

The Religious Intelligencer.

AN EVANGELICAL FAMILY NEWSPAPER FOR NEW BRUNSWICK AND NOVA SCOTIA.

REV. E. MCLEOD,

"THAT GOD

IN ALL THINGS MAY BE GLORIFIED THROUGH JESUS CHRIST."

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WHO IS LOUIS HARMS?

To this question our answer is: a genuine apostle, a true Christian hero. Louis Harms is a plain Lutheran clergyman. In 1848 he was installed as a pastor of the parish of Hermansburg, on the Lüneburger Heath, in the kingdom of Hanover. He is a man, according to the reports of simple, direct nature, full of faith and the Holy Ghost.

His parish, in which his father had been pastor before him, is made up of simple country people, and among them, as in most other parts of Germany, a dead orthodoxy had for the most part held sway. Under the new pastor and his earnest and faithful labors the parish soon began to assume a new aspect. The Christian life began to quicken, and in a short time the reformation became thorough, to a degree unknown, perhaps, in any other similar population in the world. In Hermansburg there are now no beggars, no rough street loungers, no drunkards, no ragged straggling children, and no paupers. In every house in the village there is family prayer, morning and evening; no one is absent from church except in case of sickness; the services in the week are well attended as those of the Sabbath; the workmen have prayers in the fields, and throughout the parish the songs heard are not the common country ditties, but sweet, sacred melodies, which joyfully express their Christian life. During the year there are eleven thousand communicants, which must embrace nearly the whole of the adult population. The people live in great harmony, and are good farmers and good laborers. All this has come of the blessing of God inspiring and giving fruit to the labors of a single man.

As was natural, when the parish of Hermansburg was brought to such a state of Christian completeness and efficiency, when it seemed by its character to invite the Divine hand to use it for the benefit of the world, it came into the mind of the people to do something for others. A mission to the heathen was suggested. The simple people wanted to be missionaries themselves, and the suggestion at once took the form of a solemn purpose, and speedily grew into a plan. Twenty persons offered themselves as candidates for the missionary work, and were accepted. A separate house was assigned them as a Missionary Institute, and Harms prescribed a course of training which was to occupy four years. This course embraced much and hard work, especially for peasants without any previous preparation. Besides studying introduction, exegesis, dogmatics, history of doctrines and church history, history of missions, homiletics and catechetics, they were required to perform a daily task of manual labor.

This work with their hands, as Harms told them, "was to keep them healthy; to enable them, in part, to earn their bread, and to keep them humble, that they might never be ashamed of their work any more than Peter was of his fishing or Paul of his tentmaking."

Like true Christian knights they chose the hardest field they could think of. They selected the tribes of the Gallas, on the east coast of Africa, who said to be "men without being human." True, they have not yet reached these people, but still they are among the heathen doing a good and great work.

TIMOTHY THICOMB ON CHURCH GOING.

From a Letter to Franklin Jones, Mechanic.

My desire is to give you one or two good reasons for going to church, which do not depend upon the authenticity of Christianity, or upon the sacredness of the Christian Sabbath, at all. My first reason is, that unless a man puts himself into a fine shirt, polished boots, and good clothes, once a week, and goes out into the public, he is almost certain to sink into semi-barbarism. You know that you are behind the age, man. The most popular lecturers of America have for years been those who have represented the principles and sentiments of a small minority. Intellectual men have maintained their place upon the platform, when their persons and their principles were held in abhorrence by the masses whom they addressed. It is not necessary for me to mention names to prove this statement, for the facts are too fresh and too notorious. Do you decline to attend a circus because the performers differ with you as to the number of horses? Is it possible that you, who have been charging bigotry upon the church and its representatives so long, are a bigoted man? Is it possible that you, who have denounced the American Christian ministry for intolerance, are intolerant yourself? It looks like it.

My friend, you are laud in this matter. Your position is a very weak one. It is not based in any principle—it is based in prejudice. Besides, you are not truthful when you say that the utterances of the pulpit generally are incredible. I have been a constant attendant at church all my life, and I declare, without hesitation, that three-quarters of the sermons I have heard have been better than doctrinal sermons. The majority of the sermons preached have their foundation in the eternal principles of right—in the broad moralities to which you and every other decent man subscribe. You know that, as a system of morals, Christianity is faultless. You know that, if the world should live up to the morals of Christianity,—we will say nothing about it as a system of religion,—there would be no murder, no war, no slavery, no drunkenness, no licentiousness, no lying, no stealing, no cheating, no wrongs—that everywhere men would walk in peace, and concord, and fraternal affection, and that the golden rule would be the universal rule of life.

The pulpit is the spot of all others in the world where, through the wonderful agency of the human voice, these moralities are taught; and do you tell me that you will not go to church because you do not believe in what is taught there? You do believe in at least three-quarters of the teachings of the pulpit. You do yourself great wrong by holding yourself aloof from an institution which would not only nourish your intellect, but instruct and confirm you in those moralities which are the only safeguard of that society which numbers among its members your wife and children.

Perhaps you can afford, or feel that you can afford, to teach your children that Christianity, as a system of religion, is a cheat; but you can not afford to confound it with, and condemn it, with the moralities of Christianity.

You cannot afford to teach your children, by words or deeds, that the greatness of the teachings of the pulpit is unworthy of consideration; for their safety, their respectability, their prosperity, their happiness, all depend upon the adoption and practice of Christian morals.

Do you teach them Christian morals. Are you careful to sit down on the Sabbath, or at any other time, and instruct them in those moralities which are essential to the right and happy living of their lives?

My friend, you have not the face to do any such thing, for your position will not permit you to do it, with shame. Well, if you refuse to do it, who will? Unhappily, your wife is quite as much under your influence as your children, and unless those children go to church on Sunday, they will get no instruction in Christian morals whatever, except such as they may pick up at the public schools.

These children of yours are not to blame for being in the world. You are responsible to them, at least, for their right training. You are in personal honor bound to give them such instruction in morals as will tend to preserve to them health of body and mind, and honorable relations with society. How will you do it? By telling them that church-going is foolishness, and Sabbath-keeping nonsense, and the teachings of the pulpit only the tricks of priests and the amusement of blockheads! No, sir. You must take these children by the hand, and lead them to church, and show that there are, at least, some things that come from the pulpit which you respect. It will not be enough that you send them and their mother. You must go with them; for if you do not, they will soon learn the realities of the pulpit, and, in learning them, learn to pity you, and to hold your intolerance in contempt. You must stand by the pulpit as the great teacher of private

attended its weekly ministrations, and I have a better right to speak about it than you have, because I know more about it. I tell you that I have received during these ten years more intellectual nourishment and stimulus from the pulpit than from all other sources combined; yet my everyday pursuits are literary, while yours are not.

Pastor Harms is a Lutheran of the strictest sect. He will not admit to the communion table even those Lutherans who are ecclesiastically connected with the German Reformed churches, according to the principles of the Prussian evangelical church. He administers the Lord's Supper every Sunday, on which occasion about 250 usually partake. The whole number of communicants in the church is 2,000. To each of these he personally gives the sacred water about four times yearly. He teaches his people that forgiveness is imparted only on condition of faith and repentance, and only through baptism, the Word, and the Lord's Supper. The bread is the true body, and the wine is the true blood of Jesus Christ. Those who allow their children to grow up without being baptized, are worse than robbers and murderers. Through baptism children are regenerated.

To the objection that faith is a condition of salvation, he replies that God can work faith in a new-born child as easily as, probably more easily than, in an adult. Faith, he says, is something with which we have nothing at all to do. It comes only through baptism; even an adult cannot believe till he is baptized. The Lutheran church is the church. All others are destined to go down; they are all irregular institutions, having no divine authentication. The chief enemies to be met by the church are the *sects* and the devil.

But, although so zealous a Lutheran, the pastor is by no means satisfied with Lutheranism as it actually exists. He represents Germany in general as the most deplorable state of irreligion and infidelity. Especially does he inveigh against the mode in which Sunday is spent by the German people. In respect to this point, he breaks loose even from Luther, and insists on an observance of the Sabbath such as would satisfy the strictest puritan. Nothing has seemed to me so much like New England as the "holy calm" of Hermansburg on the Sabbath which I spent in that place. His power over his people is almost unlimited. Only one person in the whole parish is a non-attendant of his church. He is a man whose wife and children, however, are no exception to the general rule. Pastor Harms catechizes the children every Sunday afternoon and Wednesday forenoon, on which occasions he is not unfrequently rebuked wrong answers by sharp words, and sometimes by cuffs. At the close of the Sunday evening service (at which he preaches in Low German) every one of the audience shakes his hand. When he enters the church, the congregation arises. When he speaks, the crowded audience maintains the most perfect silence. Whatever he says, is accepted without questioning. Religion seems to be among his people a subject in which all are interested. Only, one may question whether the enthusiasm is not more directed to Pastor Harms than to Jesus Christ.

When the pupils in the Institute were nearly through with their preparatory training the question necessarily arose as to how they were to be sent out. Where was the money to come from? Harms "knocked," as he says, "diligently on the door of the Lord in prayer." But he well understood that the man who dares not stand still. Hence he wrote to this and the other great man, but nothing came of it. At last it was said, Build a ship! Good, thought Harms, but the money? He prayed on. He remembered when Duke George, on his death-bed, doubted whether he should go directly to Jesus Christ with his dear merits, or to the Pope with his good works, a trusty courtier said: "Your Grace, straight forward makes the best runner." That word stuck fast in his soul. Harms at midnight said: "Forward now, in God's name!" He was assured, The brig was built and paid for; she was supplied for the long voyage with all needful provisions and comforts from Hermansburg, and lifted her anchor and floated away on her holy, unselfish errand amidst exulting songs and earnest, loving prayers.

And what now? Tell us of the fruit. The results are as wonderful as the means. Harms, it seems, is not a dreamer. His life and his faith are both real. The brig still continues her voyages back and forth between Hamburg and Africa. A hundred candidates are knocking for admission into the Institute; a new Institute building is about to be erected, which will accommodate forty-eight persons; more than a hundred missionaries are already in the field; nine stations have been established, and the results, in the way of converts among the heathen, are larger than usual for the time devoted to the work. And all this, humanly speaking, is the work of one man, without money, without earthly power; of one man, quickening, not a great city, but only an inconsiderable village, and animating its simple population with his own unwavering and all-conquering faith. But we have not yet answered the question as to where the money came from. The answer is a purely spiritual one; he asked God for it, and God gave it. He asked no one but God. He would neither beg himself nor allow his people to do it. His sole and continual resort was to the "dear Lord." He prayed to God in secret, and men sent him the money. It came from Australia, from America, from England, and from many parts of Germany; it came, in many cases, as the very nick of time, but never, never came too late.

We have here a problem. What will men of the world do with it? Upon their principles it is wholly insoluble. They must confess their ignorance or attempt to explain it as a series of accidents, strangely persisted in through a series of years, until chance itself becomes a law. But then, where do things of this sort occur outside of the sphere of religion? Why, nowhere. Christianity has better answer. The work of God, through Louis Harms, without being a miracle is of the nature of a miracle. It is a divine intervention, or a series of divine interventions, lying between the ordinary form in which God answers the prayers of his people and the more startling form characterized as miraculous. It is so nearly miraculous that only ignorant and stupid folly can refuse to see God in it, and yet it is not precisely like restoring dead bones to their normal condi-

and public morality, or do an awful injustice to the children for whose life and healthy education you are responsible.

THE UNWORLDLY MAN.

"They are not of the world.—John xvii. 14.

A wide difference exists between the righteous and the wicked. The godly were once "of the world" as well as in it, but now grace has made them to differ. They were the children of darkness, sin, pollution, shame, wrath, and ruin "even as others," but their gracious and covenant God has delivered them from their lost estate, and changed them into his own image of righteousness and holiness. He has "set their feet upon a rock" from which they can never be removed, and effectually "established their going." At one time they hated righteousness and loved iniquity, avoided all that was good, and sought all that was evil. Now holiness is their chief delight and sin the object of their greatest abhorrence. They sincerely avoid every appearance of evil, and earnestly follow after peace and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord. "They are not of the world" though for a season they are and must be in it. They are left in it that by their principles and lives they may sternly rebuke sin, and that their presence may prove that God has a people whom he can and does "keep from the evil" by which they are surrounded and threatened. They are kept in the world in order that God may work in them to will and to do of his good pleasure, that by passing through many furnaces their grace may be tried, purified and strengthened, and their souls prepared by the loss of their rust and dross to enter into the joy of their Lord. But "they are not of the world" in their nature which is changed into the glorious image of Christ. They have been "born again" and their hearts and affections constantly have an upward and heavenly tendency. They are "new creatures in Christ Jesus, old things are passed away and all things are become new." They are not of the world with regard to their tastes and pursuits. They once gave the preference to temporal and carnal things, but now they prefer those things which are spiritual and Christ-like. Being, as the patriarchs of old, "strangers and pilgrims upon earth," they "abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul." They run and struggle and fight, not for that which is earthly and carnal, transient, and worthless, but for that which is holy, heavenly, spiritual, precious and enduring, even for the mark of the prize of their high calling, and for the crown of glory which faileth not away. In their spirit and disposition they are not of the world. They "have received not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that they might know the things that are freely given to them of God." Theirs is no longer a spirit of sensuality, rebellion, malice and sin, but a spirit of love, peace, meekness, humility, patience and grace. The spirit of the world they disown, detest, watch pray, and strive against because the Lord "hateth the spirit of His son into their hearts." No man can be a Christian who is a stranger to this spirit, for it is written, "If any man have not the spirit of Christ he is none of His." Dear reader, can you stand this test?

The Christian is not of this world in his will, judgment, conscience, affection, feelings, sentiments, objects, allegiance, obediency, pleasures, and practices. He is "chosen out of the world," called out of the world, separated from the world, and preserved from its power, rule, malice, and destructive influence, even for the mark of the prize of their high calling, and for the crown of glory which faileth not away. All the spirit and wisdom of the world is earthly and carnal, transient, and worthless, but for that which is holy, heavenly, spiritual, precious and enduring, even for the mark of the prize of their high calling, and for the crown of glory which faileth not away. All the spirit and wisdom of the world is earthly and carnal, transient, and worthless, but for that which is holy, heavenly, spiritual, precious and enduring, even for the mark of the prize of their high calling, and for the crown of glory which faileth not away. 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