



SUNDAY READING

WHAT IS MEANT BY PRAYER.

Religious exercises are very dull and uninteresting. Prayer is to many a tiresome thing. They will bow their heads or kneel and endure the ungenial form, but they feel no interest in it, and they are secretly glad when it is over.

Lord, give me a clean heart; help me to resist this evil and to overcome it, for Christ's sake, and he keeps his vow, he prays "without ceasing."

IN THE ANGLICAN CALENDAR. Days Remembered by the Church at this Season of the Year.

Tomorrow will be the 14th Sunday after Trinity, and the liturgical colors for it and the ferias of the week are given in the Western and red in the Sarum use.

Tuesday will be the feast of St. Crispin, a black-letter day, and the color in both uses is red, with service common of martyr.

Wednesday will be the feast of St. Crispin and his brother Crispinian were natives of Rome and members of a noble family in the third century.

Thursday next will be a fast day, it being the vigil of SS. Simon and Jude. The reason why vigils are days of fasting was explained in this column last week.

Friday will be the feast of SS. Simon and Jude, apostles and martyrs, a red-letter day, but of course, like all Fridays in the year save when Christmas falls on that day of the week or there is a special dispensation, it is a day of abstinence from flesh meats.

Saturday will be the feast of St. Andrew the Apostle, a red-letter day, and the color is red in both uses, with service proper of holy day.

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NEWS AND NOTABILLIA.

Christianity is the third creed in India, in point of numbers.

The first baptist church was organized in America, in 1689, at Providence, R. I.

Father Davies, the priest, to whose efforts is largely due the development of the Irish fishing industry, died last week.

Rev. M. R. Deming, of the Tabernacle church, Boston, has had a call to join Dr. Pierson at Spurgeon's Tabernacle, London.

Liberal offerings were made in the Roman catholic churches of St. John, last Sunday, in aid of the collection for the Pope.

It is asserted that all of the \$1,200,000 royalty on Moody and Sankey's "Gospel Hymns" has been devoted to charitable purposes.

Out of the 37 Anglican churches in Toronto, the seats in 30 are absolutely free and in the other seven the seats are free in the evenings.

The ground for the new Anglican church at Marysville was measured last Friday, and work will be pushed forward until the edifice is completed.

It is asserted, on the authority of Dr. Pentecost, that there is an increase of between 25,000 and 40,000 converts to christianity in India this year.

A Philadelphia paper thinks it is no wonder there are infidels, when ten Boston churches spent \$19,000 for music last year, and gave \$6,000 for missions.

Dr. Newman Hall is 76 years old, but is still hale and hearty. He retired from the ministry not long ago, after a service of 50 years, but quite recently he preached seven times in one week.

When Mr. Moody began his evangelistic services in Belfast recently, the great hall of the Ulster Convention was filled at 8 o'clock in the morning. It was estimated that 9,000 persons were present.

Bishop Selwyn, who did such good work as the successor of the martyred Bishop Patteson, and who was compelled to retire from the Melanesian mission field through broken health, has partly recovered his strength. He is still obliged to walk on crutches.

It is said that Dr. Pierson communicated his decision to accept the pastorate of Spurgeon's Tabernacle in the following cablegram: "Philemon 22, Pierson." The text was found to read, "But whilst prepare me also a lodging; for I trust that through your prayers I shall be given unto you."

At the coming reunion of Roman catholic archbishops of America, at Archbishop Corrigan's house, New York, next month, Cardinal Gibbons will preside, not, however, because of his high office, but because a decree of Pope Pius IX., issued in 1858, made the Archbishop of Baltimore, whoever he might be, take precedence over all others in assemblies of this kind.

The harvest festival of the Church of the Good Shepherd, Fairville, will be observed on Nov. 6th. The date is late in the season, as it is held on the Sunday nearest to All Saints day, the anniversary of the opening of the church seven years ago.

Rev. J. C. Titcombe, priest in charge, completes his Sabbatical year with a flourishing condition of affairs among his people, due, under God, to his earnest persistent work.

An exchange says that D. L. Moody's Bible Institute, in Chicago, is making preparations for work among the large number of people who will visit the World's Fair. Moody himself will personally direct the work next year, and is now securing assistants in this country and Europe, who will preach in all the languages that will be represented at the Fair. It is also proposed to gather and train a large male choir to sing at the services.

At Anwoth, in Kirkcudbrightshire, Scotland, there was found recently one of the old "hillside crosses" set up by the early missionaries who went to the Lowlands from Iona, or Ireland, to mark the spots where they first preached Christ to the heathen Scots. This interesting cross is of red sandstone, 48 inches long, 14 1/2 inches across the widest part, and four inches thick. Its arms are 26 inches in height, or were, for one is broken off. Rude inscriptions are carved on the cross.

Dr. Philip Schaff, of New York, has completed 50 years of service as professor of Theology. He was appointed the colleague of Neander, in the University of Berlin, in October, 1842, when about 23 years of age. Neander was at the time at the height of his fame. Dr. Schaff's professorship included the history of doctrine and biblical exegesis. Two years after he was called to Theological Seminary of the Reformed church of the United States, at Mercersburg, Pa., as professor of church history and biblical exegesis. There he remained twenty years and came to New York, and became the professor of church history in Union Seminary.

In his inaugural at McMaster university, at Toronto, last week, Dr. Rand had this to say which applies to all denominations as well as to the baptists: "We must press the principles we cherish and which we believe a true patriotism, to say nothing of other obligation, demands of us to the very front of the battle. If these principles are not aggressive they are nothing. But aggression today in Canada means an equipment of generous scholarship and patient training. It means intelligent, able, devoted men, who shall recognize service to man and God as the true life. This applies as truly to so-called laymen as to those specially called into the christian ministry."

Prof. Briggs, of New York, whose trial for heresy against presbyterian doctrine is likely to take place this autumn, objects to the committee as unfit to deal with the matter, though the men are prominent theologians. "I have," he says, "spent many years studying in Oxford and in the archives in London every bit of record which tells of the development of the Westminster Catechism and the presbyterian creed. None of these men have done that. I have studied exhaustively and critically Hebrew literature and the Hebrew text. These men have never done anything of that sort. Now, if I am going to be tried, I have a right to be tried by my peers, by men who know as much about these things as I do."

Pews or Free Seats.

Is not the whole system of pews, as we have it in modern times, unfavorable to church attendance? Why is it that people will go to service in a hall which cannot be persuaded to enter a church or chapel? Our modern pews are forbidding even when they are free to all comers. Plain but comfortable single seats or chairs are much more attractive. But the pew system becomes absolutely repulsive to a great many persons when a price is placed on a sitting. And after making due allowance for all that can be said in favor of the appropriation of sittings, we are forced to the conclusion that if our churches and chapels were seated with chairs, and these made free to all, it would not be long until the results would justify the change.—London Christian Commonwealth.

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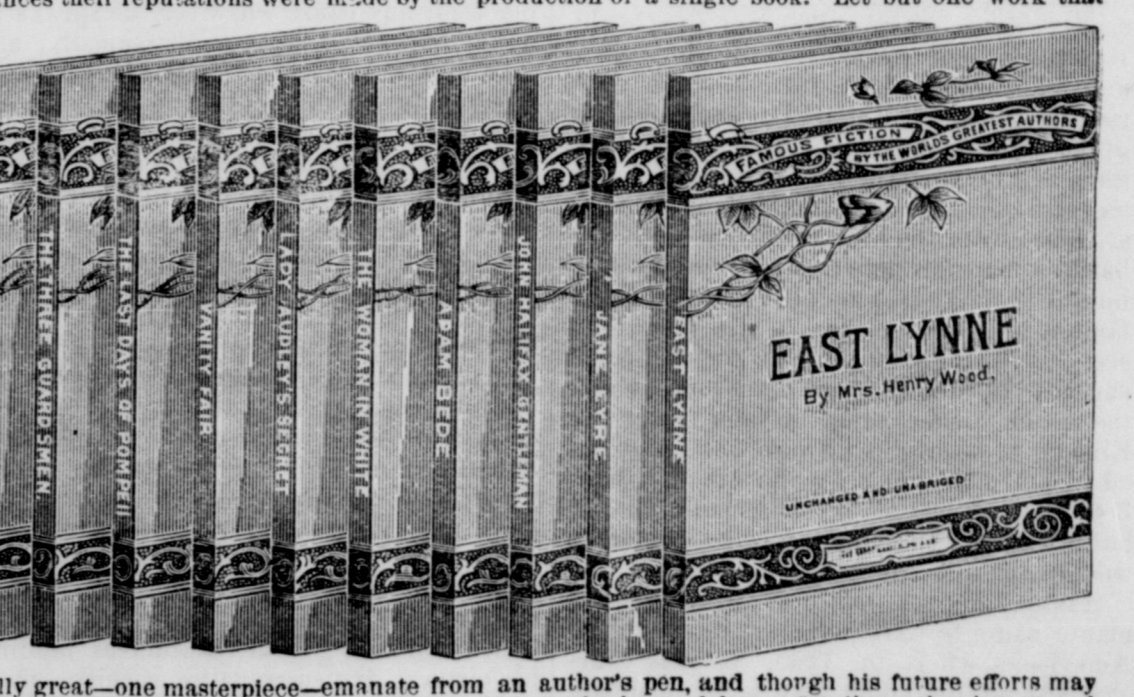
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