

The Bible Student and Teacher

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Notes Editorial and Critical

The Moody Bible Institute is planning for a special Summer Course this year to meet the needs of pastors, evangelists, returned missionaries and public school teachers during their vacation season. The course will cover the English Bible, the art of preaching and teaching, Gospel music and the defence of Christianity against modern attacks. Dr. James M. Gray, the Dean, will be supported by the larger part of the faculty of the Institute, and several pastors and specialists of reputation selected from other institutions of the country.

*The Moody
Institute*

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It is a great joy to know that the "Old Gospel" has not lost its power to save. Some time since a prominent young business man in a Western City sent us the following letter:

"I am a subscriber to your magazine, and thank God that there is a religious journal that will stand for the Old Gospel.

"I am enclosing a newspaper clipping, giving parts of the beliefs of our

*The "Old
Gospel"*

new pastor. I say parts, because some of the statements he made, he did not see fit to give to the press. Last Sunday, in a sermon on 'Reason in Religion', he said that thinking peo-

ple had tabooed the old idea of saving a soul, and that the only way to save a drunkard was to change his environment. Think I shall change mine, and get into a church where the 'Old Gospel' is preached.

"I thank God that men were preaching the 'Old Gospel', and not picking it to pieces, the night I, a drunken business man, with the best of environments, stumbled into Mell Trotter's Rescue Mission".

And here is a brief record, from one of the Michigan dailies, of an anniversary day (spent in good company) in the life of the man (who does not desire his name made public), who was transformed by the power of that "Old Gospel":

"On the third anniversary of his conversion in the Grand Rapids Rescue Mission, _____, a well-known contractor of this city, Friday evening gave a talk in the Grand Rapids Mission. Nearly 3,000 people listened to the story of his conversion. He wandered into the mission at Grand Rapids three years ago and was so impressed with what he heard there that he has been an active worker in mission affairs ever since. The other speaker of the evening at the meeting was Dr. Gray of the Moody Bible Institute".

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“‘Surely, I know it, as truly as the sun shines’.

“There it is: ‘Don’t know any better than to take Christ at his word’.

“That very week I entered another prayer meeting (Congregational), and after the pastor’s remarks, a common, uneducated mechanic, told how Christ had helped him that day; and he was so full of the joy of Christ’s presence that he not only shouted, ‘Bless the Lord’, but he laughed aloud in his joy. Every one believed him, for they knew him as a sincere, real man who lived his religion and talked

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“ A Retrospect of Sixty Years ”

REV. W. A. P. MARTIN, D.D., LL.D., PEKING, CHINA

[A few days since we came upon the New Year Salutation, to his old friends of the Presbyterian, sent by that veteran Missionary and Educator, Rev. Dr. W. A. P. Martin, who has perhaps had more to do with the making of the New China than almost any other living man. The writer came to know Dr. Martin and his

about Christ as a personal Savior, as a child talks about its mother.

“There again: ‘He don’t know any better than to take Christ at his word’.

“Last week I received a letter from a student in one of our universities, saying that he had just read the Gospel of John over fifteen times, and had read it as Christ’s words to him, and with such an experience that it made him cry. He had such a view of Christ, as real to him as the air he breathed.

“Yes, ‘He did not know any better than to take Christ at his word’ ”.

family when they visited this country nearly forty-five years ago and were for a year his parishioners in the Third Congregational Church, New Haven, Conn. He briefly sketches the marvellous changes that have taken place in the sixty years that have elapsed since he first went out.]

The World Changes in Sixty Years

“When I first came to China, it was necessary to send such greetings three months in advance, to go by way of Suez, while packets of souvenirs required an allowance of half a year to go by way of the Cape of Good Hope. We had no telegrams, and in Central and South America, republics might rise and fall, before we had time to hear of their existence. Now we know what happened yesterday in London or New York. These are only a few of the changes in time and space which I have been permitted to see in the course of sixty years!

“Eight days ago, it became my duty to conduct a Thanksgiving service and I began by saying that the day was the sixtieth anniversary of my farewell to my native land, which I left in 1849. Four months

and a half were spent on the sea, when we dropped anchor at Hongkong on April 10, 1850. Next morning I climbed Victoria peak, and stood alone surveying a wide reach of land and sea, on which the smoke of the Opium War still seemed to linger. Of that war the chief cause was not opium, but China’s refusal of intercourse on terms of equality. Lord Napier, the superintendent, had been driven away from Canton, and trade stopped because he refused to address the Mandarins in the form of a petition. The violence which compelled the surrender of the drug under pain of death, was a fitting sequel to such pretensions. The war was made not merely to exact indemnity, but to place relations on a stable footing”.

China in the Retrospect of War and Change

[His retrospect of the Wars waged by China with Foreign Powers is of peculiar value as coming from one who had a part in the great movement in China during the whole period. Our last visit with Dr. Martin was when he was in this country after the suppression of the Boxer rising. He was then just on the point of returning to take part in the educational transformation of China.]

"From the height of sixty additional years on which I now stand, I can look back on four wars in which China has been engaged with foreign powers—all of them the offspring of pride and ignorance. The Arrow war which led to the opening of

Peking was provoked by a Viceroy putting to death without trial, the crew of a vessel sailing under the British flag.

"The war with France was provoked by armed parties from China giving aid to insurgents in Tonquin, and that with Japan originated in a futile attempt to protect Corea. In these she lost both of her great vessels; but obstinate and unenlightened by these misfortunes, she proceeded to another trial of strength in a more hopeless conflict—in 1900 stirring up the Boxer massacres, and laying siege to a legation in which all the Ministers at the Capital had taken refuge. How well remembered are those weary weeks by many of my audiences.

"The rescue effected by a joint force under eight banners, put to flight the conservative Dowager, and destroyed the last hope of expelling the foreigner by force".

The Transformation of China and its Future

[Dr. Martin's view of the prospects for China in its educational transformation, and of the progress of Christianity, is inspiring and hopeful in the extreme. Sixty years of toil, in helping to uplift the masses of the greatest and oldest of the nations, does not seem to have dampened his enthusiasm or dimmed his prophetic vision.]

"When the Court returned, the Dowager was a changed woman, and she entered upon the work of reform with as much vigor as she had shown in the bloody work of war. Each of these five wars was an act in the tremendous tragedy, in which the final catastrophe was the overthrow of the old system of hostility and seclusion. The new order showed itself in the despatch of commissions and students to study our institutions, and in the introduction of a school system based on the best examples of the West. Japan had gone through a similar revolution, but without such attendant convulsions; and the results attained by her, greatly facilitated the choice of China. To China, the first impulse came from Japan; but to her credit she shows a praiseworthy desire to go to the fountain-head,

and obtain the best that is obtainable.

"Just fancy the old system of essays and verse-making, given to the winds, and schools of modern science opened in every province. When I came, in 1850, there were five ports open to trade where missionaries might begin their labors, but they were not allowed to penetrate into the interior. The number of missionaries was not above a hundred, and their converts scarcely amounted to five hundred. Now, the former are reckoned at four thousand, and the latter at a quarter of a million.

"Add to this change of attitude, the rapid decay of the old idolatry and the expectant temper of the reading public, who only wait for a sign from their rulers to embrace a new creed.

"In all this stately progress, has not the hand of God been visible to those who are gifted with spiritual insight? Let us on the field take courage, and go forward, assured that the 'chariots and horses of fire' are on our side.

"And let those at home who support the workers, feel assured that no other investment will yield such a magnificent return. Long before the lapse of another sixty years, I firmly believe that China is destined to be a Christian country".