

THE Christian Observer

E. C. W. Meyer
9 June 17

VOL. 105.

LOUISVILLE, KY., MAY 2, 1917.

NO. 18.

Christian Observer

Presbyterian Family Newspaper
ONE HUNDRED AND THREE YEARS
OF CONTINUOUS PUBLICATION.

Founded September 4th, 1813.

HARRY P. CONVERSE, Managing Editor.
REV. DAVID M. SWEETS, D. D., Editor.

Published Every Wednesday by

CONVERSE & CO., (Incorporated.)

412 South Third Avenue, Louisville, Ky.

Remittance should be made by money order, or by registered letter or by draft on some of the large cities. When checks on local banks are sent ten cents should be added to cover cost of collection.

Address all communications intended for the Editorial Department to "The Christian Observer."

Address all business letters to Converse & Co.

For "Terms of Subscription," etc., see foot of page 18.

Entered at the Louisville Post Office as second class matter.

Contents of this Number.

EDITORIAL.	
Editorial Notes.....	1
Death of Rev. W. J. Frierson.....	1
Foreign Missions in May.....	2
Should Ministers of the Gospel Enlist?.....	2
Special Meeting of the Federal Council of Churches.....	2
The Selective Draft.....	2
The Rockefeller Foundation.....	3
ASSEMBLY'S HOME MISSIONS. Annual Report of the Executive Committee.....	6
THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.	
Jesus the True Vine, Dr. E. P. Mickel, Ga..	9
MID-WEEK PRAYER MEETING.	
Motherly Faithfulness, Dr. J. M. Vander Meulen, Ky.,	8
YOUNG PEOPLE'S SOCIETIES.	
Fellowship With God, Dr. Wm. M. Anderson, Texas...	8
ARTICLES.	
The Nourishment of Obedience, Rev. Rockwell S. Brank, Ga...	3
Look at These Men, Dr. Parke P. Flournoy, Md...	4
"In Prison and Ye Visited Me." Work Among Prisoners in Japan.....	5
Protestants in Public Life in Mexico, Rev. W. A. Ross, Texas...	5
Missionary Message for May, Dr. E. W. Smith, Tenn...	10
Ministerial Conference at Stillman Institute, Rev. Wm. E. Hutchison, Ala...	11
Letter From the Judges of the Court of Appeals of Kentucky.....	22
Zwingli, the Pioneer Puritan, Dr. R. C. Reed, S. C...	23
Increase Your Pastor's Salary.....	23
Overture Touching Licensure, Rev. J. M. Holladay, S. C...	23
Davidson College Commencement, Dr. W. J. Martin, N. C...	23
The Plan Vindicated, Dr. John I. Armstrong, Tenn...	24
WOMAN'S AUXILIARY.	14
VERSE.	
Shut Thy Door.....Helen E. Coolidge..	4
We Rest in Thee.....Alice L. Dunlap..	7
Christ, Creator.....Rev. R. Excell Fry...	8
Thy Way.....Alice L. Dunlap...	9
A Lady's Maid.....	17
RELIGIOUS NEWS.	
Our Own Church.....12, 13,	
Commissioners to the General Assembly. Ad-	
ditional List.....	23
PRESBYTERIES.	
Athens..... 18	New Orleans .. 18
Bethel..... 18	North Alabama.. 15
Brazos..... 18	Orange..... 10
Cherokee..... 10	Pee Dee..... 15
Columbia..... 10	Pine Bluff..... 15
Dallas..... 18	Potosi..... 15
Holston..... 15	Suwanee..... 15
Mobile..... 11	Western Texas.. 10
Nashville..... 10	West Lexington.. 15
HOME CIRCLE.	
One of the Fresh Airs.....16,	
Our Little Ones.—Our Young Folks.—Letters,	
Children's Hour.—Teddy's Horses.—Rule of	
Three.....	19
STORY AND INCIDENT.	
That Certain Lot, Piece, or Parcel of Land.—	
Seven Million Ton Pyramid.—Farm Pro-	
duce From Latitude Fifty-eight.....20,	
MARRIED AND DIED.	22
CURRENT EVENTS.	24

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Within the soul lies the secret of happiness. We cannot find it in external things nor in material surroundings alone. We may be happy in the midst of adversity and trials if only our heart is right in the sight of God, for "whoso trusteth in the Lord, happy is he."

It is the duty and privilege of all Christians to pray much for President Woodrow Wilson and for our country during these awful times of world conflict. No Christian should fail to pray also for peace to come throughout the whole world in God's own time.

God is a good teacher, but in teaching men He makes use of opportunities and laws just as an earthly teacher observes these laws in all efforts to educate and ennoble the souls of his students. Isaiah sought to make this truth real to Israel when he said: "The Lord will teach us of His ways and we will walk in His paths." But such teaching and training require patience. We must be willing to let God teach His own lesson in His own way. As Charles Kingsley said, "God will not "ring the school bell and send us to play before our lesson is learned."

Something of the extensiveness and comprehensiveness of the work done by the Assembly's Executive Committee of Home Missions will be gleaned from a perusal of the abstract of the annual report of this Committee, published on pages 6 and 7 of this issue. Comparatively few members of the Church have the opportunity to read the full report presented to the General Assembly each year, which is printed in pamphlet form, but every member of the Church, and especially all who are interested in the various societies and Sunday schools of the Church, will find this abstract a most interesting and informing article. In the face of the disturbed state of the financial world, the Executive Committee reports substantial advance, its receipts amounting during the past year to \$193,363, an increase over the previous year of \$16,982. An urgent call to the Church to advance is sounded in this comprehensive document.

Only one invitation to the General Assembly for its 1918 meeting has been published. This is the hearty and insistent invitation of the First Presbyterian church, of New Orleans. The General Assembly has met three times in this church: In 1858 (Old School Branch Assembly), 1877, and in 1898, the intervening periods being about twenty years. The year 1918 will end another period of twenty years, and the Assembly will be urged to accept the invitation of the First church in view of the fact that 1918 will be the centennial of the first Presbyterian preaching in Louisiana and also the centennial year of the birth of Rev. B. M. Palmer, D. D., the eloquent and beloved pastor of this church who impressed his personality perhaps more than any other man upon the Southern Presbyterian Church. Dr. Palmer was moderator of the First General Assembly of the Southern Church at its first meeting in Augusta, Georgia, in 1861. The generous hospitality of New Orleans and the beauty and charm of this Southern city will make it a formidable contentent for the honor of entertaining the General Assembly of 1918.

Have you given any thought or consideration to the possibility that your pastor and his family may be severely pinched in their financial affairs by the unusual increase in the price of all the necessities of life? Statistics show that there has been an average increase of about one-third in the cost of necessities. In other words, it requires today one dollar to purchase what could have been purchased ten years ago for seventy-five cents. The Presbytery of Transylvania, recognizing these facts, has sent to the General Assembly an overture requesting it to use all proper means to induce churches to consider whether or not they are giving to their pastors adequate living salaries. It also sent a message to all the churches within its bounds calling their attention to this matter.

The judges of the Court of Appeals of the State of Kentucky have given their hearty endorsement to the movement for the observance of "Go-to-Sunday-School-Day" in the churches. While their endorsement relates particularly to the churches and Sunday schools of the state of Kentucky, their commendation will carry conviction in every state in the Union. Their testimony is: "We believe that the study of God's Word is necessary to develop strong Christian character, that every person ought to have the blessings that result from such study and that the Sunday school is an efficient agency for the promotion of systematic Bible study." A fac-simile of the letter and signatures of the members of the Court will be found on page 22.

A large amount of space is given this week, and will be required next week, to lay before our readers the important actions taken by the various Presbyteries at their spring meetings. While these reports may seem dry and uninteresting to some of our readers, it is of vital importance that the Church at large shall be informed of the conduct of its work through the agencies of the different Presbyteries. The aim of the "Christian Observer" constantly is to keep our people thoroughly informed of the progress of the work in the Church at large and interested even in the details of that work.

Rev. W. J. Frierson died April 23 at his home near Columbia, Tennessee. Mr. Frierson was born in Massy county, Tennessee, and was ordained in 1886 by the Presbytery of Maury. Mr. Frierson had labored all his life in the bounds of Columbia Presbytery, of which Maury Presbytery was at one time a part. He had served the following churches: Ebenezer, Cathey, Petersburg, Unity, Culleoka, Second church, Columbia, all in Tennessee, and Greensboro, Alabama. For many years he had been unable to continue pastoral work and had retired from active work prior to 1898. He was born and reared in the bounds of old Zion church, near Columbia, his family being among the original colony that founded that church in 1807. He was an earnest, consecrated, faithful preacher of the Word.

Facts are the fuel that feed the fires of enthusiasm. This is true in any sphere of service or in any relation in life. A significant confirmation of this truth is seen in the steady increase of gifts to foreign missions in the Sunday schools of our Church during the past

The Cross seen through the tears of penitent faith is the soul's only ground of peace and trust and hope. It is God's way to save and sanctify.

Mid-Week Prayer Meeting

BY REV. JOHN M. VANDER MEULEN, D. D.

MOTHERLY FAITHFULNESS.

Topic for Wednesday, May 9, 1917.

Suggested Scripture: I Samuel 1:27, 28; II Tim. 1:4, 5.

This ought to prove a very attractive topic for the mid-week service and the pastor can, if he will, take great advantage of it for a fine meeting. He might request all those who come to wear a button-hole bouquet in honor of their mothers. And he ought to be able to persuade many to say a word in appreciation of the blessing God gave them in the gift of a godly mother.

We would suggest further that the pastor get some one to read from the Bible the account of other exemplary mothers mentioned there beside those of the Scriptures suggested above. This would include the mother of Moses and Rizpah and Mary and others.

And some one else might be detailed to give a brief account of some of the great mothers we know of in history, secular or sacred, such as "Cornelia, Mother of the Gracchi;" Monica, the mother of Augustine, etc. And finally different ones, perhaps of the young people, might be requested to read at the meeting some of the beautiful poems that have been written on this subject. One of these is from Kipling:

"If I were hanged on the highest hill,
Mother o' mine, mother o' mine,
I know whose love would follow me still,
Mother o' mine, mother o' mine.

"If I were drowned in the deepest sea,
Mother o' mine, mother o' mine,
I know whose tears would come down to me,
Mother o' mine, mother o' mine.

"If I were damned in body and soul,
Mother o' mine, mother o' mine,
I know whose prayers would make me whole,
Mother o' mine, mother o' mine."

In connection with the story of Rizpah some one might read either Whittier's poem entitled "The Watcher," or Tennyson's poem entitled "Rizpah."

There are also many beautiful anonymous poems on the subject. One that seems to the writer very touching is as follows:

"Now I lay me down to sleep,
I pray the Lord my soul to keep."

"I have wandered far from Thee
Since that childish prayer I said,
And the lips that taught it me
Have been gathered to the dead;
Yet her face I seem to see,
When the evening shadows creep,
And again, as at her knee,
I pray Thee, Lord, my soul to keep.

"Softly fades the lingering light
Lo! the last beam leaves the skies;
And I watch, amid the night,
For the evening star to rise.
Far beyond the bounds of space
I may drift ere day shall break:
Let me see my mother's face
If I die before I wake."

And here is one entitled, "To My Son," which one of the noblest young men who have gone from the writer's church kept on his desk before him all the time:

"Do you know that your soul is of my soul such a part
That you seem to be fibre and core of my heart?"

"None other can pain me as you, dear, can do,
None other can please me or praise me as you.

"Remember, the world will be quick with its blame
If shadow or stain ever darkens your name.

"'Like mother, like son,' is a saying so true,
The world will judge largely of 'mother' by you.

"Be yours then the task, if task it shall be,
To force this proud world to do homage to me.

"Be sure it will say when its verdict you've won,
'She reaps as she sowed, lo, this man is her son!'"
Mother.

We believe if some such plan as this is followed for the meeting, it will prove to be one of the most delightful and inspiring ones of the whole mid-week series.

But while the meeting will thus be one of appreciation of and tribute to motherhood it must also serve the purpose of being a lesson and inspiration to mothers in the matter of godly and Christian motherhood. For what the topic evidently means to indicate is that by motherly faithfulness is intended more particularly motherly faithfulness in consecrating children to God and His

Christ. No mother is answering to the highest conception and possibility of motherhood unless this be her constant purpose. She is cheating her child of the heritage that should be his if he cannot say that he has had a Christian mother.

For such faithfulness three things must characterize her: Example, Prayer, Training.

I. First of All, Example.

Paul writes to Timothy: "Having been reminded of the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice." Well, if even Paul had seen that faith displayed in the life of Lois and Eunice, how well Timothy himself must have known it. He had grown up under the influence and contagion of it. We may be very sure that Timothy had not grown up with the obvious evidence before him that his mother's chief interest and ideals were concerned with card parties, or social functions, or literary clubs, or politics, or passing styles and fads. His mother knew that she had a son, the greatest gift of God to her, her chief responsibility for time and eternity. She knew that if she were to prepare him for a life such as would most honor God and make him a blessing to his fellows she would have to help this son to such a life and that she could not expect to help him to it unless she first had found it and lived it. It was "the unfeigned faith" in her, daily before his eyes, which had begotten itself anew in him. If a mother is to be a great mother, she must live for big things herself. If she is to be a great Christian mother, she can be that only if she herself lives for Christ and His Kingdom.

II. Prayer.

And the second characteristic of a faithful Christian mother is faithfulness in prayer for her children. In Hannah that began even before her son was born. This is a pre-natal influence to which we may give our heartiest credence. Elizabeth, the mother of John the Baptist, was much of the same sort of mother. And the result was in both cases a mighty man of God—in the one case Samuel; in the other case the Baptist.

And with the faithful Christian mother there never comes a time when her constant prayers for her children cease so long as she lives, perhaps not even after she has gone to her Heavenly Home. There are no prayers, we may believe, that God is so ready to hear as the prayers of a faithful Christian mother who prays for the conversion and consecration to God of her children. For if she be a really Christian mother, that will be the burden of her prayer for them. She will be desirous for their earthly success, to be sure; that they may be well and strong and beautiful in body; that they may be bright and popular in society; that they may be smart in school and out of it. But that will be neither her chief ambition for them nor the burden of her prayer. It will be the desire and prayer of Hannah: "Therefore also I have granted him to the Lord; as long as he liveth he is granted to the Lord."

III. Christian Training.

And the third characteristic of motherly faithfulness is Christian training. The method of that is, of course, important. But it is not nearly so important as the ideal and the spirit of it. If her heart be sufficiently set upon it, the method will come. It will come partly out of her own mind and heart; partly out of her observation of and discussion with others; partly out of God's own suggestions to her soul.

The main fact for her to hold before her is that these children do not belong to her first of all, but to God; that she has been entrusted by Him with them to make them His. That will make her firm and keep her from spoiling them. That will prevent her from consciously or unconsciously impressing them with any false ideals. She will then do in a higher way what the Spartan mothers did in a lower way, train her boy to be a soldier, a soldier of Jesus Christ.

Louisville, Ky.

CHRIST, CREATOR.

A Hymn—Tune, "Mercy." (Colossians 1:16, 17.)

BY REV. R. EXCELL FRY.

Christ, Creator, Lord Divine,
Thou hast made us. We are Thine.
O'er all things in Heaven and earth,
Thou, our God, of matchless worth.

Life Thou didst to mankind bring;
Light within our souls doth spring.
'Tis Thy Spirit; from Thy Throne
Thou hast come unto Thine own.

Re-creation this it is;
This my song in endless bliss;
All things new. Thus, Lord Divine,
Thou art in this heart of mine.

Christ, Creator! Name most blest!
Saviour, King, but this is best;
Christ, Creator! angels list,
"In Him all things—all—consist!"
Gadsden, Ala.

Young People's Societies

BY REV. WM. M. ANDERSON, D. D.

FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD.

(Quiet Hour).

Topic for the Week Beginning May 13, 1917.

Psalm 119:97-104.

DAILY READINGS.

M., May 7. Fellowship in prayer. I John 5:14, 15.
T., May 8. Fellowship in suffering. Mark 14:32-42.
W., May 9. Condition of fellowship. I John 1:5-10.
T., May 10. Meditation. Gen. 24:63.
F., May 11. Fellowship in toil. I Cor. 3:1-9.
S., May 12. Joy of fellowship. Ps. 23:1-6.

You will do well to read this passage at the quiet hour every day for a week. The quiet hour is a necessary hour in the growing Christian's life. Meditation on the law of God will increase our love for it. Such meditation is a course of higher learning. Thus we gain superior wisdom. As our knowledge of God's law increases, our love for Him will increase, our thinking will become more clear, and our character more stable.

Jesus taught this fellowship clearly and beautifully in the fifteenth chapter of John's Gospel. It is a most important subject, and should be deeply studied. Jesus said, "He that hath the Son hath life;" again, "This is life eternal, that they might know Thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom Thou hast sent."

Its Effects.

Fellowship with Christ gives life, full, conscious life. Much of our pleasure in life consists in its friendships. What would life be worth if all our friends were gone? Eternal life is the knowledge of God as our Father, and Jesus, His Son as our Saviour.

Fellowship with Christ gives hope. This is an effective anchor of the soul. Hope is the star that burns in the sky when other stars are dead. Hope is an eternal light that dawns in the soul, and its fruition is eternal happiness.

Fellowship with Christ gives joy, which is the wine of Christian life. The larger part of life's joys are in its companionships. Maclaren said: "Nobody can commit his way into the Lord who has not begun in the Lord; and nobody can rest in the Lord who has not committed his way unto the Lord."

Fellowship with Christ gives power, power with God and power with men. Power in prayer is the highest human power, therefore the highest human attainment. In intercession the individual Christian and the whole Church is to find and use its highest power. Many look on prayer as a means of maintaining spiritual life; but this is a great mistake. Prayer is the means whereby we can effect the work God has assigned to us.

Its Nature.

If these are some of the important effects, we may well desire to know more about this fellowship, more about its nature.

Its root, principle, instrumental cause is faith. Every Bible reader must take account of the frequent use of that word "faith." It is mentioned ninety-nine times in John's Gospel, and its importance is emphasized throughout the Bible. Faith is obedience in repose, and obedience is faith in exercise. Faith and obedience lead to the pathway of blessing.

Its life is love, as shown in the topic last Sunday and studied in the thirteenth chapter of I Corinthians. Love is mentioned fifty-six times in the Gospel of John. Edwards says: "Love is the active working principle in all true faith. It is the very soul of faith, without which faith is dead. 'Faith works by love.'" Augustine says: "Christ is not valued at all, unless He be valued above all."

Its law is truth. Truth is the atmosphere of God, and the atmosphere of the soul of man. "Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free." "Sanctify them through Thy truth; Thy Word is truth." The Bible is a Book of truth; search it, ransack it.

Its fruit is holiness, the perfection of God. This is the destiny of true character. Christ reveals the possibility of true holiness. He is the expression of practical holiness. He assures His saints of becoming holy. He gives a demonstration of true living. "He went about doing good."

What is holiness? Truth in action; faith gone to work; love coined into deeds; devotion breathing benediction upon human suffering. It is God's love sent forth through channels of human life. It is the supreme virtue in man, as it is the extreme excellence in God. Jesus taught the absolute necessity of knowing Him. Paul and all the rest taught the same. Jesus said, "I am the Way, and the Truth, and the Life; no man cometh unto the Father but by Me." Paul said, "If any man be in Christ Jesus, he is a new creature; old things have past away, and behold all things are become new."

Think.

How can we make God our companion?
Why is a devotional period necessary for us?
Should we use system in reading the Bible? Why?