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EDITORIAL NOTES.

The daily study of the Scriptures is one of the best means to develop the Christian life. Lack of the study of the Bible itself in the home and school is largely responsible for the failure of children to grasp the fundamental and essential truths of religion. Memorizing the Bible and the Catechisms of the Church should be an important feature of every Sunday school class and should be given large attention in every Christian home. Parents, Sunday school teachers and superintendents should give the Bible the important place that it deserves in the training of the child life.

Prayer is the greatest power that God has put into the hands of His people for the accomplishment of His work. The human heart is prone to neglect the use of this power and to depend upon its own strength and varied resources. In the awful calamity that now envelopes the world there is unprecedented need for prayer. Our General Assembly humbly petitioned President Woodrow Wilson to proclaim a national day of fasting and prayer. In the hearts of many Christians there is an earnest desire that such a day shall be observed throughout our land. The appointment of a special day, however, is not as essential as that the people shall be constantly in prayer. Every Christian should pray more earnestly and more constantly than ever before that God in His great wisdom and grace will shorten the days of this awful war.

The suggestion has been made by the "Great Commission Prayer League" that the first week in July should be set apart as a special period of national, or better still international, prayer and fasting, of self-humiliation, of confession and waiting upon and crying mightily unto God in view of the world-wide conditions today. The call is sent out unsigned by human names in order that the name of Jesus Christ alone may be supremely exalted. It is urged that this summer be such a summer of prayer as Christians have never known before. The people of Nineveh repented at the preaching of Jonah, but a Greater than Jonah is in the midst of the world today. Will you yourself pray daily and weekly as never before for a world-wide revival and for God's Kingdom to come with power? The "Great Commission Prayer League" is located at 808 North LaSalle Street, Chicago, Illinois.

The second coming of Christ has been to many Christians a peculiarly obscure and perplexing doctrine. Theologians have been divided into several schools of thought with reference to it. There have been Pre-Millennialists and Post-Millennialists, as well as a school of thought that occupies a middle ground. An interesting discussion of this subject is found on page 8 in the "Mid-Week Prayer Meeting" department, in which Rev. John M. Vander Meulen, D. D., pastor of the Second Presbyterian church, Louisville, Kentucky, presents some very practical and helpful thoughts on this important subject. A proper understanding of the teaching of Christ on this subject will fill men with optimistic energy and inspiration rather than lead

them to assume an attitude of mere inactive useless "watchful waiting." More and more pastors are finding the "Mid-Week Prayer Meeting" department of the "Christian Observer" a help and inspiration in the prayer meeting service.

The Gospel of Jesus Christ is able to make Christians even of those people who have not yet attained to the modern standards of civilization. The converts to Christianity on the Congo are unquestionably Christians of as true type as can be found in all the world. Attention is called to this fact in an article on page 6 of this issue in which an appeal is made for a revival of the study of the Standards of our Church and the Shorter Catechism. The study of these, together with a memorizing of portions of the Bible, are required of all candidates for admission to the Presbyterian Church in the Congo.

The Christian Stewardship Contest, inaugurated some months ago by the General Assembly's Campaign Committee on Stewardship, has been brought to a close, and announcement is made on page 11 of those who have received the awards for the best discussion of the subject of stewardship in the different sections. "Every one who participated in this contest," says Rev. R. L. Walkup, the superintendent, "deserves a prize." The greatest value of the contest undoubtedly lies in the fact that every one who participated in it has a clearer and more vital knowledge of the fundamental principles of Christian stewardship as laid down in the Word of God. Never in the history of the Christian Church has the subject of Christian Stewardship received such large attention as is given to it today.

The Presbyterian Church played an important part in the early history of the United States. No more courageous, unselfish and heroic men were numbered among the early settlers than those who brought with them the doctrines of Calvinism together with the Westminster Confession of Faith and the Shorter Catechisms. An intensely interesting sketch of one of the churches founded by these early settlers at Paris, Kentucky, in 1787, is found on page 10. One of the most notable features of the early history of this church was the custom of the session to select young men of piety and godly ability and educate them for the ministry. In one case they bought the time of a young man who had been apprenticed to learn a trade, and educated him for the Gospel ministry. Twenty-seven young men have gone out from this church to preach the glorious Gospel of Jesus Christ. If the sessions of churches today were eager to select young men and persuade them to enter the ministry, as did this early church, the ranks of the ministry of our Church would be recruited to full strength.

Never in the history of the world has a nation been called upon to float such an enormous loan as that which the American people are now absorbing in the "Liberty Loan Bonds" of the United States. The first issue of \$2,000,000,000 will soon be in the hands of the people. The appeal has been made to individuals to make some sacrifices in order to purchase one or more of the bonds. Many persons have been quick to act upon the sug-

The joy of resisting temptation is the highest joy men can feel. It is a moment when our little life here grows larger, and we feel ourselves lifted into a wider sphere; we have a sense of fellowship with higher beings, and are somehow conscious of their sympathy. All God's creation smiles upon us, and appears made for our joy.—A. B. Davidson.

For the Christian Observer.

"The Satanic Man."

BY REV. A. W. PITZER, D. D.

Is there such a man? This question cannot be answered apart from the Word of God, and in his second letter to the Thessalonians the Apostle Paul describes him with clearness and minuteness.

In his first letter the Apostle has much to say on the subject of the "second coming of our Lord."

Between the writing of the first and second letters false teachers had proclaimed, "That the day of the Lord was now present and the resurrection was past."

In his second letter to Timothy, chapter 2:17, he writes of Hymenaeus and Philetus who taught that "the Resurrection was past, and overthrew the faith of some; and that this word would spread as a gangrene."

To counteract this error Paul wrote his second letter, affirming that "the day was not now present, and that the resurrection was not past," and that the day of the Lord's coming would not be until "the man of sin" was revealed. All this he had taught them on his visit of three weeks.

Then he proceeds to describe this "Satanic Man," this "Son of Perdition," this "Lawless One." The careful reader of the Bible will have no hesitation in identifying this "Satanic Man" with the "Final Anti-Christ."

The Anti-Christian spirit was at work in the days of the apostle. Sometimes as the counterfeit; at other times as the enemy of Christ. Read I John 4:2, 3; Matthew 24:23, 24.

There was something that "restrained" the revelation of this "Satanic Man," this Anti-Christ in the days of the Apostle, but we are not told what the "restraint" was, nor shall I speak when God is silent. But in God's appointed time he would come and be manifested in all his satanic power and malignity.

This "Satanic Man" can not be located in the past; he does not belong to the past, but to the future. He is yet to come.

All attempts to locate this "Final Anti-Christ" in the past have been failures, for the simple reason that the "restraint" has not yet been removed, and the "Man of Sin" has not been revealed.

At different periods in the world's history there have appeared men of consummate ability and gigantic wickedness, with the true Anti-Christian spirit, who had some, but not all, of the characteristics of the "Man of Sin," the "Satanic Man." These men who sought the "Kingdom of this world" were the types and precursors of the "Final Anti-Christ." Perhaps even now as I write, there is some mortal man dreaming of his world-wide kingdom as others before him have dreamed.

Let us note here some of the marks of the "Satanic Man" as given in this letter.

He is—

- (1) The son of perdition.
- (2) The lawless one.
- (3) The man of sin.
- (4) Exalts himself against God.
- (5) Seats himself in the temple of God.
- (6) He has satanic power to work signs and wonders—the two Greek words descriptive of our Lord's supernatural works.
- (7) He is destroyed in the brightness of Christ's second advent.

When will this "Satanic Man" be revealed? some will ask. He will come at the time ordained of God; God's chronology is perfect; the times and the seasons are all appointed by Him, and when the "restraint" is removed and the world is prepared for His advent then will he be revealed in all His superhuman strength and wickedness. Is God preparing the world for the coming of this "Lawless One?"

I am not a predictor to foretell the time of His advent, but there are many signs in the present unrest of the nations and peoples that lead many to think that the world is getting ready for His coming and for the final con-

flict between Christ and the Anti-Christ for the Kingdom of this world.

The last form of organized society is universal democracy; and this spirit is now at work, wide over all the earth, and this is to end in anarchy and the appearing of the "Satanic Man." At His advent He will find implements of death and destruction ready to His hand on the land and the seas; under the waters and up in the air. By the wireless His commands can reach the ends of the earth in a moment of time, and the hungry and starving people are crying out, "Who will show us any good—who will give us bread?"

Coincident with the reign of lawlessness is the predicted "Falling Away" in the Church, the apostasy from Christ. Christ is not dead; Christianity has not collapsed; the Church of the living God has not failed.

But human civilization with all of man's boasted culture and refinement has proved a wretched and miserable failure, and the world is crying out in its agony and anguish, in its helpless and hopeless despair.

When the restraint is removed and the providence of God has prepared the world for the coming and rule of the "Last Anti-Christ," where there is distress of nations, wars and rumors of wars, earthquakes, famines, and pestilence in many places; when false teachers abound and the love of many waxes cold; when the "falling away" in the Church is general, if not universal; when the "Satanic Man," seated in the Temple of God deceives the nations and claims for himself divine honors due to God only, then will the Lord Jesus reappear in bodily glory with the angels of His power to judge the world in righteousness, to save His elect people, and to destroy the "Last Anti-Christ," the "Satanic Man." "Come, Lord Jesus, quickly come." Salem, Va.

A CONGRESS FOR CHRISTIAN EFFICIENCY

Through Co-operation of Churches.

The Commission on Inter-Church Federations of the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America has completed plans for holding a "Congress on Purpose and Methods of Inter-Church Federations" at Pittsburgh, Penn., October 1-4, 1917.

Eight reports are being prepared which will be submitted to the delegates of the congress in printed form. The subjects of the reports and chairmen of the sub-missions preparing them are as follows: "Community Evangelism," Rev. Morton C. Pearson, Indianapolis; "World Evangelism," Harry Wade Hicks, New York City; "Religious Education," Prof. Walter S. Athearan, Boston; "Social Betterment," Rev. Worth M. Tippy, New York City; "Religious Publicity," Rev. Charles Stelzel, New York City; "Church Comity," Secretary E. R. Wright, Cleveland; "International Justice and Goodwill," Rev. Sidney L. Gullick, New York City; "Methods of Organization," Rev. Horace F. Holton, St. Louis.

The day sessions will be devoted to the discussion of these reports. In the evenings addresses will be given upon these themes. Mr. Fred B. Smith the chairman of the commission has received the promise of the following named men to give these addresses provided national affairs make it possible for them to be present: Dr. John R. Mott, General Secretary of the International Committee of Young Men's Christian Association; Mr. Raymond Robins, Social Worker; Dr. Robert E. Speer, Secretary of the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions; Rev. James E. Freeman, D. D., Rector of St. Mark's Protestant Episcopal church, Minneapolis; Gov. Carl E. Milliken, Governor of Maine; Mr. Daniel A. Poling, Associate President of the United Society of Christian Endeavor, and Dr. James A. Macdonald, editor of the "Toronto Globe."

The churches of cities have been learning how to change community conditions through well directed and continuous co-operation. Just at present a score and more of our large cities are having successful simultaneous evangelistic campaigns. All the country has been stirred by the great vice fight in San Francisco led by the officers of that Federation. The story of the Cleveland plan of Church Comity has aroused other cities to adopt similar plans. The fight on gambling initiated by the Men's Federation of Louisville, Kentucky, is opening the eyes of the church people everywhere to the menace of the

pari-mutuel companies. Atlanta, St. Louis, Sacramento, Los Angeles, Cincinnati and other cities have tried co-operation and found that it works.

It is the plan of those in charge of the Congress to have delegates present from all parts of the country. All cities interested in the problem of practical Christian Unity are invited to send delegates. It will really be a school in methods. Following the congress the carefully revised reports will be published as a manual of methods for inter-church work. Detailed information concerning this gathering of experienced workers can be secured by writing to Rev. Roy E. Guild, Secretary of the Commission on Inter-Church Federations, 105 East 22nd St., New York City.

BIBLES FOR WEST POINT MILITARY ACADEMY.

Each member of the graduating class of the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York, numbering one hundred and thirty-nine men received on Sunday morning, April 15, at the graduating service in the chapel a Bible.

These Bibles were presented on behalf of the American Tract Society by its General Secretary, Rev. Dr. Judson Swift. Forty-seven years ago Mrs. E. T. Throop Martin, of Auburn, N. Y., established a fund of \$3,500, the income of which is used annually for the purpose of presenting Bibles to the senior class of the United States Military Academy. Each cadet receives a copy of the Bible in the version and language of his own choice.

Owing to the existing state of war, the 1917 class of cadets graduated on April 20 this year instead of waiting until the regular date in June.

The exercises on Sunday morning, April 15, had a two-fold character, including both the graduating sermon by Rev. H. Percy Silver, chaplain of the Academy, and the presentation of Bibles. The service was a unique and impressive one. The entire corps of 697 cadets were present in full uniform and sang "America" and "Alma Mater," led by the choir, which is composed of cadets.

At the close of the sermon the chaplain who came to West Point four years ago at the same time as the present outgoing class, gave the cadets an eloquent parting address exhorting them when answering the nation's call to hold only to high ideals.

Dr. Swift in presenting the copies of the Bible said in a few words that it was their arsenal of munitions, and they could be strong men if they would let the Bible have a large place in their lives.

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