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TO MY READERS

Possibly never before during the thirty years of its publication has the Christian Nation needed your services so much as now. You must have noticed the great mortality among religious papers during the recent past, including some of the oldest and best known in America. The chief reason for this is apparent, namely, that when the leaders in a denomination begin to advocate broad gauge church union, the need for a denominational paper rapidly disappears, soon there is nothing left in the hearts or convictions of its readers to appeal to for its support, and it dies.

Now I verily believe that, humanly speaking, the Covenanter Church's very existence would be imperiled by the flood of liberalism and the increasing tide of worked up sentiment for church union, if it were not for the educational work of her denominational paper, the Christian Nation, especially as to Dissent, Purity of Worship, Oathbound Secrecy, Personal Loyalty to Christ, a Clean Life, and holding ourselves firmly bound by our Covenant.

May I suggest, therefore, how vital it is that the reading of the Christian Nation be made as convenient as possible for every Covenanter communicant and baptized member, as well as adherent. I do hope and pray you will make the subscription list in your congregation for 1914 even larger than at present.

Faithfully your friend,
JOHN W. PRITCHARD.

amongst us as entire strangers, but they very soon had the confidence and love of all.

As might be expected under the leadership of such a minister, the work grew both numerically and financially. It was with profound regret we learned that owing to circumstances, Rev. Allen could not remain any longer with us. He is a preacher who declares the whole counsel of God, whether men will hear or whether they will forbear; a Covenanter who not only holds the distinctive principles of the Church, but one who holds them forth; a worker who is instant in season and out of season; and in Mrs. Allen he has a worthy helpmate in all good work. We pray that they may be greatly blessed in whatever part of the Church they are called to labor.

On Sabbath, the 30th of November, we had Rev. Dr. C. D. Trumbull with us. We were all delighted to have him and to hear him preach, although he has passed the three score and ten, yet it may be said of him as of Moses, his eye is not dim, nor his natural force abated. We trust we shall have an opportunity of hearing him again.

Although we had no preaching for the past two Sabbaths, the attendance at worship is remarkably good. On Sabbath, December 14th, we had the largest attendance at the Bible class since it was organized. We are earnestly looking forward to, and praying for, some minister to take up the work here.

The weather is quite warm, we have had no snow yet, and very little frost.

COULTERVILLE, ILL.

We have been enjoying rich feasts in the line of preaching during the summer and autumn. First Rev. H. G. Foster, the genial pastor of Sparta Congregation, favored us with some excellent sermons, such as the Foster brothers are wont to preach; next Rev. Thos. Patton gave us two excellent discourses, and he was followed by Rev. R. W. Piper, who captivated his large audience by his eloquent and forcible presentation of the gospel message, and Rev. W. C. McClurkin, at some personal sacrifice, came and gave us a rich spiritual sermon while supplying Oakdale congregation. Then we enjoyed the ministrations of the (now) Rev. J. B. Tweed, who proved himself a workman who needeth not to be ashamed, for his preaching was in demonstration of the Spirit and with power, and we congratulate the Brethren of the First Weaver Falls Congregation in acquiring such an able pastor.

Our local Covenanter Young People's Union has elected the following officers to serve the first six months of 1914: Walter Scott Warnock, President; Everett Edgar, Vice-President; Mary E. McKelvey, Recording Secretary; Rev. W. C. McClurkin, Corresponding Secretary; Walter Wisely, Treasurer.

At the earnest request of our con-

gregation, Rev. W. C. McClurkin came and preached for us in November and conducted communion services on the fourth Sabbath. Mr. McClurkin conducted special services on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday nights, besides our regular preparatory services on Friday and Saturday. Every member (except two who were out of town) was in attendance and communed on Sabbath. On Monday, at the close of public worship, Rev. Foster of Sparta moderated in a call for Pastor and on the first ballot, Rev. McClurkin received every vote cast but one, and on the announcement of the moderator declaring Mr. McClurkin duly elected, the call was at once made unanimous, and will be presented at the next meeting of Presbytery. Mr. McClurkin is at present supplying us in a very acceptable way and it is our earnest hope and prayer, that he will decide to stay and shepherd us.

Rev. McClurkin has a slogan, "You get the girl, I'll do the rest." On Wednesday evening, December 17th, at 6 p. m., Mr. Melville Woodside brought the girl and the preacher said the words which united Melville Woodside and Miss Irene Rury in marriage. Mr. Woodside is one of our young deacons, a popular young man, and Miss Rury is a charming young lady, who, although comparatively a stranger in this vicinity, is fast winning the esteem of our people.

We have adopted the Blair System, made by the Duplex Envelope Co. of Richmond, Pa., and the great majority of our members have resolved to give according to the Lord's plan. We hope to largely increase our contributions from this time forward.

We are sorry to record the death of Rev. M. A. Gault, of Oakdale. Indeed our people feel that we have lost a warm personal friend. We had all learned to esteem him very highly in love, not only for his works' sake, but for the many excellences of character which endeared him to us—but he had also placed us under many obligations to him for services rendered at different times.

On Sabbath night, December 20th, the home of Jas. Moore, one of our elders, was destroyed by fire. Most of the household effects were saved. Yet it is very unfortunate to be without a home at this time of the year.

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When renewing your subscription to the Christian Nation, add \$1.35 for a copy of "The Covenanter Pastor," by the late Dr. R. J. George. It will be mailed, postage prepaid, the day your order is received.

IN MEMORIAM.

"These all died in faith * * they were strangers and pilgrims on the Earth * * but now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly; wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; for He has prepared for them a city."

Rev. Matthew Augustine Gault.

Rev. Matthew Augustine Gault was born in Coleraine, Ireland, May 2, 1845, and died December 18, 1913, at Oakdale, Ill. His parents were Covenanters, and dedicated their son to God in baptism. Two years later they moved to Monroe Co., N. Y., and five years subsequent to this located in Waukesha, Wis. Here he made a profession of his Covenant faith in Christ, and prepared for His service under the ministry of Rev. Robt. Johnson. He graduated from Monmouth College, under the Presidency of Rev. Dr. Wallace, a man so dear to the hundreds of students whom he stimulated and inspired to noble endeavor. He married Miss Maggie P. Turner, of Waukesha, Sept. 17, 1871, and they lived in Allegheny, while he studied theology in the R. P. Seminary, the following four years. He was licensed by Pittsburgh Presbytery, and ordained and installed pastor of Lind Grove Congregation, by Iowa Presbytery, May 20, 1875. Resigning this charge in 1877, he was installed pastor of Blanchard Congregation in 1880. Resigning this congregation in 1882, he became District Secretary to the National Reform Association. This he held until 1891, when he resigned and became pastor of the Bloomington congregation. In 1893 he demitted this charge to take up the Anti-secret lodge work, as Editor of the Christian Cynosure, in the National Christian Association headquarters in Chicago. After a period of service here, he returned to the Covenanter pastorate and was installed over the Wahoo, Neb., congregation. In 1906 he demitted this charge, and was called to the Oakdale (Ill.) church. Here he labored with marked efficiency until last April, when ill-health made it necessary for him to cease carrying such a heavy load. "He rests from his labors and his works do follow him." His "labors," which ill-health and a heavy heart made exhausting and painful and difficult, are ended. His "works," which were the glad welling up of a heart full of love for the Master, and which expressed his supreme love for God and his overflowing love for men, follow him. With the holy angels and redeemed saints he serves God day and night in His temple.—Rev. J. F. Foster.

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