

Lutheran Observer.

Who sees with proofs of Holy Writ, or with manifest, clear and distinct principles and arguments, I am refuted and convinced, I own and will repent nothing.—Luther.

In Essentials, Unity; in Non-Essentials, Liberty; in all Things, Charity.

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WHOLE NO. 3617.



HER MAJESTY ALEXANDRINA VICTORIA,
Queen of Great Britain and Ireland and Empress of India.

(From a photograph taken by Messrs. Bassano, Old Bond street, London, in 1890. The Queen is attired in robes of state.)

From Philadelphia Evening Bulletin.

denomination in 1801; but in 1900 there are over 1,000,000 officers, teachers and scholars."

And so I might go on in statistics of some other churches. We have our own almanac and minutes; we can easily consult our own. There is very great reason for rejoicing for "what God has wrought."

True, there is much to lament; much to cry over and pray for; but we will not bring the great body of the church up higher to take its stand for aggressive action against evils in government, school and home if we go about our work weeping.

The higher—or lower—criticism may have put a damper upon some folks' belief. The evolution theory may have changed our way of thinking. The new theology may have toned down the idea of the atonement. But if all of this is true, it is true to only a very limited degree. The vast majority of men still hold to the Bible as the only infallible rule of faith and practice. The far greater number of members in the church do not give any one of these questions a thought. They believe the word that is preached. They hope, and pray, and give—not as much as they ought, or what we would like to see; but they do stand on the positive side. I refer now to the mass of the people who go to church.

Other signs ought to lead us to be hopeful. The Y. M. C. A., the Y. W. C. A., the White Ribboners, the Purity Leagues, the Anti-Saloon leagues, the societies for the suppression of vice and for the prevention of cruelty to children and to animals—all of these make a show for an active, aggressive and progressive church; besides, what of the Christian Endeavor societies, Luther Leagues and similar societies in other churches? What of the Student Volunteers, numbering over 5,000 in this country, men and women ready to go to the ends of the earth for Christ and the Church! They are a positive factor. Never were there so many real definite men and movements for salvation. Never has the Church given the world such a shaking up. Certainly, there is cause for taking courage and going forward. We exhibit faith most when we keep moving hopefully onward. A great revival is looked for. It will come quickest if we anticipate and help it come.

Our Foreign Mission Day is coming. It ought to be the best we have ever had. There have been a number of men home from the field—and women, who have gone into many churches. Not a church but would gladly have them come again. Other churches are writing to have them come. There is a very deep interest abroad in our church on the subject of missions. We need but do our individual part—each one of us—when that day comes. Every pastor presenting the subject as intelligently and hopefully and prayerfully as he is able will inspire his people with the confidence which the Bible and the work justifies him, and not a church or school but will do its full duty on February 17th.

We have a strong force on the field: every one of them a brave, hopeful worker. They will do all they can. We have a saintly host in heaven. Day and Kinsinger will remind Jesus, if that is necessary, of our great need for laborers and means for Africa and India. We have a strong, healthy church, prosperous and flourishing here in the homeland; we can do our best and not hurt ourselves in the effort.

That's the crisis we have to face: every man in his own heart and in his own mind, doing all he can for this, the best opportunity God has yet given our Church—and the crisis will be a victory!

—Just in proportion as a man becomes good, divine, Christ-like, he passes out of the region of theorizing into the region of benevolent activities. It is good to think well; it is divine to act well.—Horace Mann.

THE BEQUESTS OF THE NINETEENTH CENTURY.

BY REV. T. L. CUYLER, D. D.

I, the Nineteenth Century, about to die of old age, and being of sound mind and memory, do make and ordain this to be my last will and testament:

I.—I give and bequeath to my successor, the Twentieth Century, all the steam-engines and telegraphs and telephones and electrical apparatus and steam-presses and reaping machines, and other useful inventions that I have made, and all my wonderful scientific discoveries, for the use and benefit of my son and heir, the aforesaid century.

II.—I give and bequeath all the valuable and instructive books that I have written, to be widely scattered and carefully read: but all the corrupting, mischievous, and obscene publications and pictures inspired by Satan, I order to be destroyed by the Society for the Prevention of Vice.

III.—I give and bequeath a free and honest ballot-box for the protection of liberty and popular rights, and the security of public order; but all those detestable contrivances known as "political machines," invented and managed by bosses for the enrichment of themselves and their "heclers," I order to be burned, and the Civil Service Reform Bureau will execute this mandate at the earliest possible date.

IV.—I commit and entrust to the United States of America all those people known as "negro freedmen," whom I have emancipated by the hand of my favorite son, Abraham Lincoln, and I direct that all their rights be carefully guarded, and all their children educated in good schools and fitted for self-maintenance. Likewise, I entrust to the said United States of America all the surviving Indians and the inhabitants of newly acquired possessions.

V.—I also bequeath to my heir, the Twentieth Century, all the missionary societies, and numerous benevolent associations to whom I have given birth, and all the asylums and "homes" and hospitals, and other charitable institutions, that I have built for the relief of the honest sufferers and the discouragement of idlers and impostors.

VI.—I also bequeath to the new century all the immense assortment of Krupp guns and Mauser rifles and machine-guns that have been produced in my lifetime for the rapid destruction of human lives, and all other death-dealing contrivances, and I direct that at the earliest possible day they be either sold for old iron, or turned into plowshares and other useful instruments; this work I entrust to the Arbitration League of Civilized Nations, which I recently organized at The Hague.

VII.—I give and bequeath to the American people a glorious Federal Union, consolidated and strengthened, and enshrined in the hearts of the nation; the sixteen States at the time of my birth increased to forty-five, the national area extended from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and the United States become the wealthiest nation on the globe.

VIII.—Finally, I give and bequeath to my son and heir that priceless revelation from heaven known as the Bible, with its exhibition of Divine love in the lesson of Jesus Christ, its wise precepts and its adaptation to all the peoples on the face of the whole globe. I exhort that it be spread everywhere so that the Twentieth Century be wiser and purer and stronger and grander than all its nineteen ancestors.

As executors of this my last will and testament I appoint all Christian Churches and ministers, all conductors of a fearless and truthful press, all faithful parents, all righteous rulers, all lovers of humanity, and all who practice the Golden Rule. Done under my hand and seal, on this thirty-first day of December, 1900.