

VACANT CHURCHES AND UNEMPLOYED MINISTERS—C. D. Nott D.D.

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TRUST.

John Sterling.

Oh Christian, do not worry,
What right have you to fear
The troubles of the morrow?
Tomorrow's never here.
Does not the Lord, our Master,
Turn darkness into light?
Then let Him guide us daily,
And walk by faith—not sight.

Why should we ever carry
The burdens of the past?
Our Lord has spoken plainly:
On Him all burdens cast.
Our prayer may not be answered
As we had hoped it would;
But all prayer has an answer
The best way for our good.

Then worry not, oh Christian,
Trust in the Lord, each day,
For He will never leave thee,
However long the way;
And as the time approaches,
When life is ended here,
May "perfect love" be given
That casteth out all fear!

WATERTOWN.

All Round the Horizon.

Three years ago when the African question was uppermost, public sympathy was very largely with "Oom Paul," who appeared to be very bravely and pluckily standing for a principle against almost overwhelming odds. The situation in South Africa is again critical, but popular sympathy hesitates. The question is still of granting the franchise to the Uitlanders. A conference which was held at Bloemfontein, between President Kruger and Sir Alfred Wilner, resulted most unsatisfactorily. President Kruger very naturally fears the strong pro-British sentiment of his foreign subjects, and is determined to suppress it at any cost, but as the great mining facilities of the Republic are constantly adding to its foreign population, the future promises to be still more unpropitious to his conservative policy.

President Loubet went to Longchamps as usual on Sunday, and was the hero of a great popular demonstration. That there would be no hostile outbreak was almost a foregone conclusion, and the extreme precautions which were taken to prevent an uprising were no doubt gratuitous. To say, however, that they contributed to the downfall of the Ministry, which occurred on Monday, is to attribute too much importance to these precautions. A change in the Ministry has been inevitable since the day that revision of the Dreyfus matter was decreed, and it was only a question of what should be the pretext of the change. Dupuy is too moderate or possibly too neutral to content either party at such a juncture as this. The bristling array of defenders of the peace last Sunday did no doubt contribute to precipitate the crisis; but it was no more its cause than was the interpellation of the noisy M. Vaillant or the motion of M. Ruau on which, techni-

cally, the government fell by an adverse majority of 321 to 173.

It is too early to forecast the membership of the new cabinet. It is believed that the Moderates will attempt to return M. Méline to power, but this is hardly the moment for a triumph of the Moderates, and it is probable that the Moderates will largely unite with the Radicals to oppose the so-called Nationalist Party with which are affiliated the Anti-Semites and Revolutionaries generally. One of the names most prominently mentioned is that of M. Raymond-Poincaré, a deputy who was Minister of Public Instruction during the Dreyfus court martial. M. Delcassé, who has lately held the foreign portfolio, and M. Henri Brisson, who was M. Dupuy's predecessor as Premier, are also named.

Captain Dreyfus embarked on the cruiser Sfax on Friday, and the vessel has started for France. Lieutenant-Colonel Picquart, the first officer to proclaim the forgeries, has been released from imprisonment. The government is now taking active steps to bring Du Paty de Clam and Esterhazy to trial. But are they in fact the guilty parties? It is scarcely conceivable that obscure minor officers like these could have originated and carried out the whole Dreyfus conspiracy. A thorough sifting of the case from beginning to end is needed, and favors should be shown to none who are implicated. The French people are in a mood at present to effect a radical settlement of the whole matter.

Although strictly political questions are excluded from the Peace Conference, Poland has appealed for autonomy, and Spain for the release of Spanish prisoners in the hands of the Filipinos. Arbitration plans have been under the careful consideration of the committee. The proposal of Great Britain seems likely to take precedence over the Russian and American schemes. But it will probably be some time before a definite agreement is reached. Great Britain is the most important opponent of the proposition of the United States to exempt private property at sea from capture in time of war. It is interesting to observe the remarkable change which has taken place in the status of our delegates. From a comparatively inconspicuous position they have risen to the front rank as their Old World colleagues have recognized their good faith and practical common sense.

Negotiations with reference to the Alaskan question are in a very satisfactory condition. Our ambassador, Mr. Choate, has been able to effect an arrangement satisfactory to the United States. In this he was largely aided by the reasonable attitude assumed by the Canadians during the past week. A *modus vivendi* has been arranged for the adjustment of the boundary until a permanent agreement can be reached. As this question was the sole point in the British-American High Commission, and the

cause of its adjournment without action, it appears certain that with this disposed of an agreement upon the other eleven points at issue is assured. A strong desire to promote trade between the two countries is certain to bring a fair and beneficial settlement.

The farewell manifesto of General Maximo Gomez is the principal topic of conversation between Americans and Cubans of all shades of politics. It contains some remarkably sound advice to Cuba, as to her conduct under very trying circumstances. Its key note is clear and unmistakable. "We must devote ourselves to pacific labors, gain the respect of the world, and show that though our war was honorable, our peace must be more so."

Political difficulties are brought so conspicuously to public notice in Cuba that the serious condition of the inhabitants of that island is apt to be overlooked. The war has left them utterly destitute. There are towns in the interior in which scarcely an adult is left alive. Thousands are still slowly starving to death. It is an urgent and heavy responsibility which rests upon the United States; for the life or death of the Cubans is in her hands.

Peace is now assured in Samoa. Both factions have been disarmed, and the Commissioners are working in harmony. There is much doubt what will be the result of their conference. The probabilities are that Mataafa will not become king. To many who have followed the course of Samoan events it seems unfortunate that the people of those islands are not allowed to have for their king in name the man who for many years has been king in fact.

The President has appointed a Commission to determine the most practical route for a canal across the Isthmus of Panama. The people of the United States look with apathy upon canals, especially any interior water-ways. Let those who think canals obsolete, consider the example of Germany, the most progressive of modern nations. Sixteen per cent. of her water-ways consist of canalized streams, and 17 per cent. of canals actually built. One German canal scheme alone is to cost \$100,000,000, and covers five enormous projected railways, one of them to join the Rhine, Weser and Elber. The canals of France are also of the greatest importance. All her large rivers are canalized, and so connected by canals—the construction of some of which is a miracle of engineering—that she has 20,000 miles of continuous internal water-way.

The war against corporations is being fiercely waged. A meeting of the chief executives of the States has been called to discuss trusts and their treatment; and already several Governors have signified their intention of attending. The courts of Indiana decide that a public corporation which enters into a combination with others increasing the price of an article is

liable to forfeiture of its franchise. "It is an old and familiar maxim that competition is the life of trade, and whatever act destroys competition or even relaxes it upon the part of those who sustain relations to the public is deemed unlawful on the ground of public policy" says the Court.

The Mazet Committee spent the greater portion of the past week in investigating the Tax Department and the Department of Water Supply. The testimony of the former was startling. While there was no clear proof of bribery, it is evident still that City property owners are to a large extent at the mercy of the politicians who have been appointed assessors. The testimony of the Water Supply Bureau shows New York far behind other cities in its hydrant system. Apart from any political aspect, the investigation is doing much toward giving the citizens lessons in municipal government and economy.

Mr. Mazet has announced that no counsel will be allowed at future hearings. The apparent timidity of the Committee is causing public surprise. The present situation is one of open defiance on the part of the city officials, accompanied often by turbulent and contemptuous language. Tammany's position is tersely stated by District Attorney Gardiner. "The House that appointed the Mazet Committee is dead, and with it the power of this Committee." It would be better for all concerned if the rights of the Committee were legally defined and that question forever settled. Mr. Mazet should recognize that it is a time for action, not words. The "House that appointed the Committee" is, however, not dead. It was elected for one year and may be summoned at any time, if necessary.

OF PRESENT INTEREST.

The London Presbyterian notes Dr. Henry van Dyke's essential creed points, about which the Presbyterian Churches throughout the world are agreed, adding however, its surmise that "not a little controversy would arise in extending these heads and in bringing them into relation with each other." In conclusion it commends the twenty-four Articles of Faith, recently adopted by the Presbyterian Church in England, to Dr. van Dyke's attention. Herein, as also in the drawing up of the later creed of the Free Evangelical Churches of Great Britain, Principal Oswald Dykes (of the new Westminster College at Cambridge) has done signal service.

No business of immediate moment was transacted by the Presbytery of New York on Monday. Three open matters were up. The action of the Session of the Fifth Avenue Church in failing to read the order in the Warszawiak case was discussed; West Church affairs next received attention, and finally a committee was appointed to further inquiries into them, and if possible find a solution of present difficulties. The McGiffert case, as it is called then came up, and it also resulted in a committee, viz: Dr. R. F. Sample, Chairman; Drs. R. R. Booth, J. B. Shaw, Erskine N. White, W. E. Magie, with Oscar E. Boyd and Titus B. Meigs. The pastoral relation between Dr. Buchanan and the Thirteenth Street Church was dissolved.

The Rev. F. B. Meyer, who lately returned to London from India, has again responded favorably to Mr. Moody's invitation, and will leave Liverpool after attending the Keswick Convention, for Northfield, on July 29th. This will make Mr. Meyer's sixth journey to the United States at the request of Mr. Moody.

THE BLOW AT CIVIL-SERVICE REFORM.

Rev. Theodore L. Cuyler.

It is not pleasant to be obliged to say that President McKinley has lately struck a blow at good government which is arousing the just indignation of thoughtful patriots in all parties. To those of us who labored to place him in the executive chair it is a source of painful surprise and mortification. The plague-spot in American politics has been the vicious and demoralizing *spoils-system*. It has been a "rottenness in the bones" of the body politic. It has been the main stay of the corrupt party-machines and of that anomalous autocracy the despotic bosses.

After years of resolute struggle the civil-service reform was carried by the joint efforts of the best men in both the leading parties. George William Curtis among the departed and Col. Theodore Roosevelt among the living have wrought nobly in its advocacy; and every year has been vindicating the immense benefits of the "merit-system" both in national, state and municipal government. The platform on which Mr. McKinley was elected gave an unqualified endorsement of Civil Service Reform and the President himself gave the most solemn assurances that he would maintain it.

It has long been known that the most tremendous efforts have been made by the spoils-brigade to make such changes as would furnish fresh pabulum to the horde of hungry office-seekers, and would drive in the entering wedge that would eventually destroy the whole beneficent system. The atmosphere of Washington is very malarious; it swarms with place-hunters and pension-grabbers and contractors and machine politicians; and a President needs a backbone of iron to resist the pressure. Harrison and Cleveland both withstood the onslaught; but the amiable and, at heart, patriotic McKinley has at last surrendered!

It is always lamentable when a public man requires apologies from his friends. I have read the plausible apologies of some of his intimate friends, and I have read also the indignant censures of some of his strongest supporters. The "National Civil Service Reform League," after a careful examination of the recent order of the President, declare it as their solemn conviction that he has "taken a backward step of the most pronounced character!" It withdraws from the classified service, as nearly as now can be estimated, ten thousand offices! This backward step may not be a very long one, but it leads right towards a precipice! The President, under tremendous pressure has yielded a principle and the greedy spoils-hunters, having gained their point, will press him more persistently than ever to make further concessions.

The President could not have chosen a worse time to lower the standard as to the merit-system. The acquisition of new foreign dependencies will require the appointment of well trained officials such as Great Britain has long been sending to the government of her colonies. The new burdens laid upon our already over-burdened President ought to have made him more resolute than ever in maintaining the well tested merit-system.

He has yet nearly two years to serve in the executive chair, and there is a strong probability that he may be our chief magistrate for a half dozen years to come. For his own sake and for our country's sake he must not fall under the sorceries of cunning politicians who will inevitably use him for their own crafty purposes. Let the voice of honest protest be raised by all true patriots against any further surrender of a principle vital to the welfare of our republican government! President McKinley may be assured of this—that the more adamant is his resistance to the spoilsmen, the more hearty will be the support he will

receive from all intelligent and conscientious citizens. Those will prove themselves to be the President's truest friends who will frankly speak out their disapproval of his recent unfortunate retrograde step and their determination to uphold him in restoring and regaining what may have been lost. No man is infallible; and the greatest cruelty that can be inflicted on a public servant is to allow any error of judgment to pass unchallenged. There is much said in these days about "Christian citizenship;" but it seems to me that one of its clearest duties is to take a resolute stand against all attempts to lower the standard of pure, honest, incorruptible government. The first time our President opens his Bible, let him fix his eye on this passage—"Faithful are the wounds of a friend, but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful."

MINISTERIAL PERSONALS.

The Presbytery of Chicago has dissolved the pastoral relation of the Rev. Dr. Simon J. McPherson with the Second Presbyterian Church of that city, to permit him to assume charge of the Lawrenceville (N. J.) High School the coming autumn.

The Rev. John J. Simpson was installed as pastor of the North Presbyterian Church of Milwaukee, on May 16. The Rev. C. S. Nickerson presided and preached the sermon, the Rev. J. W. McNary gave the charge to the people and the Rev. O. H. Chapin gave the charge to the pastor.

The Rev. Rollo P. Branch who resigned his pastorate in Green Bay, Wis., to go to the Cuban war, has been preaching for a few weeks in Manistique, Mich., meeting with success and encouragement.

The Edgewater Presbyterian Church, Chicago, has called the Rev. Louis P. Cain to be its pastor. Mr. Cain is now preaching at Sedalia, Missouri.

The Rev. John W. Francis, late of Richland Centre, Wis., will be installed as the pastor of the South Presbyterian Church, Evanston, June 28. Dr. J. H. Boyd presides and preaches the sermon. Prof. M. Bross Thomas of Lake Forest gives the charge to the pastor and Prof. A. C. Zenos to the people.

The Interior says of the McCormick Seminary professors: Dr. Herrick Johnson will go to Amagansett Beach and Asbury Park, Drs. W. G. Craig and B. L. Hobson will spend some time in Kentucky. Prof. George L. Robinson, after giving a course of lectures at Storm Lake (Ia.) College, expects to take residence at Bay View, Mich. Dr. Carrier has gone to his summer home near Erie, Pa. Professor Stevenson and bride are on the ocean, with a tour of Europe in view. Dr. Marquis will remain in Chicago to supply the Covenant Church pulpit during the absence of the pastor, Dr. Bryan. The Rev. Dr. Zenos will also remain in the city.

The Rev. William H. Hudnut, of Grace Presbyterian Church, Brooklyn, recently gave his congregation notice of his purpose to accept the unanimous call of the First Church of Youngstown, Ohio, formally tendered May 24. He becomes co-pastor with Dr. D. H. Evans, who contemplates a long visit abroad.

The Rev. Maitland Alexander, late of the Harlem Church, this city, has been preaching for two Sundays in the First Church, Pittsburgh.

Mr. Homer G. Snitcher, a licentiate of the Presbytery of West Jersey, was ordained as an evangelist, May 22, to undertake mission work in the mountain regions of Colorado.

The Rev. W. A. McCarrell, of Shippensburg, Pa., has just entered upon the twenty-fifth year of his pastorate over that congregation.