

THE
PACIFIC EXPOSITOR.

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OUR SECOND VOLUME.

ABSENCE, as commissioner to the General Assembly, prevented our announcing the beginning of our second volume in the manner we should have done if we had been at home. It is with profound gratitude to our friends and to Almighty God for what has been done, and with hope for the future, that we now present the *third* number of our second volume. The plan and aims of the EXPOSITOR remain unchanged. We shall endeavor, however, to improve it as we gain experience and confidence from the help of our friends. Although we have not done all we could have wished, still we have done what we could to produce an independent journal, free from all cant and sectionalism, and from all personal controversies; and, we have reason to believe that we have met the reasonable expectations of the public and rendered some degree of satisfaction to our Christian brethren. As far as we can secure the good will of our fellow citizens consistently with a good conscience, we do earnestly desire to please them and do them good, and especially do we covet the kind feelings of all pious people of every name and creed, and over our shortcomings, we beg that they will throw the mantle of an enlarged and enlightened charity.

WE HOPE that we may be allowed, without being justly charged with arrogance, to adopt as our own, the words of Scotland's great Teacher, when he said: "*I am in the place where I am demanded*

work of the Lord is revived. This anomalous state of things may be due to the fact that the Church has not yet taken this subject into her own hands, and by the help of God, applied the only remedy for this and all other vices of man.

In conclusion, the Assembly recognizes the goodness of God in the peace and unity of our Church, in its enlargement by every means, and in the new and louder calls to increased efforts by the addition of the mission to the Choctaws, the Canadian colonists, and other interesting fields to the sphere of our Christian activity.

The Lord has surely dealt bountifully with our beloved Church, and blessed be His holy name; but these times of mercy are peculiarly times of responsibility. Be strong, therefore, brethren, and do valiantly for the cause of your God and Saviour.

— May grace and peace from God our Father, and Jesus Christ the Lord, be multiplied to you all by the power of the Holy Ghost.

JOHN W. YEOMANS, *Moderator.*

THE POST OF DUTY THE POST OF DANGER.

BY REV. DR. BURROWES.

A BROTHER was speaking of difficulties connected with a certain position, and was hesitating, on this account, to accept it. But why should the fact that difficulties attend a post keep a man from taking it, if he is fit for the trust? "Ye are not your own." It is the existence of difficulties and obstacles that makes duty necessary. How, then, can duty be done without struggling with these? What would a general think of a soldier who, on being ordered to some post under fire in battle, might say, "I would rather not go there, for the bullets are flying, and I am afraid I shall be hit?" With such men, when possessing the spirit of their profession, the coveted post of duty is always the post of greatest danger.

Thus thought the great apostle. His words to his son Timothy were, "Thou, therefore, endure hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ." In the short compass of the second Epistle to Timothy, the idea of hardness in the service of Jesus occurs in one shape or another more than twelve times. Nothing is ever gained by turning aside from duty because it may be dangerous or unpleasant. Those whom the Captain of our salvation loves best, he appoints to stations of danger, suffering, and trial. The young minister whose

anxiety is to find a post where he may be comfortable and conspicuous, rather than useful though under fire, will find, ere he is aware, an angel with a drawn sword in his way. Grace takes and sanctifies to the Master's use the spirit which brave men show amid the worldly duties of life. As Cicero mentions, the Roman legions often marched in the highest spirits into a position where they knew they must fall. At the outbreak of the American Revolution, when one and another in the House of Burgesses in Virginia were offering to join the army if they could receive high commands, a soldier-like man handed to the Speaker a slip of paper with the following:—"Hugh Mercer will serve his adopted country and the cause of liberty in any rank or station to which he may be appointed." When General Warren fell at Bunker Hill, waiving the privileges of his rank, he said, "Show me where the battle will be warmest, show me where the danger will be greatest;" and took his post as a private soldier. Such was the patriotism of these brave men. The Christian will show, in the kingdom and patience of Jesus, the same spirit, elevated by the refining fire of the Holy Ghost. Danger, instead of causing him to shrink from duty, makes him go forward with more cheerfulness, energy, and joy. Whose soul is not stirred by the simple epitaph over the brave who fell at Thermopylæ, as given by Herodotus:

"Go, stranger, go, at Lacædemon tell,
We fell here in obedience to her laws."

Why, then, should a servant of the Lord Jesus hesitate to take any post of duty, even when full of discomfort and danger. The Christian life, when thoroughly experienced, is as much a warfare now as in the days of Paul. There will be time enough for repose when the armor has been laid aside for the white robes of our heavenly priesthood, the sword exchanged for the palm, the helmet for the crown.

"There gleams a coronet of light around our hero's brow,
But of far purer radiance than earth can e'er bestow;
He wears a glittering, starry cross, called by a monarch's name,
That monarch whose 'Well done' confers a more than mortal fame,
The banner under which he served can never know defeat,
And so he lays his laurels down at his great Captain's feet.
There rest thee, Christian warrior."

The soul of man can have no higher aspiration for such an epitaph as that at Thermopylæ, when gained by having fallen at the post of duty assigned by Jesus, and there standing firm, even when our efforts seemed fruitless, and the battle seemed going against us, while obeying, even unto death, the letter of his commands.