

Our Contributors.

NOT CHRIST'S TEACHING.

It is amazing that any man of fair intelligence and a familiar acquaintance with the Bible will continually assert that Christ taught that God is the Father of all people. And it is especially astonishing that a professional Bible scholar, claiming to be sturdily loyal to God's word, will maintain that Christ, in the so-called "Lord's prayer," teaches that God is the Father of everybody. And yet there are men of this class who do this very thing. A leading editorial in the *Christian Century* of Chicago, began by saying, "Christ's first thought of God, and hence the first point in his theology, is that God is father. 'Our Father.' The fatherhood of God is fundamental in the theology of Jesus, more in the simple use of the term, and the connections in which he uses it, than in any enlargement of the doctrine that we find in his teaching. In the selection of the word father, as the preferred name which he gives to God, he accentuates and focalizes the love, the goodness, the naturalness, the nearness, of God, and man's sonship and childhood relation to him." This writer's heading to his editorial is, "Theology of Jesus in the Lord's Prayer." I judge that he is a professor in the University of Chicago, that free fountain of liberal theology. Now, I positively deny that that prayer contains Christ's theology in any such vital sense and inclusion as that editor declares it to be; and I also deny that Christ in that prayer taught the universal fatherhood of God. To affirm that he did so is to virtually affirm that Christ was grossly inconsistent with himself, as expressed in subsequent affirmations of the most pronounced kind, in just the opposite direction, for he repeatedly declared that God was not the Father of a class of people to whom he himself referred. Moreover, the whole tenor of the apostolic teaching is that God is the Father of only Christian believers; and it is very certain that the Apostolic writings do not contradict what Christ said in respect to God's Fatherhood. The same eternal Spirit unified all of the utterances of Christ and the New Testament writers. Furthermore, that prayer that Christ gave as an outline model or example was solely for his own believing disciples, and has no application whatever to unconverted, ungodly people. This is perfectly plain to all who wish to learn the truth as Christ gave it.

C. H. WETHERBE.

DR. PENTECOST INTERVIEWED.

The *British Weekly* has interviewed Dr. Geo. Pentecost on the Japanese situation, among which people Dr. Pentecost has recently been working. Among other things he says:

"It is most important, in my opinion, that Japan should drive Russia back into Siberia. If Russia beats Japan, that means the destruction of the Japanese Empire, and the gradual Russification of China. The plan of partition which has been in the minds of the powers—Russia taking the North, including Peking; Germany the Shangtung Province,

England the Yangtse Valley, and France the Southwest—would be an intolerably bad scheme from every point of view. It would provoke a tremendous internal agitation amongst the Chinese people, and would have a ruinous effect on the prospects of missions."

"I was immensely impressed with the intellectual capacity of the people. The Japanese character in its moral basis is less strong and more superficial than that of the Chinese. There is more shrewdness and cleverness, but far less depth. Although missions are progressing steadily, I do not know that we can point to such heroic saints as those Christians who broke the power of the the Boxers and saved the situation for China.

"On the other hand there is no prejudice against Christianity. Young men who have received a Christian education are eagerly sought after for government employment. Girls who have been trained at the Christian colleges are in great request for wives. Head-teachers have told me that on the closing day of the session the doorsteps of the colleges are besieged by Japanese men who want to get Christian wives. Thus we find dotted all over Japan hundreds of wives and mothers who have received Christian training. Amongst a certain political section it is even felt that Japan must before long adopt Christianity, and the reason for this is not hard to discover. All are agreed in admiring and adopting European civilization, but it is felt that this can never be truly grafted on to the ancient Pagan faiths. Christianity is indeed the hope and the promise of the future. Buddhism and Shintoism, and especially Confucianism, look back to the past, and cannot therefore meet the aspirations of an eager and rising people."

WHAT HAS TO BE PROMISED.

In reply to a question as to what is needful in order that a "Protestant" may marry a Roman Catholic, *The Catholic Telegraph* tells it as follows:

A dispensation must be secured, for which the couple, contemplating matrimony, should consult the pastor of the Catholic party. The Protestant party, in case the dispensation be granted, will be required to sign some such document as the following:

I, the undersigned, not professing the Catholic faith, wishing to contract marriage with _____, a member of the Catholic church, propose to do so with the understanding that the marriage bond thus contracted is indissoluble, except by death; and I hereby covenant and agree that after our marriage _____ shall be permitted the free exercise of the religion according to _____ belief, and that all children of either sex, born of our marriage, shall be baptized and educated in the faith and according to the teaching of the Roman Catholic Church. I furthermore promise that no other marriage ceremony than that by the Catholic priest shall take place.

It is well that all persons who are tempted to marry Romanists should know just what to expect and how to obtain it.

General Religious News.

—The Lutherians built about a church and a half in the United States for every day last year, at an average cost of \$6,000.

—During a recent revival in Missouri, several sick people were privileged to enjoy the service by means of a telephone connection with the church.

—In New York there are fourteen different bodies of Lutherans laboring with 125 pastors. There is now on foot a movement to unite these churches in practical work.

—According to the Irish Year book for 1904, Methodists in that country now number 62,000, an increase of over eleven per cent, during the decade. The Roman Catholics, Protestant Episcopalians and Presbyterians show a decrease for the same period.

—The Salvation Army will give £1,000 from their self-denial fund to the centenary fund of the British and Foreign Bible Society. The German Emperor, who is an annual subscriber to the society, has forwarded fifty guineas for the centenary fund.

—The Young People's Societies of Christian Endeavor in the United States contain a membership of 1,800,000. There are about 2,500,000 members of denominational organizations, making 4,300,000. A goodly host, surely; 1,500,000 of these are young men.

—In the valley of Westdale Head, in Cumberland, a strange little church nestles amid a group of the highest of England's mountains. It is over 400 years old, and has two windows, and the pulpit is lighted by a pane of glass having been inserted in a hole in the roof above it. There are only eight pews, of which only two are seldom used. The little bell, hanging loose in the open belfry, may on stormy nights be heard mingling its tones with the wind and thunder. But for the belfry, it would hardly be known to be a church. This little edifice is described as the most isolated church throughout the whole of England.

—Dr. Cressy's book, "The Church and Young men," is authority for the statement that there are in the United States 14,250,000 young men between the ages of 16 and 25. Of this number 5,191,000, or 36.4 per cent, are members of churches. 6,000,000 young men attend public worship more or less regularly. They constitute 18 per cent, of the church membership, but make up 20 and 30 per cent, respectively of the morning and evening congregations. This shows that 9,059,000 of the young men are outside of all church fellowship.

—Eight years ago there were 2,000 officers and employees in the Salvation Army in the United States. Today there are 3,400 officers and employees. Formerly the Army sheltered 600 persons, now it shelters 10,000. Commander Booth-Tucker affirmed before the People's Institute, that there have been at least 100,000 drunkards in this country converted through the efforts of the Salvation Army, and about 5,000 drunkards are converted each year.

—The "most successful mission ever held in England" is what *The Methodist Times* says of the Torrey-Alexander meetings just closed at Birmingham. A striking feature of the services was the number of men reached, they numbering fully one-half of the professed converts. The *Times* speaks most emphatically of the thoroughness of the work done, and says that it will not only abide, but extend itself. A clergyman of the Established Church is instanced as having received the names of three hundred men brought to decision at the meetings, and a Baptist minister received an accession of one hundred and fifty men. Of the last meeting the *Times* says: "No one who was present at Bingley Hall last Sunday night will ever forget the sight, or doubt again the power of the Gospel to conquer the hearts and intellects of men."

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