

The Religious World

Ian Maclaren's Life Creed The Secretary of the Brotherhood of Christian Unity has published under the title at the head of this paragraph the following from Dr. Watson's "Mind of the Master:"

I believe in the Fatherhood of God. I believe in the words of Jesus. I believe in a clean heart. I believe in the service of love. I believe in the unworldly life. I believe in the Beatitudes. I promise to trust God and follow Christ; to forgive my enemies, and to seek after the righteousness of God.

This creed, having been sent to many of the most prominent Christian workers, has led to the preparation of an address to Dr. Watson from the Brotherhood of Christian Unity. It is called "An Address to Ian Maclaren, and through him to the English-speaking People of the World." It commends especially the above as a creed of Christian life which embodies the spirit and essence of Christ's teaching. The heart of the address is found in the following sentence: "We ask you to tell our brethren across the sea—then across all seas—that we are striving to banish our unworthy and unchristian prejudices, and to cultivate a spirit of love and fellowship which we trust can never again be shaken or disturbed." In connection with this address it is suggested that this life creed should be made the subject of sermons by ministers of all denominations. It is a good subject, but we imagine from the way in which it has been received by many that in some quarters the treatment will be very far from favorable. The "Life Creed" has been as vigorously denounced by some ecclesiastical leaders as it has been heartily approved by others. There is evidently need of a work in many individual hearts before there can be much hope of unity, even on so good a creed as that suggested by Ian Maclaren.

Mrs. Sarah B. Cooper The tragic death of Mrs. Sarah B. Cooper, of San Francisco, has removed from the Pacific coast and from the country one of the noblest and most useful women of our time. It is doubtful if any woman ever lived in San Francisco who exerted a wider or more beneficent influence. She was President of the great Golden Gate Kindergarten Association, which has had a world-wide name. She had a large Bible class which was one of the institutions of the city. She was one of the most faithful and earnest workers in the First Congregational Church. Her influence, always and everywhere, was a blessing. Slight in stature, but inflexible in purpose, she achieved a work for humanity and for vital religion such as few others have accomplished. If we remember correctly, she was a cousin of Colonel Robert G. Ingersoll; and it is said that at one time Colonel Ingersoll sent to her a book embodying his own peculiar views concerning religion, and inscribed on the title-page: "If all who professed to be Christians were like Cousin Sarah, this book would never have been written." The circumstances of Mrs. Cooper's death were peculiarly pathetic, and afford another illustration of the singular consecration and devotion of her life. In the church in which she worshiped, in the city which she made her home and so lovingly served, and throughout the nation where her influence has gone, she will be long remembered as one of the finest and rarest spirits of our time.

The Missionary Campaign The various Boards of Foreign Missions in the United States and Canada have issued a call for the observance of the week beginning January 10, 1897, for a campaign in behalf of missions. The Evangelical Alliance has designated as the subject for the sermons on the last Sunday of the Week of Prayer "The Great Commission." In addition it is suggested that a prayer-meeting for missions be observed at the mid-week service of that week; that district rallies be held in the large cities on Thursday evening, January 14, and that an interdenominational mass-meeting in the interest of missions be held on Friday evening, January 15, unless some other evening be better suited to local convenience. It is urged that all the organizations of the church be invited to take part in this meeting. The suggestion is excellent. There are many forces operating to create skepticism in regard to the value of missions to the heathen. It is time that the other side of the question be properly emphasized. The work abroad has progressed so far that it can be limited and the workers withdrawn only at great peril. Those who know best concerning the condition of the non-Christian world are surest of its need of the Gospel. Such meetings should be held in every city and town throughout the land. They ought to help toward a revival of missionary enthusiasm.

Mr. Moody's Work to be Continued The meetings which have been held in New York during the last month under the direction of Mr. Moody have been very largely attended. The work has been different from that conducted by him in years past. There have been no such dense throngs as used to assemble

in the Madison Square Garden, because such an auditorium has not been provided; but the interest has been intense, and the inspiration from the meetings has gone out into many churches. Mr. Moody now goes to Boston to take up a similar work there. In the meantime daily noon meetings are to be held in the Cooper Union under the direction of Dr. A. C. Dixon, of Brooklyn, and the announcement is made that the Rev. F. B. Meyer, D.D., the successor of Dr. Newman Hall in London, is to come over for the purpose of continuing the work which Mr. Moody began. Dr. Meyer is already well known in the United States. He has been at Northfield several summers. As the successor of Newman Hall he has brought new life and power into the great church of which he is pastor. He is a singularly earnest and devoted minister, and the message which he will bring will surely be inspiring and helpful. Mr. Moody's preaching has been characterized by the earnestness and directness which have always distinguished him. His eye is not dimmed and his natural strength is not abated by his years of service. It is said that he will occasionally return to New York during the meetings which will be conducted by Dr. Meyer.

The Constitution of the Volunteers

The Constitution of the Volunteers of America, the organization presided over by Commander and Mrs. Ballington Booth, has been given to the public. The document is too long for us to print in full, but we call attention to some of its more prominent characteristics. In the Constitution the organization is declared to be an American institution. The question naturally arises as to whether it is intended to limit its work to the United States. That question is answered further on, when the importance of world-wide missionary activity and the probability that it may be carried into other lands is recognized. To meet such a possibility we find the following: "In all operations in foreign countries the principle of home or local government, for which the Volunteers of America so conspicuously stand, will always be recognized and upheld." In other words, if there should be a corps of Volunteers in Germany, it would be affiliated by fellowship with that in the United States, but would be entirely independent in government. The question of commander-in-chief is an important one. The Constitution provides that the Commander-in-Chief shall be elected by the soldiers; that he shall have been an officer for a period of not less than five years; and that he shall hold office for ten years, or until his successor is elected. That is clearly a movement in the line of democracy. The articles of faith, which are called "the Cardinal Doctrines of the Volunteers of America," are distinctly evangelical, recognizing the Trinity, the inspiration of the Bible, sin, the atonement by the Divine Christ, the regenerating work of the Holy Spirit, and the punishment of the wicked and the joy and reward of the righteous. Other articles which will attract attention are those concerning the Church and the Sacraments. These are important enough for us to quote in full:

ARTICLE XV.

The Volunteers of America shall maintain and retain the most friendly relationships with the evangelical churches of God in general, and shall admit any person who is a member of any church as a soldier, provided he is willing to sign the "Volunteers' Membership Form," and has the aggressive spirit and employs the aggressive methods of the movement; and such member can retain his church membership as long as he pleases, but must not introduce doctrinal arguments with a view to proselytizing among other church members who may also be his comrades in the Volunteers of America.

Furthermore, those who are not members of other churches may be Volunteers simply, and will not be obliged to join other churches.

Furthermore, the converts of the Volunteers of America who do not feel called to Volunteer service shall be at liberty to go, with the good will of their comrades, into any evangelical church they may desire; hence the movement will prove a valuable auxiliary to the churches.

ARTICLE XVI.

The Volunteers of America shall observe the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper (unfermented wine being used), and the same shall be administered by its ordained officers at intervals to be stated in the by-laws of the society.

The Sacrament of Baptism shall also be observed by any members who desire the same; and the children of Volunteers may be baptized by the ordained officers of the Volunteers of America; but the observance of the Sacraments is not to be considered as an essential condition of membership.

Another interesting article in the Constitution is that which recognizes woman as man's equal, and insists that she shall be given every right and privilege enjoyed by him in the organization. The equality of men and women in service and in office is thus fully recognized. A study of this Constitution shows that Commander Booth has learned many lessons from his life in this country. Perhaps there is nothing more important in the Constitution than the provision for the election of the commander-in-chief. The office is made distinctly representative. It will not be said of this organization that it is merely a family affair.

The Church Army

The Church Army, which is to be a part of the work of the Protestant Episcopal Church of this country, is now well under way. The head of the movement is Colonel H. H. Hadley, of St. Bartholomew's

Mission. Colonel Hadley's title in this new army is General. At a recent meeting held in St. Paul's Church, Boston, where the Boston branch of the army was formally introduced to the public, the Rev. Mr. Torbert, in the course of his address, spoke as follows:

He said that the bishops of the Episcopal Church in the United States, with one exception, had given their active support to the Army, the exception remaining neutral. One of the latest utterances of the Archbishop of Canterbury was, "Be sure to give the Church Army in America a fair trial." The Church Army has sprung from the rescue work of the Episcopal Church. It came into existence in different places, and it was finally decided to give it a more definite shape. After its organization in New York for the whole of the United States, it was thought appropriate to place at its head Colonel Hadley, who has organized about fifty rescue missions in Canada and the United States. The object of the Army is to reach that class of people who have drifted from the Church. From the beginning the promoters have applied to the Church for its sanction, counsel, and direction. The Army is an organization formed upon Church lines. It will enter no parish without the permission of the rector. It adopts no method without approval. It undertakes to leave a parish if at any time its work should become obnoxious. The methods differ from some other "army" methods in the fact that the Army brings converts into the Church, leading them to the sacraments. The movement had its first beginnings in England, but as there has been the freest adaptation of the English methods to the needs of this country, we can call it thoroughly American in its character.

Educational Work in the Pulpit

In a recent issue of The Outlook we spoke of a series of lectures to be delivered in the church in New York of which the Rev. Heber Newton, D.D., is rector, on "The Spiritual Meaning of Dante" and on "Mysticism;" the lecturer to be Mr. Thomas Davidson. Another quite as valuable series of lectures has been arranged by the pastor of the Union Park Congregational Church in Chicago, the Rev. F. A. Noble, D.D. Rarely is so valuable a series of lectures offered to any audience. The people need not only preaching, but teaching. They need to have the latest and the best thought in regard to theological subjects as well as in regard to scientific subjects. In many pulpits they are already getting it, sometimes by the pastor, sometimes by the service of specialists in various departments. The Lenten Lectures of the Old South Church in Boston have become an institution in that church and city. The course offered in the Union Park Church, Chicago, is so valuable and suggestive that we give it in full:

1. Philosophical Basis of Theology. James Lewis Hobson, D.D., Professor of Apologetics and Missions in McCormick Theological Seminary.
2. Evidences of a Personal God. George B. Foster, A.M., Associate Professor of Systematic Theology in the University of Chicago.
3. Higher Criticism and the Pentateuch. Edward Thompson Harper, Ph.D., Professor of Assyriology and Comparative Religion in Chicago Theological Seminary.
4. Credibility of the Historical Books of the Old Testament. Augustus Stiles Carrier, D.D., Professor of Hebrew and the Cognate Languages in McCormick Theological Seminary.
5. Prophecy: Object, Scope, and Use. Samuel Ives Curtiss, Ph.D., D.D., Professor of Old Testament Literature and Interpretation in Chicago Theological Seminary.
6. Inspiration: How to be Defined and Accepted. Andrew C. Zenos, D.D., Professor of Biblical Theology in McCormick Theological Seminary.
7. Place of Christ in Modern Thought. Charles Joseph Little, Ph.D., D.D., LL.D., President and Professor in Historical Theology in Garrett Biblical Institute, Evanston, Ill.
8. How Far Apostolic Interpretation of Christ is Authoritative. Milton Spencer Terry, D.D., LL.D., Professor of Christian Doctrine in Garrett Biblical Institute, Evanston, Ill.
9. New Testament Interpretation as Affected by Recent Studies and Investigations. Clyde Weber Votaw, Ph.D., Instructor in New Testament Literature in the University of Chicago.
10. Evolution Theories and Christian Doctrine. William Douglas Mackenzie, D.D., Acting Professor of Systematic Theology in Chicago Theological Seminary.
11. Systematic Theology: Is There Still Need of It? The Rev. Dr. Simon J. McPherson, of the Second Presbyterian Church, Chicago, Ill.
12. The Teaching of Jesus in regard to the Hereafter. George Holley Gilbert, Ph.D., D.D., Professor of New Testament Literature and Interpretation in Chicago Theological Seminary.

An Economic Conference

The discussions at the Social Economic Conference just held in Chicago under the auspices of Hull House and Chicago Commons continuously illustrated the supreme importance instinctively accorded by thoughtful people to the ethical as distinguished from the economic phases of social reform movements. Indeed, the paper which awakened the greatest interest was one by Mr. E. H. Crosby, of New York, on the Philosophy and Practice of Count Tolstoi. This was, in its last analysis, a discussion of the practicability of literal obedience to the commands of Jesus. The audience, which contained all sorts and conditions of men, from stock speculators to trades-unionists, and from society women to equally unemployed workingmen, entered with more heart into the discussion of the distinctively religious questions presented by this paper than any other that came before the Conference. "It was again and again remarked," says a correspondent of The Outlook, "that the heartiest applause upon points in opposition to war and the growing spirit of militarism was from the more radical groups in the audience." Among the other papers which aroused a strong interest were those of Dr. Washington Gladden on "The True Socialism" and "The Basis of Social Recon-

struction Offered by the Sermon on the Mount," that of Mr. Henry D. Lloyd on a socially just financial system based upon all values, and that of Professor John Graham Brooks, of Harvard, on the Socialistic movements of the times.

Death of the Rev. C. T. Weitzel

The Rev. Charles T. Weitzel, assistant minister of Plymouth Church, Brooklyn, died in that city of meningitis, after a short illness, on Sunday afternoon, the 21st inst. Mr. Weitzel had been Dr. Abbott's assistant for two years, having come to Plymouth Church from Santa Barbara, Cal., where he had been the pastor of the Congregational church for seven years. He was born in Germany, but his father, who for many years was a practicing physician in Hartford, Conn., moved to this country when Mr. Weitzel was in his early boyhood. He was graduated from Yale in the class of 1869, pursued his theological studies in Union Theological Seminary, and afterwards carried them on in Germany. His first charge was in Norwich, Conn., where he was settled for ten years, moving from that city to Santa Barbara. Mr. Weitzel was a man of unusually winning personality. His genial disposition, human sympathy, and cultivated attainments peculiarly fitted him for the purely pastoral side of parish work, which department was his special charge in Plymouth Church. His wife, whose literary work done under the pen-name of "Sophie Winthrop" readers of the pages of The Christian Union and The Outlook will recall with interest and affection, died in Santa Barbara a few years ago.

A Missionary Professorship

The Educational Board of the Disciples of Christ has decided on a more aggressive policy than it has followed in the past. It proposes to take steps to secure a better training for the future ministry of the Church. (1) The Board will endeavor to raise money for the endowment of an intercollegiate missionary professorship. The professor supported by such endowment will divide his time during the college year in lecturing to the students of the various colleges and universities supported by the Disciples of Christ. He will give courses of four to six weeks in length on Missions at such institutions, and those lectures will be a part of the college curriculum. (2) The Board will establish scholarships with which to aid students who, by a high grade of work, have shown themselves worthy of help. (3) It will collect and publish statistics concerning colleges in order to show the status of education among the Disciples. The aim of the course of missionary lectures will be to provide for a thorough study of race history, including a systematic and, as far as possible, detailed study of comparative religion and philosophy, so that the young missionary may, when he enters upon his ministry, be prepared for his peculiar duties. The home field should also receive the attention of this Board. A thorough study of the sociological conditions of city life in this country might well be included in this programme of lectures. If this plan is carried into operation, it will be a long step in the direction of securing a broader and better preparation for the Christian ministry and for missionaries.

The Free Church of Scotland has honored Dr. A. B. Davidson itself by the election as her next Moderator of Professor A. B. Davidson, of the Free Church Theological College of Edinburgh. Dr. Davidson is easily the most eminent Old Testament scholar in Great Britain. Concerning him the "British Weekly" well says: "No finer, subtler, more accomplished, more religious, or more influential mind than his has been engaged in the service of any Church during this generation." Dr. Davidson has not been as widely known as his marvelous attainments and wonderful ability have merited. He has limited his work chiefly to the class-room and to his lectures on Old Testament exegesis and Biblical theology, but there is no man in Scotland, and probably none in Great Britain, whose utterances on any Biblical subject would be regarded with more interest than those of the great Edinburgh professor. Those who would be informed concerning the work of this remarkable man should read a paper on him prepared a few years ago by the late Professor Elmsley, of London, and republished in the "British Weekly" of November 26, 1896.

Brief Mention

The Salvation Army maintains a bureau for tracing lost and missing friends. It claims that thousands of such persons are found every year. No charge is made for this service except for postage. The work is a good one, and letters addressed to the Inquiry Department of the Salvation Army, New York City, will receive immediate attention.

The annual Christmas appeal of the Children's Aid Society has reached us. There is no better charity in the land. It maintains twenty industrial schools, and reaches more than thirteen thousand children, most of whom would have been vagrants without its care. It has seven lodging-houses, into which nearly six thousand boys and girls were received last year. It sends many to country homes, and is doing a work of untold blessing. Its President is D. Willis James; its Secretary, C. Loring Brace; and its Treasurer, A. B. Hepburn, of the Third National Bank. There is no better place to make a Christmas gift than to this Society.