

Our Contributors.

THE DARK SIDE.

A great many exhortations have been given to people to avoid looking on the dark side of one's situation, or experience. All are urged to keep looking at the bright side of all affairs, all circumstances, all events, all prospects. I freely admit that the constant practice of one's contemplating the most unfavorable aspects of his situation and prospects is bad for him; it injures his mind and it makes him an unpleasant companion to others. And yet there is need of one's looking somewhat on the dark side of various things. It is folly to shut one's eyes against certain conditions which are immediately perilous. When one is the subject of a physical ailment of a serious nature he is a fool if he refuse to look at the worst aspect of it. He may laugh at the idea that he is running great risk by not giving due attention to his condition, but his looking at the bright side of the case cannot lessen his danger. The danger exists, and it is best wisdom to so heed it as to provide an escape from it, if possible.

There are parents who are so much opposed to viewing the dark side of facts and conditions that they will not heed warnings when they are told of certain perils to which their children are exposed. Their children get into bad company and begin to go wrong, but the parents resent all warnings, because they are determined to keep looking at the most favorable features of their children's situation. Surely this is bad looking, as many have learned when it was too late to remedy it. Then, too, it is wise to look at the dark side of one's unpreparedness for the eternal world. Very many are keeping their eyes on the false light of a hope that God's mercy will take him to heaven, even if they be unconverted. It is true wisdom to look at the dark truth that those who die in their sins will be subject to "eternal punishment," and then seek salvation in Christ.—C. H. Wetherbe.

Card Playing, Dancing and Theatre Going.

During the discussion on the proposal to remove the rule of the Methodist Episcopal church, which forbids card-playing, dancing and theatre-going, Dr. Munhall, a widely-known evangelist, spoke as follows:

Of course there are pastors and pastors. Some call on the members of their flocks more frequently than others. Some satisfy their own view of the requirements of their position if they call upon the sick, or upon those who are in distress from any cause, or upon those who wish to have personal religious conversation. And the number of such special cases in a large church is by no means small. There are pastors, too, who have a large estimate of the importance of close, persistent study if they are to answer the requirements laid upon them as religious teachers. The problems which press upon them from every side in this active, busy age are many and complex, and if they are to give them proper attention they must take time for their consideration. The demands of the pul-

pit at the present day, we are inclined to believe, are beyond those of any period in the past.

But it is to be remembered that the pastor is not simply a preacher. A preacher he is of course. He is called to declare glad-tidings. He has a message, and he must make it known. But any pastor is greatly mistaken if he supposes that by his Sunday ministrations in the pulpit he is fulfilling his great task. These ministrations afford a great opportunity it is true. But there is a ministry outside of the pulpit, in the homes of the people, that is no less effective, if it is rightly conducted. Certainly here, also, is a great opportunity. It is an opportunity which our Lord and Master often seized during his earthly ministry. In the home, by the wayside, with only a single hearer it may be he sought and found an opportunity for pastoral work, the shepherding of needy souls. A wise pastor will seek to follow in the footsteps of Jesus. He will not be discouraged by the seeming fruitlessness of his efforts oftentimes, but will labor on studying how to show himself approved unto God.

We are familiar with what is said by many pastors in excusing themselves for not making pastoral calls, except in such special cases as we have mentioned, or at very long intervals. But we are persuaded that a minister loses much of the influence he should exert by failing to seize the opportunity which the open doors of his people offer. It is indeed in the homes of his people, far more than in the house of worship, that he comes into closest touch with those over whom he has been made a shepherd. Here he may heal the broken-hearted, lift up the fallen, give strength to the weak, and inspire with faith and courage those needing inspiration in the daily events of life.

Such a pastor will not neglect his pulpit preparations by reason of pastoral visitation. In fact among his people he will obtain many a helpful suggestion with reference to his preaching as he finds himself in the presence of the actual needs of those to whom he ministers. Many an object lesson will come before him in his pastoral rounds. Oftentimes he will be made acquainted with experiences not found in books, and in this way he will be better prepared to help those whom he seeks to help as a good minister of Jesus Christ.

THE MAGAZINES.

The most sensational feature any magazine has captured in years is Thos. W. Lawson's "Frenzied Finance; the Story of Amalgamated Copper," which begins in the July issue of *Everybody's Magazine*. Mr. Lawson was one of the organizers of that gigantic corporation, and he knows exactly what happened to the millions that were lost. He promises revelations. He frankly states that his purpose is to set himself right with the thousands who, through his instrumentality, put their money into Amalgamated and have been plundered; also, that the best way to educate the public to realize the evils of which such affairs are the result, is to expose the brutal facts of the modern system of finance. The main narrative will deal with the real heads of Standard Oil and Amalgamated and others; and we are promised such a showing up of financial personalities and methods as has not yet been made. The new Hall Caine serial, "The Prodigal Son," begins in the July issue. Other contributions are in keeping with these.

The July *Delineator* is a magazine of beauty and utility. The display of summer fashions is complete, the fiction

bright, the special articles informative, and the number is rounded out by a series of practical papers on domestic topics. Egypt, Arabia, and the Holy Land are seen through the camera in the course of the unique trip "Around the World in Eighty Pictures," and in "The Fountain of Youth" Dr. Grace Peckham Murray supplies instructions for the treatment of the hair. For young people, there are entertaining stories and pastimes and for needle-workers and householders many pages of useful information.

Acadiensis.—Special Champlain Number, July, 1904. During the past nine months extensive preparations have been made for the Special Champlain issue of this valuable magazine. The forthcoming issue, which contains about 200 pages of printed matter, and is handsomely illustrated, is probably the best magazine issue of its class, that of a purely historical nature, yet published in Canada. Considerable journalistic enterprise has been exhibited by the publisher, who has had extensive research made both in the British Museum, London, England, and the Biblioteque Nationale, in Paris, under the supervision of Mr. Victor Hugo Paltsits, of the Lenox Library, New York, for data regarding the authenticity of existing portraits of de Monts and Champlain, six of which are reproduced in full page size. This topic is ably dealt with by Mr. Paltsits. A special correspondent was sent to Brouage, on the south-western coast of France, the town at which Champlain was born. The town, as it appears today, with its ancient walls, the old church at which Champlain probably worshipped, and the monument to his memory erected there, are all well illustrated. This is the first publication in America to present to its readers a sketch of the monument erected to this great Frenchman at his native place by his fellow countrymen. Professor Ganong contributes an exhaustive article upon the voyage of Champlain, during which the discovery and naming of the St. John river took place. The pages relating to Champlain's experiences in Acadian waters are reproduced by the photo-engraving process, from its original work, published in Paris in 1613. This work is now extremely rare, so that the reproduction will be valuable to the linguist and the historian. The French flag of the time of Champlain, with illustrations, by Dr. George Stewart, of Quebec; the Colonists at St. Croix, by Edwin Asa Dix, Fellow of Princeton University, and author of "Champlain, the Founder of New France;" The Indians of N. B. in Champlain's Time, by Montague Chamberlain; Champlain, a poem by S. E. Dawson, Litt. D., Honorary Secretary of the Royal Society; Men-ah-quesk, by Dr. W. O. Raymond, and other contributions, will make this issue of *Acadiensis* practically a Champlain hand book. Single copies to non-subscribers, \$1.50; for sale at all book stores, or upon application to D. R. Jack, Editor and Publisher, St. John, N. B.

ENGLISH CHANNEL TUNNEL. — The question of a tunnel between England and France under the English Channel is again under consideration. It is 50 years since it was first proposed and it is significant evidence of the advancement of modern engineering over that of 50 years ago that the estimated cost of the work was then \$50,000,000, whereas now it has been reduced to \$20,000,000. No doubt the present cordial relation between the countries has much to do in encouraging promoters of the project to agitate it at this time. As it was opposed by the British military authorities then, so it is likely to be opposed by them still as a menace to the country in the event of war.

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