

MOSQUE OF SAINT SOPHIA

The Turks are following the Russian example in many things. As the Soviet government has transformed many of the grandest cathedral churches into state museums, so Kemal has quietly transformed the Mosque of Saint Sophia, in Istanbul (Constantinople) into a museum. Built by the Emperor Justinian as a Christian church, on a site which had been consecrated by Constantine the Great, it became a Mohammedan shrine when the Turks took the city in 1453. It was for 900 years the greatest Christian church of the East, and for nearly 500 years the most famous Turkish mosque. Now the whitewash which obliterated the Christian mosaics has been removed, the prayer carpets stripped off the marble floors, and the thirty-foot green discs, bearing in Arabic characters the names of the prophet and his successors, have been taken down from the walls, where they have been so strangely out of harmony with the architecture. German archaeologists driving trenches through the western court have brought to light blocks of marble, which fitted together are found to be the western portal of the original Church of Constantine. On them may still be seen the symbols of the lamb, the vineleaf and the dove, carved there by Christian sculptors early in the fourth century after Christ. The Turks make no profession of religious significance in this restoration of Saint Sophia, but Christian sentiment will be deeply moved by it, and there will be those who will look forward to the re-establishment within its sacred walls of the worship of Him whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and whose dominion endureth throughout all generations.—Christian Advocate.

HE LOST OUT

The doctor quit reading his medical journals, and he "lost out."
 The teacher quit reading his works on pedagogy, and he "lost out."
 The Sunday School teacher quit reading his Sunday School papers and periodicals, and he "lost out."
 The electrician quit reading his journals on the science of electricity, and he "lost out."
 The banker quit reading the latest and most approved methods of banking, and he "lost out."
 The farmer quit reading his agricultural journals, and he "lost out."
 The preacher quit reading his books and periodicals on theology and Christian work, and he "lost out."
 The church member quit reading his Church paper, and he "lost out" in his religious life, his interest in the Church, his zeal for the spread of the kingdom and his usefulness to the community in which he lived.—Author Unknown.

DAVID LIVINGSTONE'S PRAYER

It was David Livingstone's habit every birthday to write a prayer. On the next to the last birthday of all, this was his prayer: "O Divine One! I have not loved Thee earnestly, deeply, sincerely enough. Grant, I pray Thee, that before this year is ended I may have finished my task." Says R. E. Speer, "It was just on the threshold of the year that followed that his faithful men, as they looked into the hut at Hoola, while the rain dripped from the eaves, saw their master on his knees beside his bed, in the attitude of prayer."—Selected.

"TRYING TIMES ARE TIMES FOR TRYING."

This expression which appeared in the recent address of the President of the British Conference of Methodists, was received heartily as an exponent of the spirit of the assembly. It suggests that no more time should be wasted in bemoaning the difficulties placed in the way of the Church by the economic and social depression, but that rather the Church should go forward and pray down new resources of spiritual power.

Church history records the inspiring fact that many of the great revivals of religion came in the midst of a debased and depressed state. When hell revives its attacks on our foundation it is time to wake up and resist, and not only resist but march out on aggressive warfare against sin.

We owe this courageous spirit to Christ and His cause, who suffered great opposition of sinners against Himself and whose courage in the face of opposition is an inspiration to us all.

A writer commenting on the long and useful ministry of Rev. Charles H. Spurgeon says the secrets of his success could be summarized in the four statements; he had a God worth serving; a Gospel worth preaching; a religion worth enjoying; a church worth sustaining. We appropriate the summary as applicable to the work we have in hand.

We are greatly concerned that our ministers and officials in every annual conference should feel it an imperative duty to maintain the membership standards of the Church. These roles of membership are not made to be merely good advice but to be obeyed and intelligently and loyally presented. Nothing is more heartening to the Christian worker than to feel that he is a part of a group of ministers and laymen who are agreed on sustaining a strong and united front against an opposing world. In our conditions of membership we shall rise or fall as a Church committed to the testimony of full salvation.

—Wesleyan Methodist

GREATEST BLUNDER OF MY LIFE

The young people will be interested in a few of the "Blunders" written down by five hundred men, and to be found in the Crerar Library:

- "Reading worthless books."
- "Did not stick to my trade."
- "Did not stick to anything."
- "Did not take care of money."
- "Beating some one out of money."
- "Careless about my religious duties."
- "When I left my church and mother."
- "Not saving money when I was young."
- "Refused a steady position with a good firm."
- "Was to fool away my time when I was at school."
- "Thinking that my boss could not do without me."
- "Would not hearken to the advice of older people."
- "Not keeping my position, but grew slack in my work."
- "When I left school before I was past the fourth grade."
- "My greatest blunder was when I first learned to smoke"

"The greatest blunder of my life was not accepting Christ, and thereby avoiding many sorrows caused by not serving Christ."—American Weekly.

A PERVERTED VERSION

It was Sunday morning in a men's class in an English church school.

"Will you please tell me," said a member to the teacher, "how far in actual miles Dan is from Beersheba? All my life I have heard the familiar phrase "from Dan to Beersheba," but I have never known the distance."

Before the answer could be given, another member arose in the back of the room, and inquired:

"Do I understand that Dan and Beersheba are the names of places?"

"Yes."

"That is one on me. I always thought that they were husband and wife, like Sodom and Gomorrah."—Ex.

THE TREMBLING EARTH

Earthquakes are not accidental phenomena which occur at odd times for no particular reason. In all they tend to occur near certain lines of weakness or "faults" in the earth's crust. One of these faults is the great crack of which the valley of the Jordan, the basin of the Red Sea, and the basis of the African lakes are portions. They are really very frequent, but most of them happen under the ocean or in sparsely populated places where there are no observers. It is computed that about 4,000 earthquakes sensible to human beings occur every year, and that about seventy of those shake the whole of the earth. Thus the earth is not quiescent, but trembling almost continuously.—The Manchester Guardian.

SECRET CAUSES OF FAILURE

An eagle carrying a serpent in its talons to its nest on the mountain was bitten to the heart and fell to the ground. Have you ever seen a man or woman in the Church fall in the same way? You do not know the secret of the fall, but the omniscient eye of God saw it. That neglect of prayer, that secret dishonesty in business, that stealthy indulgence in the intoxicating cup, that licentiousness and profligacy unseen of men, that secret tampering with unbelief and error, was the serpent at the heart that brought the eagle down.—Theodore L. Cuyler.

SOME SOUND ADVICE

Work willingly and whole-heartedly so long as your strength permits.
 Spend money carefully.
 Refuse to go in debt except for that which will increase productive power.
 Fix a definite per cent to be given to the Lord, and a definite per cent to be saved.
 Allow no glib salesman to induce you into buying on an installment plan.
 Never speculate. Distrust the promoter.
 Protect your signature.
 Be shy toward the salesman who promises too much.—The Presbyterian.

And soon or late to all that sow
 The time of harvest shall be given;
 The flower shall bloom, the fruit shall grow,
 If not on earth, at last in heaven.
 —J. G. Whittier.

"Doubt is the vestibule of unbelief."
 "No man shall drag me down by making me hate him."—Booker T. Washington.