

# CHRISTIAN WORK

ILLUSTRATED FAMILY NEWSPAPER

Volume 63

OCTOBER 7, 1897.

Number 1599

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### IN THE MISSION FIELD.—JUST FOR FUN.

Entered as second-class matter at the New York, N. Y., Post-Office

**H**OW beautiful it is to be  
alive!

To wake each morn as if the  
Maker's grace  
Did us afresh from nothingness  
derive,

That we might sing, How happy  
is our case,

How beautiful it is to be alive!

Thus ever, toward Man's height  
of nobleness

Striving some new progression to  
contrive;

Till, just as any other friend's, we  
press

Death's hand; and having died  
feel none the less,

How beautiful it is to be alive!

H. S. SUTTON.

300 A YEAR

BIBLE HOUSE

NEW YORK

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# CHRISTIAN WORK

Weekly---Continuing the Christian at Work.

Volume 63

New York, Thursday, October 7, 1897.

Number 1599

[For Terms see Page 601.]

**T**HREE party conventions met in this city last week and presented candidates for the first municipal election in the Greater City. The first was that of the "United" Democracy, being a gathering of radical Bryan men who were satisfied that Tammany Hall could not be depended upon to uphold the Chicago platform of July, 1896. In addition to reaffirming that platform, the convention declared in favor of "the acquisition, ownership and operation by the city of all municipal street franchises, including those of transportation, gas and electric lighting," and further affirmed its adherence to "party government as best adapted to the present condition and habits of our people," and its belief that "the affairs of the city should be administered by men responsible to a party for the proper performance of the functions of their offices." The convention nominated Henry George for mayor. When Mr. George last ran for mayor of New York 68,000 votes were cast for him.

Following the action of the Henry George Convention, the Republican Convention met and placed General Benjamin F. Tracy in nomination for mayor. The platform begins with the declaration that "There is one great issue before the people at this time," which is—not the mayoralty, but—"the issue created by the Chicago platform," that "the cause of good government can never be divorced from the Republican party," that "the Greater New York, first among American cities, is the creation of the Republican party," and that "a vote for any other than the Republican ticket is a vote to restore to power, with multiplied opportunities for harm, the self-same influence and the self-same individuals that were cast out of office in so mighty a storm of righteous wrath three years ago." The convention approved President McKinley and his administration, the present tariff law, "the administration of Governor Black and the excellent record of the last Republican Legislature," and commended the principle embodied in the present liquor law. So soon as the nominations were made General Tracy appeared upon the platform and formally accepted, but with this reservation: "If it shall hereafter appear to your representatives," said General Tracy, "that instead of promoting harmony and success my candidacy stands in their way, I should wish to have your permission to adopt that course which, in my judgment and in the judgment of your representatives, shall seem to be the course of duty and of honor."

On Thursday the Democratic City Convention of Tammany Hall met and named Richard Croker's choice for mayor,—Judge Robert A. Van Wyck. The salient features of the Tammany platform are condemnation of the present liquor law and a demand for its repeal; ownership by the city of its municipal franchises, and opposition to granting any franchise except

for compensation and for a limited term; the enforcement of the eight-hour law; and opposition to "the extension of the law of injunction" [precisely what Debs has declared for]. The rest consists of general propositions upon most of which all parties are agreed. No reference was made to the Chicago platform nor any mention of the silver question.

The Tammany nominations had scarcely been made when action was taken by two other political organizations which cannot fail to have an important influence upon the municipal contest. Upon learning of the nomination of Judge Van Wyck by Tammany Hall, a meeting of the German-American Reform Union was convened and resolutions adopted endorsing the nomination of Seth Low. The organization declare that the office of mayor is the key to the future development of the administration of Greater New York, and the solution of the problems of such administration cannot be promoted by the party nominations for that office, and the election of either the Democratic or the Republican candidate for that office would unavoidably result in the worst misuse of the powers of that high office for the purposes of party machines. Following this action, on Friday, the Democratic Alliance, made up of free silver organizations, met and adopted Henry George as its candidate for the mayoralty. Mr. George declares, however, that he "is not a silver man."

New Jersey is to be heartily congratulated that the people of that State have carried the anti-gambling amendment to the constitution. The adoption of this amendment does away with race-track bookmaking and public gambling on the race track. It is said that under the amendment every race track in the State is doomed. But while New Jersey is to be congratulated on the result, it is not creditable to her people that the majority is only some six hundred, and that only one-half the voters went to the trouble of discharging their duty at the polls. Woman suffrage in school elections is defeated by over 10,000 majority, but the amendment taking from the governor the power to reappoint to office when the Legislature is not in session those who have failed of confirmation by the Senate, was carried by 7000 majority. This shows, what has repeatedly been demonstrated in other States, that on questions of a political character the voters are more alert to exercise the right of the franchise than on issues involving the moralities. However, New Jersey is to be congratulated on having adopted the anti-gambling amendment. And it suggests the inquiry whether brand new as our present constitution in its present form is, it might not be well to amend that instrument so that in the matter of race track gambling New York shall take her place along side of New Jersey.

It is very satisfactory to learn from official dispatches from Washington that the immigration question recently in dispute between Japan and Hawaii is likely to be shortly settled without

# Our Old Folks at Home.

## God's Veterans.

By Rev. Theodore L. Cuyler, D.D



HEY that are planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God; they shall still bring forth fruit in old age; they shall be full of sap and green." So readeth the Revised Version. Young Christians are like an orchard in May; every blossom is full of promise. The same persons, after the sunshine and showers of forty or fifty years, become like an orchard in October, when the ripe apples are ready for the bin.

In this fast age there is a clamorous demand for young men, and sometimes a disposition to shelve those who are past threescore; but there are some men who will not be shelved, or, if they have been, the public necessities take them down again, and demand their ripe judgment and experience. When a difficult case comes into court it is commonly a veteran lawyer that is called on to make the decisive argument; when the young physician is baffled by the novel disease, the old doctor, who has hunted down every malady known to mortal flesh, is called into consultation. When the life of Germany was assailed by the legions of France three old heads were put together—Kaiser Wilhelm, Bismarck and Von Moltke; they soon blew the invasion into fragments. The ancient parish of Franklin, Mass., was once disturbed by novelties that threatened its orthodoxy and its peace; the venerable Doctor Emons, at the age of ninety, put on his cocked hat, and, marching into the meeting house, quelled the commotion in fifteen minutes, and scattered the fogs of heresy from the atmosphere. The most colossal character on the globe to-day is near his eighty-eighth birthday; it was the lack of his magnificent leadership, more than anything else, that cost the British Liberal Party their rout at the last election. His white plume might have turned the battle.

For many of the achievements of life, youth and early manhood and womanhood are the most favorable; but for certain others the long experience, the compacted mental fiber and matured judgment of old age are the most serviceable endowment. Some people do not get their full growth until they have passed the meridian. A great deal of vicious nonsense has been written about "the dead line of fifty." The author of that preposterous phrase could never have heard that Milton wrote the "Paradise Lost" and Benjamin Franklin began his philosophical studies when they had passed that "dead line." Dr. Chalmers at sixty-three was the field-marshal of the glorious exodus of the Scottish Free Church; John Wesley at eighty-eight preached every day and still held the helm of Methodism; and Dr. Richard S. Storrs at seventy-five can outwork and outpreach a legion of brilliant pulpiteers whose armor sparkles with the "dews of youth."

My beloved British brother, Dr. Newman Hall, still finds his bow abiding in strength at fourscore; and a most vivacious letter from General Neal Dow, the father of "prohibition," now lies before me, written at the completion of his ninety-second year! There is a vast difference between being old in years and being old in mental and spiritual force. Some young persons have the weakness of senility, while many veterans have the fiber of life's morning far into its afternoon. The secret of keeping young is to keep at work and never allow the rust to collect on one's weapons. Worry corrodes, but steady mental work strengthens; especially when one obeys the sim-

ple laws of health which God has written on our bodies. Actual "retiring from business" is very apt to rust any man out speedily. If a man resigns his store, his shop, or his profession, let him lay hold of something else useful to his fellow men. The celebrated Dr. Archibald Alexander kept young by doing a certain amount of intellectual work every day, so that he should not lose his touch. He was as full of sap on the day before his death as he was when he mounted his horse and rode through Virginia on his missionary tours at the age of twenty-two.

Mental vigor often continues through old age, and we know that the spiritual graces often grow in depth and vigor by the lapse of years. The Indian Summer of many a life is its most beautiful period. Its leaf, instead of withering, turns to bright scarlet and gold. Faith grows in its tenacity of fiber by the long-continued exercise of testing God and trusting his promises. A veteran Christian can turn over the leaves of his well worn Bible and say, "This Book has been my daily companion. I know all about this promise, and that one, and that other one, for I have tried them for myself. I have a great pile of checks which my heavenly Father has cashed with precious blessings." The Bible of my dear old mother was full of pencil marks set down along side of the passages which had been her "rod and staff" through a pilgrimage of five-and-eighty years. As she drew near the end of her voyage the "land birds came out and lighted in the rigging," to show that the shining shore was not far ahead.

To those of my readers who have reached the threescore or the fourscore on the dial-plate, I would say that you ought to grow better as you grow older. Veteran soldiers become more expert in the selection and use of their weapons. In spiritual combats the Christian who has vanquished Apollyon often with the sword of "all-prayer," is able to say, as David said to Abimelech, "there is none like that; give it to me." The testimonies of men and women who have known not only what but Whom they believed carry vast weight. I defy the conceited, scoffing skeptic to answer the experimental argument of a humble needlewoman of my acquaintance who has known Jesus Christ intimately for fifty years. "Paul the aged" spoke with the authority of a long experience as well as with the higher authority of a divine inspiration.

"The glory of young men is their strength; and the beauty of old men is the gray head." The silvery crown is often worn by those mountain peaks which tower highest toward heaven. As they who voyage toward the Spice Islands catch the fragrance when they approach the shores, so the voyagers to the Better Country inhale sweet foretastes when they draw nearer home. Bunyan locates a Christian old age in the land of Beulah, in full bright prospect of the Celestial City, where the singing of birds was heard, and the sun shone night and day.

Fellow pilgrims, be of good cheer! Make happy inventory of your mercies, and never give way to peevish and querulous lamentations. Keep every window of your mind open to new ideas, and strive to keep step with the progress of truth and of our Master's glorious kingdom. While the love of Jesus flows like the vital sap into every limb and leaf of your nature, let your fruits of grace fall abundantly into the laps of your fellow men. Every hour of life is precious; pray don't idle away the Saturday afternoon, when the Sabbath morning of glory may break so soon!



I WILL enjoy all things in God, and God in all things; nothing in itself: so shall my joys neither change nor perish. For, however the things themselves alter or fade, yet he, in whom they are mine, is ever like himself; constant and everlasting.