wednesday and Thursday. Five pilots were drowned while attempting to reach a distressed vessel in the Firth of Forth.

The steamer Westphalia collided with another steamer in the English Channel. The third officer says he saw flames burst forth from her before she sank.

In the trial at Dublin for the Joyce murder, Patrick Casey was found guilty of the murder of Bridget Joyce, and sentenced to be hung December 15th.

The dynamite works at Llanelly, Wales, exploded on Friday last, and five men were killed and nine injured.

Arabi has written to the Times declaring that the late war carried on by him was in accordance with the laws of God and man and consonant with a solemn decree of a council under the presidency of the Khedive and Der-vish Pasha.

Carl Blind writes to the Daily News declaring that all who care for England's reputation ought to combine in demanding the release of Arabi, who at first acted with the Khedive's consent and then upon the orders of an assembly of representatives of all classes of Egyptians.

A despatch from Cairo on Friday said, there is an unconfirmed report that an Egyptian regiment at Suva refuses to go to Suakin, and that there will probably be a collision with the authorities.

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A despatch from Cairo states that one of the lieutenants of the False Prophet has been captured and hanged.

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Extensive floods are invading parts of France. Much shore wreckage was on the West coast and some loss of life.

The trial of the directors of the Union Generale will commence on the 5th of December. A naval expedition is fitting out at Toulon for Madagascar.

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In a riot at Arad, in Austria, during the elections, the mob smashed the Town Hall and seriously wounded the commander of the troops. The soldiers dispersed the crowd with their bayonets seriously wounding 20 persons.

At Pesth, on Thursday the report of the committee on the foreign office budget, expressed the conviction that an Austro-Russian war was sooner or later inevitable.

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