

SERVICE OF SONG.

(Editorial).

Of all delightful angel-like services in which the redeemed on earth can in spirit and truth worship God on earth as the redeemed around the throne the service of song stands most prominent. The pure created intelligences of the upper world sing. Before the Father of spirits breathed into man a living soul the morning stars sang together, rejoicingly, in adoring delightful worship. The first of our ransomed race, redeemed from his fallen state through the blood of the everlasting covenant, as he entered through the newly opened way, his paradise regained, began a new song. But though new, it was destined through the infinite love of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world to be an everlasting song. Not long was he alone. Angels who had never been redeemed through the blood could not join him.

That they had their loved songs, and were in sympathy with the blood-washed angel spirit that had newly taken his place with the worshippers around the throne is true. They knew that salvation was of the Lord, therefore were much "people in heaven, saying, Alleluia! salvation, and glory, and honor, and power unto the Lord our God." But those pure, unfallen spirits could not with Abel sing, "Unto Him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in His own blood, and hath made us kings and priests unto God and His Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen!"

But it was love, infinite love, through whose aspirations the song had been learned, and that, all pervading, was alike on earth as in heaven. It was His design that redeemed earth should be His temple. Abel had learned his strain before he had left earth for the upper sphere, and other spirits were already being attuned to join him. It was the design of God that the sacrifice and service of song should ascend as acceptably from the temple of redeemed, saved, blood-washed hearts on earth as in heaven. The Christian heart is Christ's temple. Though an innumerable company have since joined that first one of our redeemed race around the eternal throne in heaven in the everlasting song, tens of thousands who have not yet passed through the vail of outward things are now turning to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads. Earth is the training place for heaven. We are sad, indeed, when we see this blessed part of worship restricted to a few, perhaps an irreligious quartette, set apart from the mass of worshippers in the gallery. To say the least, it is lamentably out of taste. The wisdom that would teach after this sort is not the wisdom that cometh from above, but is earthly, sensual, and we sincerely fear that the revealings of eternity will prove that it had its origin with, if we say with the devil, we should be pronounced unreasonably severe.

But surely its origin is not of God. How can the worship of song performed by an irreligious choir be an acceptable service to Him who requires the holy homage of devout hearts from the assembly of His people. God is a spirit, and they that wor-

ship Him must worship in spirit and in truth. A service of song that emanates from the lips, and not from the heart, is from the lips, and not from the heart, is nothing less than solemn mockery. And as such we fearlessly say it is not of God, and if not of God it is of the devil. Will those who stand in an official relation to the churches and have the orderings of the service of song see to this as those who will be called to render an account of their influence in such matters when the judgment is set and the books opened.

If instrumental music cannot be made fully subservient to the worship of the Most High it ought not to be tolerated in any place of worship. But we are not among those who assume to teach that all instrumental music is out of place in the house of God. The Psalmist, when in his highest, holiest inspirations, calls upon the people to praise the Lord with "stringed instruments, organs, etc." Yet how unlike the service of sweet sounds here suggested by the Holy Psalmist to the frivolous untimely airs that too often greet our ears in the Holy Sanctuary from an irreligious orchestra, whose manifest aim seems rather to court praises to themselves in view of their musical performances than to sound forth the praises of the High and Holy One. If such be the aim, are not such performances an abomination to God?—Guide to Holiness, 1868.

THE MENACE.

We refer to the moving picture shows. Read what the Providence "Journal," a secular newspaper, says of them:

"The moving picture menace has become so serious, that even some of the secular papers that advertise the shows are sounding the alarm. The Providence 'Journal' recently declared. 'A large proportion—perhaps eighty per cent.—of the films shown in this country are of such a character that they ought never to be displayed, particularly to boys and girls in the most impressionable period of life. They present crime and lasciviousness under the thinnest veneer or convention. They appeal to the passions of those who gaze upon them. They invite imitation. They put dangerous or unclean thoughts into wholesome and unspoiled minds. They work insidiously—and sometimes even with startling frankness—to achieve their improper ends. Any informed and disinterested person will testify to the rank suggestiveness and open vulgarity of much of the stuff that is thrown on the screen. Millions of American citizens visit movie houses every day. We cannot afford to go on loosely and indefinitely, indifferent to the menace. That it is a menace is becoming plainer all the time.'"—Sel.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO HIGHWAY FUND.

The following persons have contributed to the Highway Fund: Mrs. Ada A. Day, Stanley Willett, Mrs. James Keiver, Mrs. Samuel Sipprell, E. Cosman.

"The economic forces of America are arrayed against the saloon. Capital and labor have both declared war upon alcohol."

QUARTERLY MEETING.

The R. B. Quarterly Meeting of District No. 1 convened with the church at Royalton on June 7th. Brother Coy preached in the evening while on Friday Brother B. R. Burt led the meeting in the afternoon, and Brother Coy preached again in the evening. Mrs. Will Haywood led the meeting on Saturday morning. The business session was held in the afternoon when cheering reports were given by visiting delegates. The congregations were not large but were helpful and encouraging.

Brother L. S. Kinney led the Saturday evening meeting which was a helpful one. During this meeting Bros. H. S. Dow and P. J. Trafton arrived, thus adding new interest both by their presence and helpful talks. They, however, were unable to remain over the Sabbath on account of a baptism which they had arranged beforehand.

On Sunday morning the love feast was led by Brother Ziba Orser and it was a love feast indeed. Many testimonies as to God's power to save and sanctify were given and it truly was a season of great blessing. At its close the sacrament of the Lord's Supper was administered.

The afternoon service was in the hands of Brother Coy and in the evening Brother Perley Briggs preached the closing sermon of the quarterly meeting.

On Saturday afternoon Brother Coy presented the needs of the Highway and a collection amounting to \$5.15 was taken for that purpose.

An offering of \$24.25 was taken for Brother Orser.

Although the congregations at the quarterly meeting were not large owing to the bad weather, yet God's power was manifest in all the meetings and we trust much good done.

An invitation for the next quarterly meeting was given by Lower Hainsville and was unanimously accepted.

C. C. SHAW,

Sec. pro tem.

WHAT MAKES A NATION GREAT?

Not serried ranks with flags unfurled,
Nor armored ships that gird the world,
Not hoarded wealth nor busy mills,
Not cattle on a thousand hills,
Not sages wise, nor schools, nor laws,
Not boasted deeds in freedom's cause—
All these may be and yet the state
In the eye of God be far from great.

That land is great which knows the
Lord,
Whose songs are guided by His word;
Where justice rules 'twixt man and man,
Where love controls in act and plan,
Where breathing in his native air
Each soul finds joy in praise and prayer
Thus may our country, good and great,
Be God's delight—man's best estate.
—Alexander Blackburn.

A warm blundering man does more for the world than a frigid wise man.—Cecil.

"The reason why some people get so little out of their religion is because they put so little into it."