

## Sunday Reading.

The Clouds of God.

The city is full of labor  
And struggle and strife and care,  
The fever-pulse of the city  
Is throbbing in all the air;  
But calm through the sunlit spaces,  
And calm through the starlit sky,  
Forever, over the city,  
The clouds of God go by.

The city is full of passion  
And shame and anger and sin,  
O hearts that are dark with evil,  
O souls that are black within;  
But white as the robes of angels,  
As pure through the wind-swept sky,  
Forever, over the city,  
The clouds of God go by.

The city is full of sorrow  
And tears that are shed in vain;  
By day and by night there rises  
The voice of its grief and pain.  
But soft as a benediction,  
They bend from the vault on high,  
And over the sorrowful city,  
The clouds of God go by.

O eyes that are old with vigil!  
O eyes that are dim with tears!  
Look up from the path of sorrow,  
That measures itself in years,  
And read in the light above you  
The peace that is ever nigh,  
While over the troubled city  
The clouds of God go by.

—Robert Clarkson Tongue.

### WHY HE REFUSED.

The following is taken from a recent issue of the Evangelical Churchman and will be interesting for PROGRESS readers from a clerical as well as layman's standpoint:

Gentlemen:—I am in receipt of your favor of the 19th inst. calling me to become the pastor of the Open Door church. The call is not entirely a surprise to me. From what has passed between us before I have supposed it would be forthcoming. As I have looked forward to it, I have thought I should probably accept, otherwise I should not have given you encouragement in that direction. I am sorry to say now I am obliged to decline. But after what has passed between us, I ought not to decline your kindly proposal without frankly stating my reasons. This I will try to do.

First, I have found out recently, that you have even now a minister who has not been formally dismissed from your church, although he is preaching in another church. As I think a man ought, at least, to be divorced from one wife before he marries, (if he be divorced at all,) so I feel that a church should regularly dismiss her pastor before engaging another. I helped dismiss one of my predecessors once, after becoming the acting pastor, and the middle came so near to dismissing me that I do not crave a repetition.

Second, I hear that there is a feud in your church of twenty years' standing. It has been standing too long. I have been told that what pleases one party in your church, displeases the other, if for no other reason simply because the party of the first part is satisfied. If there be two masters to please in the church, I doubt my ability to serve them both. I remember what the New Testament says on that point. However, I will put you on the track, if you desire, of a man who all his life has practised this rule of trying to please all sides, and if you care to try him all right. He will accept the first call you send, even without stopping to candidate. I have no doubt of this, for he is out of employment most of the time.

Third, candor compels me to say that I am influenced largely in my decision by the report which comes to me (perhaps only a report) that you did not treat your last minister rightly. I am told you hired him by the year. At the end of the first year, you went right on into the second without paying his salary until the middle of the year. At that time, because he had preached a sermon that one of the chronic grumblers did not easily digest, you reminded him that no written agreement had been made for a second year's service. This seems strange, for when the same member of the committee, before the expiration of the first year, had recommended a house to the minister, the minister decided not to move because his term of service was only for one year, then this member of the committee (the chairman) had said that he understood the relation of pastor and people was to go right on. In this same matter I am told (it may not be true) that the excuse given to your last minister for the change was simply inadequate funds, and yet you wrote within three weeks to Rev. Hurrup Hassler to come as a candidate, saying there was plenty of money for the right man.

Fourth, I perceive by the annual statistics that you have had quite a number of ministers in only a few years. The average period of service has been only two years and a fraction. The procession of ministers is long; it is a procession I should prefer not to join. Surely your church is an Open-Door Church.

Fifth, word comes to me that previous to the last incumbent you had a minister who was obliged to resign because he voted, in a political campaign, according to the dictates of his conscience. This, I

am told, displeased a few of the wealthy members of the parish. I do not see why a matter of conscience should displease wealthy politicians, but still, as a matter of fact, I have always voted as I thought best, and my present people have never objected. I should wish to continue in the same way if I should come to you, and that, you see, would work mischief at once.

Sixth, I am informed that another of your ministers found himself in trouble because some of the church members did not like the location in which he lived, although the church furnished no parsonage and rents were scarce. Here again is where I have always consulted my own taste and that of my family and here again if I should accept your call, it is clear there would be conflict at once which of course, we had better avoid. By the way it is reported that this same minister incurred the displeasure of some of the church members by marrying against their wishes, that is, he married one whom they did not like. While that would not affect me much in my present condition, still I think it is enough for the minister to superintend the weddings of his parish without having the parish superintend the minister's.

And so, all in all, it seems best that I should decline your hearty call. I am sorry for you have a fine church edifice, you have a beautiful town, \$3,500 is a good deal from a standpoint like mine. In this little country place there is quiet and peace. I can live on the \$800 the people allow me. We have lived happily for nine years as pastor and people and can live

I hope you will soon find such a man as you all want. If I find such a one, I will cheerfully recommend him to you, but for myself I most respectfully decline.

Sincerely,

D. CLIND

### A GOOD SAMARITAN IN JAIL.

He Made the Debtors in the Prison Happy for His Presence.

One of the most interesting persons ever confined on the debtor's side of Sainte-Pelagie was an American, Colonel Swan, whose story is told in 'The Dungeons of Old Paris.' A friend of Washington, Colonel Swan had fought in the War of Independence with Lafayette, and the French republican often visited him in jail. The nature of the colonel's debt is not known, but he had made it a matter of conscience not to pay it. The French law ordered his temporary arrest, and twenty years after his incarceration he was still 'temporarily' in confinement.

The old colonel had won the respect and love of the whole prison; not a day of his long confinement there but was marked by some service of kindness for the most part mysterious and anonymous. No hungry debtor went in vain to the door of the colonel's little cell; and often the man who came seeking only a supper went away with the full price of his liberty.

There were two classes in the debtor's wing; those with certain resources of their own to supplement the miserable allowance of their creditors, and those who were dependent for their daily rations on the few centimes allowed them by law.

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prison. It was Colonel Swan, for whom, in his failing health, the doctor had demanded that privilege. He had accepted it gratefully; but, as if admonished from within, he said to the doctor, 'My proper air is the air of the prison; this breath of liberty will kill me.'

A few months later the cannon of the 27th of July were belching in the streets of Paris. On the 28th the doors of the 'Commercial Bastille' were thrown open, and the prisoners went out.

Colonel Swan, who went out with them, died on the 29th.

### A CHRISTIAN STATESMAN.

He Was a Good Christian and Broad in His Religious Views.

'I am an Episcopalian of the Arnold and Wadley school, with something more of the Paley admixture.' So wrote the Hon Robert C. Winthrop. He agreed with Lord Bacon that unity does not necessarily mean uniformity, and he was emphatically a Christian of 'catholicity and charity.' He meant by the word

wrote, miraculous composition by those inspired men, and its marvellous preservation from all the accidents of time and chance, bespeak nothing less than the hand of God. No evolution produced that volume; and no revolution of thought or act, or human will, can ever prevail against it.

## NEWS OF VICTORY.

James Thompson Cured of Diabetes by Dodd's Kidney Pills.

Dodd's Kidney Pills Have Many Startling Cures to their Credit in Bruce County—No Medicine Made Can Approach Them.

PAISLEY, Jan. 31.—A marked peculiarity of the people of Bruce County is their firm belief in Dodd's Kidney Pills, as a sure cure for Bright's Disease, Diabetes, and all other Kidney troubles.

So many remarkable cures have been made by Dodd's Kidney Pills in this county that the people's confidence in them is only natural.

One of those who has been rescued by Dodd's Kidney Pills, is James Thompson, of Paisley. He suffered for years, with 'an extreme case of Diabetes,' and was so bad he could hardly move. Almost every medicine on the market was tried, without effect. Then he tried Dodd's Kidney Pills. His recovery began at that time. Now he is fully restored to health.

Mr. Thompson is only one of many thousands who have been cured of Kidney Disease, by Dodd's Kidney Pills. The simple undeniable truth is that every person who has used them for any of these diseases has been thoroughly and permanently cured. This cannot be said, truthfully, of any other medicine that has ever been used. Dodd's Kidney Pills stand alone, in proud position far above any rivals.

Dodd's Kidney Pills ALWAYS CURE Rheumatism, Lame Back, Lumbago, Gout, Dropsy, Heart Disease, Female Weakness, Gravel, Stone in Bladder, Sciatica, Neuralgia, and all impurities of the blood. They are the only medicine on earth that will positively cure Bright's Disease and Diabetes. Dodd's Kidney Pills are sold by all druggists at 50 cents a box, six boxes for \$2.50, or will be sent on receipt of price, by the Dodd's Medicine Co., Limited, Toronto.

### Firm Resolution.

'Dave' Siddle was a brave Confederate soldier who was in the hospital at Richmond, and who, in spite of his suffering, always took a cheerful view of the situation. One day, when he was recovering, a visiting minister approached his cot, and tendered him a pair of home made socks.

'Accept these,' said he. 'I only wish the dear woman who knit them could present them to you in person.'

'Thank you, very much,' said David, gravely, 'but I have decided that I never shall wear another pair of socks while I live.'

The preacher protested, but to no purpose; and finally he sought out the boy's sister to tell her how foolishly the invalid had behaved.

'Why,' exclaimed she, 'both his feet have been shot off!'

## Children's Nerves.

Liable to be Deranged by Close Confinement and Over Study.

The continual grind of our schools is hard on child growth, shatters the nervous system and undermines the health. When



the headaches, twitchings, feelings of tiredness, sleeplessness and restlessness begin to manifest themselves give the children Milburn's Heart and Nerve Pills. Mothers consider they have no equal for building up a child's health.

Mrs. DALTON, 137 Arthur Street, Ottawa, Ont., says that her little girl got so bad with heart palpitation, nervousness and headache she had to take her from school and send for the doctor. His treatment did not do her much good so she tried Milburn's Heart and Nerve Pills. The result has been marvellous; the headaches have vanished, the nervousness disappeared, the palpitation has gone, and the little girl is now in splendid condition.

Milburn's Heart and Nerve Pills sold by druggists at 50c. a box, or 3 for \$1.25. T. Milburn & Co., Toronto, Ont.



ten more if my people continue to be as forbearing and considerate as hitherto.

It occurs to me that perhaps I may not have expressed this letter in the usual terms of such documents. I have asked a neighbor to read it over and criticize it for me, and he has. He says I have been too frank. That I have told too much truth; that it would have been better to have simply said that I had changed my mind, or that the doctor thinks I had better remain in this locality for my health; or that my present church would give me up, and that I ought to end the letter smoothly by saying grace, mercy and peace.

Of course I have no hard feelings in the end, of course, I do wish you grace, mercy and peace. However, as I said in the beginning, I want to be frank. I have been, and, of course, you know that if you once get the grace, mercy and peace will follow,

Men of the latter class used to let their services to others for a gratuity, and were among the regular suitors for Colonel Swan's inexhaustible bounty. They were known in the prison as 'cottoncaps.' One of these, hearing that the American had lost his cotton cap, went to beg the place. The colonel knew all about the man, a poor wretch, with a large family, stranded there for lack of a few hundred francs. He asked a salary of six francs a month.

'That will suit me very well,' said the colonel; and opening a little chest, he added, 'Here is five years' pay in advance.' It was the precise amount of the man's debt, and a fair instance of the colonel's benefactions.

In the year 1829 prisoners taking their airing in the garden used to see an old man strolling for an hour or two on the high terrace or gallery at the top of the

'catholicity' that system of doctrine held by all parts of the Christian church, and by 'charity' that a christian ought to be considerate, appreciative and social, even to those good men whose religious views do not harmonize with his own.

His clerical intimacies covered a wide range. The Roman Catholic Bishop of Boston (Fitzpatrick), who had been his schoolmate, was always a welcome guest at his hospitable table, where he met Baptists, Congregationalists and conservative Unitarians.

Had the statesman and host in mind those agape (love-feasts) of the first church of Corinth, where men of different shades of opinion 'broke bread' together to symbolize that they were one in devotion to the Master? Did he think of that saying of the Lord to Peter, that intolerant apostle, 'And do thou, when thou hast turned again, establish thy brethren' [Revised Version]? And did he believe, taking the suggestion from the great English judge, the eod fier of admiralty law, Lord Stowell, that a dinner lubricates business and the grooves which lead to unity?

His favorite preacher was his pastor, Phillips Brooks, for whom he had the warmest admiration, although they differed upon political, social, and even religious questions. Some of the friends upon whose advice he most relied were ministers with whose theological views he had no sympathy. They were good Christians and good advisers; therefore he listened to their opinions.

'The Bible is its own best witness,' he

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