

Jan. 5, 1916, bound with 1915

# The PRESBYTERIAN

OF THE SOUTHERN COMBINING

THE SOUTHWESTERN PRESBYTERIAN  
THE CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN  
THE SOUTHERN PRESBYTERIAN

VOL. LXXXV.

RICHMOND, NEW ORLEANS, ATLANTA, JANUARY 12, 1916.

RECEIVED  
JAN 12 1916

VIRGINIA STATE LIBRARY

No. 1



## Editorial Notes and Comment



**E**VENING congregations are usually small. It is a burning question with many a pastor and the faithful ones of his church, how to get more people to attend church Sunday night. It is a well known fact that a large proportion of those who do attend are not in the habit of attending the morning service. The church will be doing its best work when it secures a large attendance of this class of people and the pure gospel. To bring this about, let not pastor and people learn from the wise men of the world. Advertising. No business man succeeds, except he advertises, great mediums of advertising electricity and printers' ink. Two suggestions for the consideration of city churches. Use an electric sign, the name of the church, the hour of service and an invitation to attend. This may be done in many ways. Have cards of invitation printed to be distributed by the members of the churches and others, giving about the same information as suggested for the electric sign. From such methods the business man expects and gets results. Why not the church?

\* \* \*

**S**MALL Sunday evening congregations disturbed the pastor of a Presbyterian church in Columbus, O. He had cards printed inviting those who received them to attend the services of the church. These were distributed in packages among the members of the church at the morning and other services. And at the evening service they would be given out for the next Sunday. Frequently those who had come to the church for the first time would take a package for distribution. Some times as many as fifteen thousand of these cards were distributed in a single week. There was nothing sensational about the cards or their distribution, but the people came, because they were invited, until the congregations numbered more than a thousand. Increased collections paid the cost.

\* \* \*

**M**EXICO is passing through a critical stage. Is she going to be able to right herself and establish a stable government? If she does will the Church be "prepared" to enter in and carry the gospel to all the people. If reports in the newspapers are at all correct, the Mexican people as a whole are not Roman Catholic at heart. This is shown by what is reported to have been the treatment by men, of all military parties, of Churches, nuns and priests. They need the pure gospel. Our Church has done good work in that country. Will we be ready to do all that we ought to do?

\* \* \*

**B**RAZILIANS, it is said, are becoming dissatisfied with the Roman Catholic religion, and knowing no other, are in large numbers becoming atheists. They need the pure gospel.

**D**IVORCE is one of the greatest and one of the most rapidly growing evils of this country at the present time. It is probable that very few realize the enormity of this evil, and the rate at which it is increasing. Here are some of the startling facts: In the ten years from 1860 to 1870, there was one divorce to every 1,000 of the population. In the next ten years the number had increased until there were two to each thousand of inhabitants of this country. From 1880 to 1890, the number was three to the thousand. From 1890 to 1900, there were four to the thousand. Since that time the number has seemed to increase steadily, until in 1906, the last year for which the figures are available, the number of divorces in this country were 72,063 against 853,290 marriages for the same year. The number is probably much greater now. The average of divorces is about one to every twelve marriages. What hope can there be for a nation where such a state of affairs exists? The showing in this country is worse than that of any other civilized nation.

\* \* \*

**B**IBLE reading should occupy a much larger place in the life of Christians than it usually does. Often times not much benefit is derived from reading it, because the method of reading is wrong. Here are some suggestions: Read it, a book at a time, the whole book at one sitting, if possible. Read it continuously. Read it repeatedly, read it independently, at first without commentaries. Read it prayerfully, letting the Holy Spirit be your teacher, taking of the things of Christ and showing them unto you.

\* \* \*

**A**MERICAN benevolence is great and is world renowned. The result is that probably few people in the world are as much imposed upon. Any man, and especially any woman, who tells a pitiful tale can find those who are ready to give to supply supposed needs. The whole country is full of such frauds, many of them being foreigners. Unless the beggar is personally known to the giver, it is far better that all gifts for the relief of want should be given through some well established channel than to be given directly to him.

\* \* \*

**G**ROUNDS for thanksgiving are many. But not many people have found a ground for thanksgiving furnished by the great European war. Dr. James L. Barton, Secretary of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, says: "I am thankful for the demonstration that permanent peace for the world can be assured only through the acceptance by the nations of the principles laid down by Jesus Christ." There can be no permanent and abiding peace among the nations until there is found in the hearts of men generally, the peace of God controlling all their actions.

**F**AKES and fakirs are found in all parts of the world and among all classes of people. They are found in business, in society, in politics and in religion. The greatest fakir in religion of the present day, and one of the greatest the world has ever known, is Charles T. Russell, who calls himself "Pastor" Russell. Pretending to believe and teach the Christian religion and to base his teaching upon the Bible, he, in reality, denies the inspiration of the Scriptures and his teachings contradict all the fundamental doctrines of the Bible. He is shrewdness personified and he presents his doctrines so plausibly as to tickle the ears of unthinking hearers. But the tickling of the ears is only that he may tickle the dollars out of their pockets into his. In this he has been very successful. He is said to have become very rich in ways that are not known to the public. But enough is known to show that somebody is being fooled into giving up his money that "Pastor" Russell may become rich.

\* \* \*

**R**USSELLISM has less foundation to stand upon than has any other system of false religion ever foisted upon a gullible public. Russell professes to get his doctrines out of the Bible, but he denies its inspiration, and makes the study of his writings more important than the study of the Bible. He denies the divinity of Christ and the resurrection of His body. He denies the atonement, and the personality and deity of the Holy Ghost. He denies the immortality of the soul and teaches the annihilation of the wicked. He denies future punishment. He denies the second coming of Jesus in bodily form, and says that he came spiritually in 1878. He predicted the beginning of the Millennium in October, 1914. He has since modified his prophecy.

\* \* \*

**M**ILLIONS probably of European soldiers are now collected in prison camps in all the warring countries. However well they may be taken care of, as to their physical needs, they need to have the gospel carried to them. The Y. M. C. A. is doing something for them, but owing to many restrictions and limited means its efforts have not gone very far. Gospels and religious tracts in their own languages are very much needed. Ought not the Christians of this country to supply all of them with the Scriptures, as a thanksgiving offering for the continued peace and prosperity of our blessed country?

\* \* \*

**T**HE Business Manager is very anxious to pay up all the indebtedness for which this paper is responsible. If all the subscribers who are in arrears will pay what they owe, he will be able to do this very easily. The amount in each case is small, but the number of these accounts is much too large. With these accounts settled you and we will have a much happier new year.