

Our Contributors.

HOLDING FALSE HOPES.

One of the saddest of sad things is the fact that many thousands of people persist in holding to false hopes respecting their future state in the eternal world. A real Christian is often pained as he thinks of the multitude who do not profess to have any hope in Christ, who are so indifferent about salvation that they do not care how they die, or what shall become of them after they die; but it is even more painful to think of those who have made themselves believe that they are in Christ's kingdom, safe forever, when in fact they are indulging in a grossly false hope. Of such ones, Christ said: "Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name, and in thy name have cast out devils, and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you; depart from me, ye that work iniquity." These words describe a large class of professors of religion, very active in certain forms of church work, and, because of such activity, they hope to merit God's favor and at last enter heaven. They never were regenerated; they are still unsaved, and they are far more difficult to inwardly reach with saving truth than are thousands who never made a profession of religion. They blindly cling to their false hope. They keep insisting that they are true Christians. They even claim that they are far in advance of many in the churches that are Christians, but who are not at all prominent in religious work. The late Mr. Spurgeon, in a sermon in which he spoke of this class of religionists, said: "They cling to their false hopes right to the end. They did not really know of the deception themselves. 'What,' you say, 'did they never think that they were deceived?' Perhaps they did, now and then; but they always said to themselves, 'We must not get into a doubting frame of mind. This looking within and searching our hearts will not do; it will disturb and distress us.' So they went on deluding themselves with untempered mortar." Surely, such ones are awfully self-deceived, and but very few of them ever break away from that state.

C. H. WETHERBE.

EX-PRIESTS IN ITALY.

When a priest leaves his own church and is prepared to work for his living, it is a very good test of the genuineness of his conversion. A letter to the London Christian from Florence says:

"A few evenings ago, in the Gospel Hall in Florence, a crowded meeting was held. A young ex-priest, converted some months ago, presided, and very humbly and faithfully introduced to the audience a young Franciscan monk, brought to Christ in June last. It was a sight never to be forgotten! These two men, both about twenty-five years of age, told how God had opened their eyes and hearts to see and obey his word. They said they had left 'Rome' out of principle, and in order to give clear proof of this they have decided to learn a profession or trade suitable to their capabilities. By their testimony it was evident to all present that they had abandoned the Papacy with none

of that carnal rancour which sometimes has marred the testimony of our "ex" brethren. Their appeals to the unsaved, and their prayer for the conversion of Rome's priests, were very touching. A canon of the church of Rome, who is very near the kingdom, was present, and deeply moved by the earnest and powerful testimony of the young converted Franciscan monk."

NO MORE NEW CHURCHES.

The era of division or separation seems to be drawing to an end. It is doubtful if we soon see another denomination of any importance that can be called Christian. There is great activity in the theological world, but it does not move in the direction to creedal organization. There is no less theology—for theology will never go out of fashion—but it looks toward explanation if not extinction of creeds already existing, and to other changes that drop cut or reinterpret old meanings and bring in new. Careful distinctions and definitions that determine the exact amount of freedom or necessity in the will are disregarded, because Christian faith is not now approached on that side of our nature. Emphasis is transferred from the field of speculation, where chiefly the denominations existed, to the field of action, to psychology and human society. The pressure of the past is less felt, or is felt as reverence rather than as authority. The fact of change—whatever its cause—can no longer be resisted, and the chief question that burdens thoughtful minds in the church is: at what speed and by what road will it move into the region where it must go; alas, what shall be left behind and what carried forward? The main question of law is: how to retain steadiness of mind in the confusion and rush that fill the air. Serious minds tremble before the changes that come thundering down upon them.—Rev. T. T. Munger, in the December Atlantic.

OUR "FAR-FLUNG BATTLE LINE."

The power of the British Empire is in no way better shown than by the universality of its interests. No other great nation takes an effective leading part in so many different sections of the world.

The despatches tell us just now, for instance, that four of the great powers are endeavoring to get together to secure the naval supremacy of the Mediterranean, and they are Britain, France, Italy and Spain. Then Lord Curzon has recently been touring in the Persian Gulf with a view to strengthening British influence there, the only other power greatly concerned being Russia.

In the Chinese Sea, we have Britain, Russia, the United States, France and Japan. Germany has a colony there, but little striking power. In Turkey, we have Britain, Russia, Austria, Germany and France. In South America, the United States, Britain and Germany are about the only outside powers interested. In the various parts of Africa, it is always Britain and another power—never other powers without Britain. In Indo-Australian waters, it is Britain, France and Holland. In North America, it is Britain and the United States.

Thus it is Britain everywhere; and always in a leading position. There is no point at which she is less than a first-class power; and there is no other

first-class power which faces her at every point. If the British Empire is allowed to go to pieces now that it is on the brink of becoming a world confederacy of a strength never yet even imagined by political dreamers, it will be through a stupidity so colossal as to take rank as the first political crime of history.—Mail and Empire.

—We noted not long ago the movement of Japanese Christians in establishing Christian missions for their fellow-countrymen in the Hawaiian Islands. Now the report comes that "the Chinese Christians of California are anxious to send the Gospel to their people in their homes in China. They have this year bought and put in repair a large chapel in Check Horn, which is a city with 300,000 inhabitants, and they are now raising money to erect a girls' school adjoining the chapel, which in the finest part of the city." And yet some American Christians have no faith in missions, and even tremble for the future of their faith itself!

THE GRIP AGAIN.

THIS DANGEROUS EPIDEMIC HAS MADE ANOTHER APPEARANCE.

A Suggestion as to how to Guard against the Trouble and its Pernicious after Effects.

Every winter influenza, or as it is more generally known, the grip makes its appearance in Canada. Every few years it spreads and assumes alarming proportions. From all appearances this is one of the years in which it will seize upon a great number of victims, for every day new cases are reported. As in scarlet and typhoid fever, the after effects of grip are often worse than the disease itself. The sufferer is left with debilitated system, short of breath upon the slightest exertion, subject to headache and heart palpitation, affected by every change in the weather, and in a physical condition to invite the attack of more serious diseases, such as pneumonia and consumption.

A timely suggestion as to how to enable the system to resist the inroads of the grip and its after effects, is given by Mrs. Emma Doucett, St. Eulalie, Que., who says:—"I had an attack of the grip which left me a sufferer from headache, pains in the stomach and general weakness. I used several medicines but found nothing to help me until I began to take Dr. Williams Pink Pills. When I began to take these pills I was very much run down and very weak, but they soon began to help me, after using them a few weeks I was not only as well as ever but had gained in flesh as well. I can hardly tell you how pleased I am with Dr. Williams Pink Pills, for I was feeling very hopeless when I began their use."

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- Scissors, at 10, 13, 18 cts.
- Hones, at 15 cts. each.
- Hones 2 for 5 cts.
- Desert Spoons, white metal, 20c. 1/2 doz
- Table Spoons, 15 for pck. of 3.
- Tea Spoons, 15 for pck. of 3.
- Desert Spoons, 15 for pck. of 3.
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