

A CHANGE AT LAST IN SIGHT.

Editorial from the Herald of Holiness—
Old Ministers to the Front.

We rejoice to chronicle a change in the craze for young men for pastors which has so long been the rule with churches to the discrediting of preachers of experience and noted success. At last sanity has returned or is returning to men who have the selection of pastors for churches and men of years and repute for bringing things to pass as pastors are being sought for churches wherein they can do great good for years to come. The Watchman Examiner says in a recent issue:

At last the tide has turned. At last, after many long years of trying experimentation, the churches have learned that experienced leadership brings the most solid and permanent results. The minister of fifty is still in the heyday of his freshness and vigor, and the churches are anxious to secure his services. The "dead line" seems to have disappeared.

It is not so very long since the cry for young men as pastors of important churches was well-nigh universal. The possession of youthfulness was a tremendous asset. In the Baptist church of a certain college town twenty-five years ago a man of rather unusual ability, and with a fine record, was heard as a candidate for two Sundays. The people were delighted with his personality and his preaching. He would undoubtedly have received a call, but unfortunately he had a birthday during the period of his visit, and yet more unfortunately, he mentioned the fact that this birthday was his forty-fifth. This settled the question instantly. He was too old. He was "in the sere and yellow leaf." Culture, education, preaching power, and the skill that accompanies results, counted for nothing, or were outweighed by the tragic fact that he was tottering under the burden of accumulated years, numbering forty-five.

Such occurrences were common enough in those antediluvian days, but they do not happen now. We heard only recently of a brilliant young minister, between forty and forty-five, who had just been called to a prominent church. The only objection urged against him, when his name was being discussed, was that he was "too young." This handicap was seriously debated, and at last set aside, in view of his other eminent qualifications. This incident is not hearsay, but definite personal knowledge.

A minister who for many years has occupied pulpits of commanding influence said recently: "Nearly all the numerous requests which I used to receive from churches in search of pastors began with the statement, 'We want a young man.' During the last eight or ten years this phrase seldom appears in such applications for help and counsel. In the majority of cases the demand now is for 'a man who has proved his competency,' or 'one who has shown that he can bring things to pass.'"

This change is surprising. It is also symptomatic. The strain and confusion of our present-day life, the problems of adjustment and adaptation to new conditions, the ever-increasing need for ma-

ture and wise leadership, have forced the churches, as a means of self-preservation, to seek earnestly for ministers of fully ripened powers, well-tested judgment, and thoroughly developed knowledge of men, methods and affairs. In exceptional cases the man who is young may possess these qualifications, but such a combination of youth with wide and varied experience is rare.

So we find the great majority of our large churches manned today by ministers whose age average somewhat around fifty years.

BE FILLED WITH THE SPIRIT.

Joseph H. Smith.

The fullness of the Holy Ghost is good for the countenance, for the facial expression; and if I were some of you people I would get it for that.

I don't blame worldly people in the church or out, for running to "shows" and all sorts of worldly attractions. They haven't anything better. But, oh, how these things look for the Spirit-filled soul.

A Spirit-filled man has liberty to do anything, anywhere, all the time, that God calls him to do.

Full salvation can be depended upon to take the stinginess out of a man. If it does not strike him in the region of the pocket-book, it has not yet struck him all over, and so is not a full salvation.

If you are filled with the Spirit, it will break out on you; others will find it out; and that right early.

The fullness of the Holy Ghost can give you power to speak such as no schooling can account for, such as no position can explain; but to speak as one that hath authority; proclaiming the gospel "with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven."

Don't mistake railing for witnessing. The fullness of the Holy Spirit delivers from censoriousness. You don't read that "they were all filled with the Holy Ghost and they began to criticize"—no, they began to witness—that's quite a different thing.

We have this treasure in earthen vessels; and some of the vessels may be a bit cracked, but it's good "treasure" just the same.

Instantaneous.

Can a man be filled with the Holy Ghost instantaneously? How long will it take an ocean to fill a teacup? Forever, of course, unless the tea-cup is emptied. And when emptied the ocean cannot fill it if it is kept on the shelf out of contact. But bring the emptied cup into contact with the tide. I can't hold the ocean's fullness, of course; but it can be itself filled with all the fullness of the sea, and that instantaneously.

Here is a bit of information for the rummies and "personal liberty" advocates: The New York Tribune of Dec. 19th stated New York was at that date at the lowest ebb in history. It says that on Dec. 18th, when the first real winter weather gripped New York City, only one man applied for a bed in the famous Bowery Mission, where under similar conditions a year ago there would have been about five thousand applicants.—Free Methodist.

HOW TO MULTIPLY THE CHURCH MEMBERSHIP.

Editorial from the Christian Witness.

In these days when the question is asked how to check the tide that is ebbing away from churches; in these days when all sorts of excuses are being made for the decline of membership and the increase of the non-church going masses, it might be well to go back to first principles to answer these questions. We believe the reason for the marvelous success of the early church was because it followed the order laid down by its founder. We believe that when God gave his church its working rules, he gave such as were suited to reaching men at all times and places. We believe that the same methods that caused the early church to triumph over the almost hopeless situation as it faced the power and corruption of the Roman empire, can again be successful and will be if they are worked with the same spirit.

It is refreshing to know that in spite of the awful situation that the early church was in, it multiplied. And as we read in Acts 9:31 that the churches "multiplied," we learn the reason: "Walking in the fear of the Lord and the comfort of the Holy Spirit."

We have read in some of the church papers recently that the problem is not solvable as to how the more than one-half of the population of the United States have nothing to do with the churches. We suggest that if the churches do as the Pentecostal churches did—"walk in the fear of the Lord and the comfort of the Holy Ghost," the problem will be solved. Nothing has yet been able to stand before such a church. It means a good deal to walk in the fear of the Lord. It means to cut loose from worldliness, it means entire consecration. To walk in comfort of the Holy Ghost is to have that supernatural comfort that gets victory over the world and receives such marks of the divine indwelling as to make religion so attractive that the world is convinced that there is that in the church that they must have. Until we can make the world believe that we have something that they have not and that is what they need and can get nowhere else, the world will still go on in its ways of seeking pleasure from the things of this world. Oh, that this New Testament method might be tried by the church universal, for wherever it has been tried by single churches it has succeeded.—Christian Witness.

"DO YE NOT REMEMBER?"

A lone traveller is in his chariot reading the Word, and God knows he is an honest inquirer, so He takes an evangelist out of a very good meeting and sends him to the desert way, that he may win a soul hungry for Him. "Understandest thou what thou readest?" says the God-sent man, and at once comes the cry for help, "How can I, except some man should guide me?" The man to guide is there, and he teaches this inquirer of the truth, and sends him rejoicing on his way.

The Holy Spirit is our Guide and He is always alongside of us to guide us into the truth, and to bring to our remembrance the things we were taught of the Lord.—Sel.