



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 20.

Entered at the Louisville Post Office as second class matter.

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EDITORIAL NOTES.

The soul of man finds pleasure in praise and satisfaction in being appreciated. But it is a very ignoble motive that prompts us to do a good deed simply to gain the approval of men. The dominant principle of life and conduct should be to do everything "unto the Lord." We are in danger of perverting the great principles of life if we seek for the praise of men rather than the praise of God. The hypocrite, as Jesus said, receives His reward in the glory of man; but the man who puts God first, and who seeks first the Kingdom of God, is rewarded with consciousness of the divine favor.

In the Sermon on the Mount Jesus discussed three great duties of the Christian life—alms-giving, prayer and fasting. The first of these relates to our attitude to those who are around us. The Gospel makes it imperative upon all true believers to help in every possible way those with whom they come in contact day by day. But our duty does not end when we have given alms. There remains the important duty which we owe to God—prayer. Prayer puts the soul in right relation to God and makes us channels through which God works for the coming of His Kingdom. But even prayer does not exhaust our duty. There is a duty that we owe to ourselves, represented by the whole Bible teaching concerning fasting. Self-denial is essential to the true Christian life.

Attendance on the public worship of God's house is one of the greatest privileges as well as one of the most important duties of the Christian life. No one can become so spiritual or so intellectual that he can afford to despise the preaching of the Gospel, or neglect the public assemblies of God's people for worship. God has promised a peculiar blessing to those who worship Him at stated times in His own house. We should reverence the house of God because He manifests His presence and bestows His blessing there, but our reverence should not be such as to lead us to imagine that when we go out from it we leave God behind;

February 2 will be the thirty-sixth anniversary of the organization of the first Christian Endeavor society in the world. In reviewing the work of the past year, Dr. Francis E. Clark, organizer and president, calls it the "Banner Year" of Christian Endeavor. In no year of its past history has the Society made such progress in numbers, in efficiency and in opening up new fields. There are now 3,000 Christian Endeavor unions—national, state, county and city unions—in all parts of the world, numbering about 80,000 Societies with four millions of members. Fully fifteen millions of Christian people in all parts of the world have owed some part of their youthful training in the religious life to the Christian Endeavor movement. An interesting feature of the work for the past year has been the progress in the southern states. During the year, more than 1,100 societies were added to Christian Endeavor. State conventions in the South were far larger than ever before. At-

tention is called by Dr. Clark to the fact that our Southern Presbyterian Church has heartily endorsed the movement and that new societies are being organized rapidly in our Church.

It has always been our policy to be frank with our subscribers when unusual difficulties arise in the publication of the "Christian Observer." During the Civil War when the price of paper and all materials advanced from 50 per cent. to 300 per cent. and paper of all kinds was scarce, and the "Observer" for a few issues was even forced to use blank wall paper (that is, without the decorations printed on it) our subscribers realized the condition and came to the support of the publication in a most hearty manner. The war conditions throughout the world today have caused the price of print paper to advance so high that it places before us a most difficult situation. Our subscribers at this time can help us by sending renewals of subscription promptly. Please examine the address label that comes with each copy of the "Observer" and, if it bears the date 1916, send payment without waiting for a statement of account. We need the prompt payment of every subscription this year as never before.

Some interesting facts are furnished our readers this week in a summary of the gifts during the campaign for the Endowment Fund of Ministerial Relief which added \$204,000 to the Fund during 1916. In meeting the condition of the generous ruling elder who offered to give \$68,000 to the Endowment Fund if the Church would give double that amount, 6,942 remittances were made to the office of the Executive Committee. Gifts came from 2,997 individuals and 2,086 churches, besides other gifts from Sabbath schools, societies, etc. On page 7 the total number of contributors and their gifts by Synods are tabulated.

It is interesting to know that the largest number of individual gifts to the Endowment Fund came from Virginia—524; and the next largest from North Carolina—274. Virginia also furnished the largest number of contributing churches—379. We regret that the very large number of names makes it impracticable to publish the final list of donors. Bulletins were issued until about the middle of December, but from that time on the gifts poured into the office of the Executive Committee in such large numbers that space could not be spared to publish the entire list. A large part of the success of the campaign was due to the carefully prepared display advertisements that appeared in the church papers. The Executive Secretary, Dr. Henry H. Sweets, states that these advertisements, paid for by the Committee at a special price made by the church papers, secured the entire fund at a less expense than the employment of an agent to make a canvass of the Church for that purpose.

Rev. J. N. Van Devanter died at his home in Fort Defiance, Augusta county, Virginia, January 13. Mr. Van Devanter was born in Waterford, Loudoun county, Virginia, August 20, 1857. He was graduated from Hampden-Sidney College in 1880 and from Union Theological Seminary in Virginia in 1883. He was ordained by the Presbytery of Lexington in October, 1883, and served churches at Philippi,

Not to enjoy life, but to employ life ought to be our aim and aspiration.—Macduff.

contains the topics and daily readings of the Sunday school lessons for the year, prayer meeting topics, subjects for home and foreign missions study, Y. P. S. prayer meeting topics, etc. This little booklet can be had from the publishers, price 5 cents a single copy, or ten for 25 cents.

Easton, Pa.—Several years ago Rev. Walter W. Edge, of South Carolina, accepted a call to the Brainerd Union church, of this place. His labors have been greatly blessed, and the congregation has just shown its appreciation of his work by an increase of \$1,000 to his salary.

Los Angeles, Cal.—Sunday, January 14, was a great day for Immanuel church in Los Angeles, in that it marked the second sacramental service conducted by the new pastor, Rev. Herbert Booth Smith, at which time 113 new members were publicly welcomed into the fellowship of the church, ninety-five by letter and eighteen on confession of faith. Of these, five were baptized at the time of their reception into the church; and of these five, one was a young Chinese boy converted to Christianity, and three were a mother and her two children. Four infants were dedicated to God in baptism at the same service. The new vested men's choir of 35 voices rendered beautiful and appropriate music. The new pastorate starts out with every promise of success, and evident signs of God's blessing. It is felt that the increasing congregations will soon necessitate the building of a new and larger house of worship. The Vermont Avenue branch of Immanuel church, in a growing section of the city several miles distant from the mother church, is also doing splendid work under the pastoral care of Rev. Augustus Prichard, D. D.

Dr. Robert Francis Coyle, for the past two years pastor of Westlake church of Los Angeles, who in 1903 was chosen moderator of the General Assembly, meeting at Los Angeles, died at his home near Fullerton, Cal., January 5. Death was due to cerebral hemorrhage. He believed in "wearing out" rather than "rusting out," to use his own words, and on the Sunday before had preached a sermon strangely prophetic of his own death. Dr. Coyle was born in Rosemeath, Ontario, in 1850, coming to Michigan at the age of 13.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Bible Teachers Training School, New York City.—Mrs. John S. Kennedy of New York City, at Christmas offered to pay half the mortgage of \$144,000 (about) on the Bible Teachers Training School, provided other friends would raise the other half, giving the school two years to meet the offer. In two weeks the friends of the school have sent in, without any public appeal or whirlwind campaign, cash and pledges amounting to \$62,000, and it seems likely that by February 1 the whole amount will be raised, and the debt paid off before the end of this school year. This relieves the school of a burden of paying a large sum annually for interest, and is one of many visible tokens of the vitality and popularity of this school under the blessing of God.

A Revival Conference is being planned for the Thirtieth Reunion of the Moody Bible Institute of Chicago, January 31 to February 5, which is known as Founders' Day. A number of prominent speakers have been announced. A large gathering of the alumni of the Institute including evangelists, missionaries, and other Christian workers from all over the world are expected. Expectant visitors are asked to write to the Institute for details and the reservation of rooms.

New York.—Plans for the three months campaign to be conducted by Billy Sunday in April, May, and June next, were laid at a luncheon at the Hotel Astor, some weeks ago, attended by more than 700 people. Several hundred ministers, ranging from the pastors of the city's wealthiest churches to the most lowly, were on hand. A building to accommodate 20,000 will be erected on the old American League baseball grounds at One Hundred and Sixty-sixth Street and Broadway.

First Reformed Church, College Point, New York.—Rev. Henry Sluyter, who was formerly pastor of the Presbyterian church at Anchorage, Ky., has been greatly blessed in his work since becoming pastor of this church, a little more than one year ago. On January 7, at the quarterly communion service, thirteen new members, all adults, were received into the church, eight on profession of faith and five by letter. The weekly attendance on the Sunday school shows an increase over the corresponding period a year ago of from forty to forty-five.

Presbyterian Hospital, New Orleans.—The formal opening of the Corinne Casanas free clinic for the poor of the Presbyterian Hospital of New Orleans was held on January 16. Addresses were made by the mayor of New Orleans and by several ministers and members of the medical staff of the hospital. The president, Dr. John C. Barr, spoke on "Woman's Part in the Upbuilding of the Presbyterian Hospital." Though not endowed, and receiving only \$500 annually from the city, the Presbyterian Hospital during the past year has treated 9,993 patients in its free clinic for the poor, and 220 patients in its charity beds. In the free

clinic 142 operations were performed. The new Corinne Casanas memorial cost about \$55,000.

D. L. Moody's Eightieth Birthday.—In commemoration of the eightieth birthday of Dwight L. Moody, a "Revival Conference" will be held at the Moody Bible Institute, Chicago, January 31-February 5. In issuing the call for this conference, Dr. James M. Gray speaks of the present as "a time of spiritual need and national danger different from any the United States ever has known." A number of prominent inspirational preachers of the country will be present and participate in the conference. Prayer, supplication and intercession will be an emphasized feature of each day. Practical methods of Christian work and in Gospel song will be discussed by the invited speakers and the members of the faculty of the Bible Institute. The conference will not only commemorate the eightieth birthday of Mr. Moody, a man who has been described as, "A torrent of love and power sent to sweep men home unto God," but it will also signalize the thirtieth anniversary of the founding of the Moody Bible Institute.

For the Christian Observer.

RIDING PATROL ON THE RIO GRANDE.

By Rev. L. H. Wharton.

The last six months with the boys in "khaki" on the Border have been months rich in interest and experience. I will always look back with unfading memory to my association with Uncle Sam's "would be" soldiers. Perhaps I had better leave out the "would be," for six months of real service has made genuine soldiers of these men who came untrained to their country's service. Among the most unique of my experiences was that of riding patrol in the interest of the Y. M. C. A.

Fifteen miles below the city the first camp of the river guard is located directly on the Rio Grande, and the men are camped on the Santa Rosa Ranch. It was on a clear moonlight night that we made this trip in the Y. M. C. A. car. Swinging off of the main road, we passed through the lines and a mile further passed between the rows of tents. A heavy mist was rising from the river and in the bright moonlight camp and men were weird. They had been watching for us from the lookout station and we were greeted enthusiastically by the men who were not on guard. We were given, as has always been our experience, an earnest hearing from these soldiers of our country as we presented the claims of the Great Commander and sought enlistments in His army. I must add in honesty that they cheered just as much when we left as they did when they saw us coming.

The most interesting service at which I was ever present was a Christmas service for the New Hampshire men up the river on the patrol line two days before Christmas. Saturday afternoon one of the Y. M. C. A. secretaries asked me if I would drive with him on the up-river patrol and carry a Christmas message to the New Hampshire boys so far from their homes. Leaving home about noon we started up the river on roads almost impassable.

In spite of its roughness it is a lovely trip. This border country when you get away from the settled country is intensely beautiful and attractive in its very unattractiveness. There is a majestic ruggedness about it that is intensely appealing. Rugged hills, deep arroyos, all covered with mesquite and cactus; as far as eye can see nothing but a long stretch of rolling rough hills growing purple in the light of the setting sun; down to one side of us we would catch an occasional glimpse of the Rio Grande lying like a gleam of silver in the green hills; far away thrown into relief by the sinking sun the mountains of Mexico seventy-five miles below the border lie like blue clouds on the horizon. Passing through the coal mines twenty miles above town we came into the camp at Perownes Ranch late in the afternoon. The two companies stationed here were camped in an old reservoir which having refused to hold water was made to hold soldiers. The sides of this old reservoir furnished ready made defence against possible bandits and against more certain attacks of the cold north winds. At the top of this natural defence the Stars and Stripes are unfolded to the four winds proclaiming the sovereignty of this great nation at its border lands.

After mess with the officers we held our little service, the most impressive I have ever been privileged to hold. It was just after sunset, the guard for the night had been mounted, the retreat blown and in the stillness of the twilight hours the notes of the bugle echoed from hill to hill; when the last note had died away the American Flag was lowered and the men dismissed from ranks. We stood on the banks of the reservoir and the men stood in a semi-circle in front of us. For a few minutes I had the intense privilege of bringing to these New Hampshire men so far from their homes a Christmas message and of presenting them with God's great Christmas Gift, who could make their Christmas happy even under the circumstances. Standing there with bared heads in God's great temple we thanked Him for His unspeakable Gift

of twenty centuries ago, the Gift of the first Christmas morning.

Dropping back the same evening to Dolores, one of the mining towns, we spoke again to the troops camped there. Our camp lay directly under the shadow of the great dump heaps of the mines, and the little mess hall in which we held our service was lit by the miners' lamps. Some on the walls and some on the heads of the soldiers. We came late and they had been waiting for us, and as we drew up to the camp we could hear them inside singing Gospel hymns. We held a little service for them and late

that night came back into Laredo. I thank God for this opportunity of serving Him and look forward eagerly to making the trip next week along the whole patrol line to hold services for the Florida men now on patrol duty. There are many good men in the army, earnest, clean, serious-minded men. We have thrown our homes and our churches open to them and have felt it well worth the while. My own memories of my experiences with the soldier boys will be one of the most pleasant of my life. Laredo, Texas.

Woman's Auxiliary.

LEAFLET HELPS ON LATIN AMERICA.

Mission study classes considering Latin America will find the following leaflets of great interest and value:

Latin America.....	\$.03
The Crucial Hour in Latin America.....	.05
A Forgotten Continent.....	.03
The Future World Place of Latin America.....	.03
Eight Reasons for Protestant Missions in Latin America.....	.01
Not Knowing.....	.03
Out of the Dark Into the Light.....	.02
Education in Latin America.....	.02
Religions of the Latin American Countries.....	.01
Gleanings from the Panama Congress.....	.02
The Position of Women in Latin America.....	.01
The Religious Needs of the Latin American Immigrant.....	.01

When ordering but a small number of these leaflets, please send 2 cents for postage.

The Woman's Auxiliary, Peachtree and Tenth Sts., Atlanta, Ga.

For the Christian Observer.

DOES IT PAY?

The Woman's Auxiliary of the Southern Presbyterian Church has issued a striking folder bearing the title, "Does It Pay?" It represents a ledger to be kept by any Christian woman in any town in "Dixie" in account with "The Foreign Mission Study Class for 1917." On one side of the folder the "Investment" is entered, which is "One Hour per week for 7 weeks—7 hours." On the opposite page are entered the dividends which extend throughout life. They are as follows: 1. Seven weeks in company with the World's Heroes on the Mission Fields; 2. A permanently enlarged heroism; 3. An enlarged fund of current events concerning secular history; 4. A valuable knowledge of Missionary facts; 5. A new understanding of the Bible; 6. A higher valuation of the power of prayer. Total. A rededication of life and possessions to the service of Christ.

Result: A partnership between a

more intelligent Christian at home and the missionaries in "The Uttermost Parts" to increase the working force and enlarge the treasury of the King's business until His last great commission is accomplished.

Some Mission Study Suggestions.

1. Small neighborhood groups of women who can conveniently meet weekly.
2. Larger groups meeting weekly at church.
3. Interdenominational classes often meeting at Library or Y. W. C. A.
4. Where the society is organized in circles, weekly study meetings may occur at home of members of circles.
5. Aid societies meeting weekly may appoint a leader to read the chapter either before or during the meeting. The leader may present either a summary of what she has read at home or lead the discussion concerning what they have just heard read.
6. If none of these plans are advisable, one or two volumes may be circulated among the members to be read at home. This must be done with system in order that the books may not tarry too long at one place. Copies can be secured from Woman's Auxiliary, Peachtree and Tenth Streets, Atlanta, Ga.

A MISSIONARY PLAY.

Many visitors who were at Montreat, N. C., last summer will recall the performance of that attractive little Missionary play entitled, "A Call from Japan," written by Miss Carrie Lee Campbell, of Richmond, Va. The play has been published in a little pamphlet of 18 pages, and the offer is now made to furnish it to our Women's Societies free of charge except the postage. It throws light on a sad picture—our missionaries planning for a larger work and looking for help from the home Church to carry it out and then their bitter disappointment when the help fails to come. More self-denial is what is needed in this land of ours.

For a copy of this play write enclosing 2 cents postage to Miss C. L. Campbell, 319 W. Grace St., Richmond, Va.

**What Shall We Give the Children to Read?
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WHY?**

- BECAUSE** the home departments for the whole family are the best published in any religious newspaper.
- BECAUSE** in this day when so many publications contain that which is harmful and even immoral, the CHRISTIAN OBSERVER contains only that which is good and clean and strengthening.
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