

Religious Intelligencer.

THAT GOD IN ALL THINGS MAY BE GLORIFIED THROUGH CHRIST.—Peter

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THE PREACHER OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY.

BY REV. JOSEPH PARKER, D. D.,

the horrors of its cold waters. I have

sometimes thought that a preacher

should rather study to avoid anything,

even in dress, or in "holy wine,"

which separates him from the great

commonality of the people. We need

not go down to them in any sense that

vulgarizes ourselves. True gentility

is not debased even when it goes out

to seek and to save the lost.

The preacher for the Twentieth

Century will not be so much a revolu-

tionist as a transformer. In a sense

he will be able by the power of heaven

to transubstantiate common things, so

as to invest them with great meanings

and solemnities. There are reformers

enough. Jesus Christ never attempted

to reform society; he regarded it as

sick unto death; he regarded it as

beyond self-help; he came to seek and

to save that which was lost. As the

Lord himself transformed the common

bread and wine into symbols of his

body and blood, so the preacher, who

would influence his age profoundly and

beneficently, must show the possible

religious uses of common things. The

preacher of the gospel of Christ is not

a member of a committee at work for

the reform of society. He has come

with a special mission, and nothing

must distract his attention. In Christ's

name and Christ's power he comes to

save the world, and to do nothing

else. While he is in the pulpit he has

nothing to do with merely local dis-

putes or angry controversies; he has

to lay down great principles, which

will put an end to all tumults, and to

unrighteous and complicated conflicts.

The preacher is not to be a clever little

sub-committeeman; he has always to

stand upon the sublimest heights and

to unveil the purpose and the nearness

of the kingdom of God.

The preacher for the Twentieth

Century is to be a true, in contradis-

tinction to a formal or artificial, priest.

I see no reason why we should regard

the word priest with prejudice, except

in so far as it has been misapplied by

men who have had some knavish pur-

pose to accomplish. Jesus Christ

himself is a priest, the Priest, the High

Priest. In our degree, we should, as

preachers, cultivate the priestly ele-

ment. God has been pleased in his

good providence to work through

agency, instrumentality, or some kind

of mediation. There is one Advocate

with God. As we are followers of

that Advocate, and as we hold our

orders from him, we, too, should be

intercessors, pleading, holding the

people in our hearts, and bearing them

up before God in loving, wise and

tender prayer.

The preacher for the Twentieth

Century must be a contemporary

rather than an antiquarian. Some of

our people really do not care much

about the heresies of the early cen-

turies of the Christian era. The fault I

have to find with many people is not

that they are antiquated, but that they

are not sufficiently venerable. If they

were more venerable they would be

more modern. I would not advise the

preacher for the Twentieth Century to

go back to the Puritans; I would

strongly advise him to go back to the

prophets and to the apostles. Do not

let your antiquarianism be too shallow,

and too obviously wanting in color

and moss and proofs of incalculable

age. I would rather hear a Biblical

preacher than a preacher who founds

himself on the methods of the Pur-

itans. The Puritans I hold in high

honor; I would on no account dispar-

age their solid and careful teaching;

but if I have to choose between a

Prophet and a Puritan I unhesitating-

ly choose the Prophet.

London, England.

Wednesday Jacob Dearborn Marr,

a farmer living near Clinton, Me.,

killed his three children, Alice M.,

aged 13 years; Elwin, aged 9, and

Helen, aged 7, with an axe. He was

crazy.

At Coldbrook, Mass., Thursday,

Mrs. Lizzie Naramore slew with axe

and club, her entire family of six

little children, the eldest not quite

ten and the youngest a babe of ten

months. She was of course, insane.

She cut her own throat.

Memphis, Ind., was almost totally

destroyed by fire on Monday; loss

about \$200,000.

A VERY SAD STORY.

A man named Dowie in Chicago has

power enough, it seems, to do cruel

harm in a quiet rural spot in Nova

Scotia. We had read of his evil ways

in other places, and the skill he has dis-

played in leading astray the simple and

the ignorant by his lying wonders and

his plausible fables; but we did not

suspect that his victims could be found

amongst ourselves. The unexpected

often happens. In King's County, N.

S., so we learn, a mother was very ill

and weak after the birth of her babe.

The father would call no doctor to help

the poor woman at any stage of her

illness, and it is said that the mother

herself was of the same mind. They

would "trust in God,"—they would

have "faith cure." They would have

no doctor, no drugs. But they—at

least the husband, trusted in Dowie and

telegraphed to Chicago for Dowie's

prayers. He spent a good deal of

money in this telegraphing, and received

answers directing him to "Thank

God for partial victory, give up all

medicines, pork and tobacco." This

for the benefit of a woman in the most

critical stage of serious illness! The

woman died and thus gave up "pork

and tobacco." No doctor had been

called to her assistance; but the aid of

a cruel rascal two thousand miles away

was solicited by telegraph. "Trust in

God," certainly, and pray to God. It is

the old and right advice at all times.

Faith in God is the highest reason. But

God is reasonable and He expects us

and directs us to use all reasonable

means for the preservation and restora-

tion of health. Faith is a privilege and a

duty; and all our works and our efforts

for our temporal and spiritual good

should be begun continued and ended

in faith in our gracious Heavenly

Father. Why should reasonable men

and women put their trust in Alexander

Dowie or any other human being, man

or woman, whose evident purpose is to

deceive and rob and spoil the unsuspect-

ing? Dowie has a large Hall in Chicago

where he exhibits the crutches and

other aids laid aside by the cripples

whom he has "cured." This is a con-

temptible old dodge, restored to

decoy the foolish. . . . We pray to God

for our daily bread; we trust Him for

our health. We "praise God from

whom all blessings flow." Yet we are

not such idiots as to cease from proper

and reasonable efforts to secure these

blessings. The physician and his

drugs, the surgeon and his implements

and apparatus are just as much needed

in their time and place as the farmer

with his plow, the merchant with his

wares. It is difficult to write calmly

of persons who cruelly risk the lives

of men and women and take their

money while so doing; and who at the

same time claim God's high authority

for the course they are pursuing. We

should remember that deceivers have

abounded in all ages, and that in our

enlightened days they are not less

numerous, not less cunning, bold and

adroit. We should be on our guard

against their wiles. School teachers

ought to teach the children the lessons

of common sense. Ministers of the

Gospel may well utter timely warnings,

and help to form a sound public opin-

ion in which the scope for the operations

of the swindler—and especially the

person who swindles in the name of

the Lord shall not find a congenial

atmosphere or a convenient sphere for

his operations.—Presbyterian Witness.

many times that sum. Of course

millions of people will be benefited by

it who will never stop to think that

the dam was not always there. More

food, more work, more money, greater

prosperity will come to Egypt and

abide there. England will still be

called a nation of land grabbers. The

fact will be cited again and again that

the British fleet under Admiral Sey-

mour battered down the Egyptian

forts at Alexandria, and that Redvers

Buller with his cavalry captured Cairo,

and that Arabi Pasha was banished to

Ceylon. But the other fact remains

that Christian civilization has given to

Mohammedan Egypt blessings never

known before, and now has crowned

its work by one of the greatest

mechanical achievements of modern

times, in whose benefits all the people

will share.

THE TOO SENSITIVE.

The person who is in a chronic state

of feeling hurt and is the martyr of

endless grievances is discussed by

'Jan Maclaren' in a Sunday Magazine

article on 'Respectable Sins.' This

person, says Dr. Watson, 'will refuse

to sit on the platform because he was

not put in the front row, or he will

not serve on a committee because his

advice was not taken on some occasion,

or he will harp in conversation on the

fact that he is of no importance, and

therefore it is of no use his saying

anything. If you have to deal with

this sort of temper it is necessary to

take care that he (or more likely she)

is consulted first and made a leader,

and given the glory, and made much

of, and then he (or more likely she)

will work hard, and not grudge sacri-

fices, and be as sweet as honey.'

BIBLES BY THE MILLION.

During the nineteenth century the

British and Foreign Bible Society dis-

tributed 165,000,000 copies of the

Scripture. They weighed 30,700 tons.

To transport this mountain of Bibles

a train sixteen miles long, drawn by

150 locomotives, would be necessary.

The area of the printed pages would

furnish standing room for twice as

many persons as are now living

throughout the world. If all these

Bibles were made into a single volume

the book would be 202 feet high, 140

feet wide and 41 feet thick; each page

would weigh 60 tons, and to turn one

of them over would take the strength

of 1,200 men or 40 horses. Further,

the Bibles would make 197½ columns

each as high as Mount Everest (29,000

feet).

PROGRESS OF THE NEGRO.—Congress-

man White, of North Carolina, the

only colored member of the House of

Representatives at Washington, in a

recent speech gave the following facts

concerning his race in the United

States. They show the remarkable

progress of that people since they

ceased to be slaves. Mr. White said:

"The negro was no longer the negro

Woman's Foreign Missionary Society.

"Rise up ye women that are at ease.

Isaiah 32: 9.

[All contributions for this column

should be addressed to Mrs. Jos.

McLeod, Fredericton.]

FROM THE HOME SECRETARY

DEAR INTELLIGENCER:

Having been requested by some of

the sisters to write for the column, I

attempt to do so, with the feeling

that perhaps I can write nothing of

interest. Always when I open the

INTELLIGENCER, the Woman's Mis-

sionary department is the first to take

my attention. I enjoy much the

letters written by our sisters.

We are endeavouring, as best we

can, to increase the interest in Foreign

Mission work. For this purpose two