

THE WAR AND MISSIONS.

Instructive Paper Read Before the Presbyterial by Mrs. Hunter Boyd of Waweig.

Following is the full text of the excellent paper read at the meeting of the St. John Presbyterial on Wednesday by Mrs. Hunter Boyd of Waweig, Charlotte County.

In preparing and collecting material for this paper today, my mind has been constantly reverting to the beautiful 60th chapter of Isaiah, especially the two first verses—

"Arise! Shine! For thy light is come and the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee."
"For behold the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness cover the people, but the Lord shall arise upon thee, and the glory shall be upon thee."

"Thine heart shall fear and be enlarged, because the abundance of the sea shall be converted unto thee."
"Therefore, thy gates shall be open continually."

"For the nation and kingdom that will not serve thee shall perish, yea, those nations shall be utterly wasted. But the Gentiles shall come to thy light and kings to the brightness of thy rising."

Surely, if ever, this is the "eternal morning of modern missions." We have passed the dawn and are thoroughly awakened to the need of arousing the nations to righteousness and our sincere and supreme desire in meeting here today is to further the work of God, and push the gospel plough into the very heart of the nations.

From a human standpoint, it seems to us a difficult and stupendous task, the Orient with its 4,000 years of ancient religion, its prehistoric civilization, its numberless and difficult languages, its vast population, how can any, but a very few missionaries in the fringe of the nations, touch even the fringe of the nations, and we may well exclaim with the Isaiahs of old, "Who is sufficient for these things?" But God has marvelous ways of working and multiplying.

He prepares the furrows in his own way and works upwards from the depth to the heights.

Deep in unfathomable numbers of never failing skill, he treasures up his bright designs and works his own sovereign will. We also believe with Robert Browning, the poet that "God's in his heaven, all's right with the world," and though we may be fearful and unbelieving at times about the effect of the eastern war on the future missionary effort, we have every reason to believe that God's hand is still at the helm, in the words of the sacred song, "He will turn what seems to harm into everlasting joy." The praises of the world's great redeemer shall respond through the great wall of China, the monasteries, the withering, closed nation of Tibet, and Russia herself shall learn an everlasting lesson and blessing to the whole nation shall result.

War is a terrible evil, but like all the deep experiences of life, it opens up the greater possibilities of good. In the present struggle between Japan and Russia it is finding out, as ever, the worst and the best that is in men. Especially it is revealing to Japan the character of her Christianity as a religion to produce fidelity and character. The nation believes, and is beginning, in a deep sense, to realize that it is contending for great principles. This conviction is opening the hearts of the people to the highest moral realities.

If the nation is fighting for the truth, what is the truth? And ought not each individual to embrace the truth? Some go so far as to say that if Japan is defeated there can be no future in the Orient for Christianity, and the light of freedom and religion will fade out from that part of the world for ever. We would not be so pessimistic, we believe God is able to make his light and truth shine in the darkness, and that He moves in a mysterious way, His wonders to perform. He plants His footstep in the sea and rides upon the storm. Even if qualifications of this statement have to be made, it is a great thing to have a nation feel this impulse, and now is the time to win Japan. If she is contending for Christianity, why should she not be Christian? Shall we not try at once to make her so?

A beautiful incident occurred the other day when a Japanese colonel named Shuto Yoko-Yama was captured and shot with a companion as spies. At the court martial the colonel was asked "What his religion was?" He replied, "I am a Christian, but I am all the same a true Japanese. I was once a Buddhist, but I was won over by the loving words of Christ." The public prosecutor demanded his death, as explosive substances had been found on his person, and the decision of the court was that he and his friend were to be hanged. Upon hearing this decision the colonel said "This is well, I am ready," requested leave to write to his family, also saying that he had a package of money which he would (with their consent) hand over to the Russian Red Cross for use in their hospitals. The commandant was reluctant to accept it, and proposed sending it to the condemned men's families instead. The colonel replied, "The emperor will take care of our families, do not refuse us this satisfaction, to will the money among the wounded." Having requested to see a clergyman, a Russian priest was sent to him, who read a portion of the sermon on the Mount, the colonel following him in his own Japanese Bible, which he had carried with him for daily use. After this he bowed his head in prayer. So he made ready for his fate. He and his friend went calmly to their death (which the general had changed to being shot) and their enemies were moved with pity and regret that such noble men should be sacrificed in the service of their country. There are many such illustrations coming to us continually from the seat of war, terrible tales of suffering, and many of God's own children are striving to help others are passing through deep waters of sorrow, proving time and again that sacrifice is necessary to bring healing to the nation.

But as Christ said when he was predicting the fall of Jerusalem, "The end is not yet." The peace He kept as His choicest legacy in the hearts of His people was not to be disturbed when they heard of "wars and rumors of wars." In the history of the nations the humiliation of great wars has been followed by great revivals of the Christian religion, it was so in the American and Australian wars, and out own war in South Africa of modern times we find the way opened as never before for the entrance of light.

Gipsy Smith, a revivalist of great power in England, has been making in a tour of Africa since the war and the gospel has been accepted gladly, the report being that on some days 30,000 heard his gospel message gladly. He paid a previous visit and his services were not much in demand, the need was not felt as now.

To return to the far east, how we long to hail any words of encouragement from our dear missionaries laboring there under almost untold difficulties. From Korea we have been cheered by the behaviour of the native Christians. No doubt the outbreak of our missionaries at the outbreak of the war has furthered this and we do not feel at all anxious about the future for we know that we are in His hands and that He will continue to guide us and protect us as He has done in the past. This confidence helped the Koreans to stand firm in their faith, and the difference between the Christians and others was very marked by the absence of the panic which carried away so many. We have dear Miss McCully with us, who tells more about the triumphs of the gospel in Korea, and we thank God for her life and her message.

Dr. Grierson wrote, "All the signs point to 1905 being a splendid year for us in Korea. During the past year poor Ham Hung has been turned up by the Russian plough and raked by the Japanese harrow, but is a more humble and tractable city than its former haughty and foreign days, and we look for good results from the gospel sowing there in the near future. In China, after the Boxer raid, when the Scotch missionaries suffered amongst others, Dr. Westwater went back after a time to the site of his mission station. He had not only lost his wife and his goods and books, and very valuable surgical instruments, but the building was burned, the hospital, school and church were razed to the ground. He found the Russian guard treated him kindly and promised their aid and protection. He was sure there would be some native elders and Christians in hiding, if only they could be assured of protection he was sure they would return to him. So he sent out a message that he had returned and would hold a thanksgiving service in the Russian soldiers' quarters on the following Sabbath morning. Great was his astonishment to find the number who came out of their hiding places, until 200 gathered and the accommodation provided was altogether too small, so they adjourned to the ruins of their former church and stood within the blackened walls and held a magnificent meeting of praise and prayer, many identifying themselves with the Christians who had never before shown themselves on the Lord's side, and 'pledged themselves there and then to build up the work again. Rev. Harold Clark of Honan, in recent letters, speaks of most successful work in the country districts, and the people are beginning to have confidence in the Christian teachers and have ceased in a marked way calling them F. D.'s."

The immense success of the Y. M. C. A. amongst the Japanese is a sign of the times, and the gift of the Mikado an indication of his mind and an encouraging feature in missions.

We shall put our trust in the loving God, we shall believe that He holds sway and doeth as He will, amongst the whole inhabitants of the earth, and all things shall work together for good to those that love Him. May our supreme desire be to love Him more and serve Him better in our day and generation. May we do our work prayerfully and faithfully in the little niche of our great universe where He has placed us, working for the burdened women and neglected children in the far away east, creating an interest and spreading an influence amongst the circle in which we daily move. Shall we not live up to our profession and revel in the privilege of being co-workers together with God in the conversion of the Orient to Christianity?

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UPPER DURHAM.

June 28.—We had a little rain this week, which was very much needed in this section of the country.

Mrs. David McElwain, who was very ill with pneumonia, is getting better. Mr. and Mrs. William Fowler were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. John

Stewart of Taymouth.

Mr. Roy Johnston is recovering from an attack of measles.

The many friends of Mrs. Archibald Henderson are glad to see her out again.

Mr. Charles Morgan, with a number of men and the road plough, did the work on the road here last week. The marriage took place today at the home of Mr. Bird, of Mr. Samuel Johnston and Miss Manie Pond.

The home of Mr. Joseph Fletcher was completely destroyed by fire last Thursday. There was a light insurance on the building.

Miss Ladds, our popular teacher, and Mrs. M. Pond were calling on friends last evening.

THE ARTS OF PEACE.

Home Industries to Be Begun For the Boer Women.

The Manchester Guardian of April 25 contained an interesting account of an attempt which is being made in Orange River Colony to teach certain household industries to members of Boer households impoverished by the war. The scheme is directed by Miss Hobhouse and supported by a committee in England. The first experiment has been made in the small town of Philippolis, where there are now fourteen girls learning the whole process of weaving wool into garments, carpets, etc., in the first place for home use, but afterwards, it is hoped, for sale.

As the writer points out, home industries have a better chance of success in a country like Orange River Colony, that is almost destitute of manufactures, than in an industrial country like our own. The girls, it is said, astonish their teachers by the processes by which wool is converted from the raw material into the finished articles. It is proposed also to teach lace-making, for which there is said to be a good market, and to establish all the industries on a basis of co-operation with co-operative credit for the purpose of buying machinery, tools, etc.

The girls have taken to the scheme with much eagerness. Some of them come to Philippolis from outlying farms a good distance away, and the work, whatever commercial success it may have, is a welcome relief to them from the enforced idleness which is often one of the most irksome results of sudden poverty. The scheme at present is supported by only one hundred subscribers. It is hoped this number will soon be enlarged, and any who may wish to increase it should write to the treasurer, Miss Probert, 299 King's road, Chelsea, London, S. W.

Countess Evelyn Aschell, a Grand Pre, Geneva, Switzerland, who sends us this article (which appeared in The Speaker, April 29, 1905), and who for a long time has been collecting funds for the impoverished Boers, will also be most happy to give any details concerning Miss Hobhouse's admirable undertaking at Philippolis to those who may apply to her, or to receive any contributions.

IS YOUR DOCTOR BILL LARGE?

Best way to keep it small is not to call the doctor, but use Nerviline instead. For minor ailments like colds, coughs, chills, cramps, headache and stomach trouble Nerviline is just as good as any doctor. It breaks up a cold in one night, cures soreness in the chest, and for neuralgia, toothache and rheumatism you can't get anything half so good as Nerviline. The fame of Nerviline for cramps, colic and pain in the stomach extends far and wide. Good for everything a liniment can be good for and costs but 25c. for a large bottle.

Selections

PLAYS AND PLAYERS.

"The Girl and the Moon," a new musical comedy, is under the direction of Elmer Vance.

Paul Burns, the comedian, has signed a contract with A. H. Woods to take effect next season.

Thomas Q. Seabrooke is likely to be seen in New York this summer in a revival of "The Isle of Champagne."

Herrmann the Great is doing an elaborate magic act this season. He has spent \$5,000 for scenic effects alone.

The recent engagement of George H. Primrose and his minstrel company in Pittsburgh served to establish a new record for minstrelsy in the Smoky City.

"Thelma," a melodrama founded on Marie Corelli's great novel, will be given a mammoth scenic production for its first presentation in Pittsburgh. It is one of the greatest plays scenically ever staged.

H. B. Irving, eldest son of Sir Henry, has played Hamlet in London. The critics certainly received him graciously, for a number of them complimented him, and it was said that he deserves to rank among the half dozen best modern Hamlets.

CASTORIA

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NOTICE

TO

Water Consumers.

A Tribute to Robert Louis Stevenson.

Andrew Lang, the English critic, presents in his book of reminiscences a view of Stevenson which will appeal to many who know the author only through the medium of his books. Says Mr. Lang:

"Mr. Stevenson possessed more than any man I ever met the power of making other men fall in love with him. I mean that he excited a passionate admiration and affection, so much so that I verily believe some men were jealous of other men's place in his liking. I once met a stranger who, having become acquainted with him, spoke of him with a touching fondness and pride, his fancy reposing, as it seemed, in a fond contemplation of so much genius and charm. What was so taking in him? And how is one to analyze that dazzling surface of pleasant, that changeable, shining humor, wit, wisdom, and reason, beneath which beat the most kind and tolerant of hearts?"

It is a common experience for readers to "fall in love" with an author by reading his works and then meet with a disappointment on personal acquaintance. Stevenson has hosts of admirers who never saw him. His creations take hold upon the hearts of his readers. Evidently his art was not mere literary jugglery, but a frank interpretation of life as he knew it or wished to know it and as he felt it or wished to feel it.

Dickens' Phrases.

Since Shakespeare no writer has "made language" to the extent that Dickens has done, and the number of common colloquialisms taken from his novels and which everybody uses every day is the outstanding proof of the success with which he has appealed to the imagination of the nation.

How often we hear "Barkis is willin'," "Beware of yidders," "Oliver Twist asks for more," "Coddin's your friend, not Short," "I don't believe there's no such a person," "Let me put my lips to it when I am so disposed," "A trifle wearing," "The law is a hazz," "The demitition bowwows," and so on.

Not a few actual words have come from Dickens to the dictionary—Podsnappery, Pickwickian, Pecksniffian, Bumbleton, and many others. Dolly Varden, the pretty heroine of "Barnaby Rudge," has given her name to a hat, while Mrs. Leo Hunter, the Artful Dodger, Uriah Heep and Mrs. Jarley have become common generic terms.—London Express.

He Cleared the Table.

Miss Emma Hersey relates in The London Spectator a story of Lord Liverpool, who was traveling inognito with her father. After breakfasting at a hotel in London the Prime Minister ordered his valet, a raw Sussex youth, to clear the table and pack everything in a portmanteau. By this order, of course, was meant Lord Liverpool's letters and papers. But the youth took it to include the silver teapot and spoons. When Lord Liverpool was driving down Oxford street a cry of "Stop thief!" was raised, and the landlord of the hotel arrived in hot pursuit. There in the street the Prime Minister had the mortification of having his luggage opened, and in it was found the plate. Never would the statesman laugh at the episode, but years after, so great was his fear that the story might get into the newspapers.

After crosses and losses men grow bumber and wiser.—Franklin.

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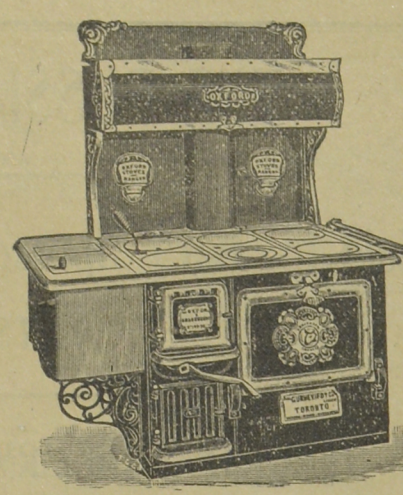
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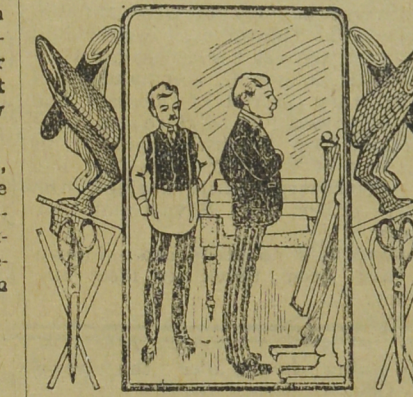
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