

Editorial Notes and Comment

Rev. John C. Brown died at the home of his son-in-law, Dr. R. L. Telford, in Lewisburg, W. Va., November 11. He passed peacefully to his rest in the eighty-second year of his age. For a number of years Mr. Brown had not been actively engaged in the work of the ministry owing to feeble health and advancing age, but to the last was deeply interested in the work of the Church in all its departments. Among the churches to which he ministered in earlier years were Frankford, Lewisburg, Kanawha-Salines, and Williamsburg. His body rests beside those of his father and brother, both of whom were ministers. The announcement of his death has touched tender cords in many hearts.

The Church has lost the services of one of its most valuable men in the sudden death of Dr. J. T. Plunket, pastor of the South Highland church of Birmingham, Alabama. Seeming to be in his usual health he had preached at the morning service in his church Sunday, November 20th. On returning home he was stricken with heart failure just after entering the house and lived but a few moments after. Dr. Plunket was a native of Franklin, Tenn., and pursued his literary course at the University of Tennessee and the Southwestern Presbyterian University, from which he graduated in 1877. He graduated in divinity at Columbia Seminary in 1880. He was licensed by the Presbytery of Nashville and ordained by the Presbytery of Mecklenburg. He served the churches of Steele Creek, N. C., Madison Ave., Covington, Ky., Jefferson Ave., Detroit, Mich., First church, Augusta, Ga., and the South Highland church, Birmingham. He received the degree of Doctor of Divinity from Central University, Ky., was a member of the Pan-Presbyterian Council held in Scotland in 1896, and was Moderator of our General Assembly at Fort Worth in 1905. A well-rounded life of faithful, responsible and capable service.

The passage of a state-wide prohibition amendment by the people of West Virginia in the recent election was a great victory for decency and order. As is usual in such contests, the vicious and idle classes were allied with the liquor interests against the mass of responsible and virtuous people of the State. Liquor had become the monster enemy of the mining and manufacturing interests of the commonwealth and was absorbing its industrial resources. There are other states that are similarly affected and when the politicians are compelled to allow the people to express themselves they will follow the example of West Virginia. The new law was adopted by a two-thirds majority and makes the sale of liquor within the state a criminal offence. It remains to be seen whether the U. S. Government will shake off the shackles of the liquor power to the extent of amending or rescinding its infamous decree that liquor may be shipped into a prohibition state and sold to its citizens.

The character of "Pastor" Russell, the inventor of "Millennial Dawnism," has been exposed in such a way as to challenge the self-respect of every one of his followers and require that they repudiate his blind leadership. The *Brooklyn Eagle* some time ago exposed the fraudulent accounts of meetings held by him in foreign lands, which were sent out from his publishing house. Later the same paper published this statement of the result of court proceedings which involved the "pastor's" reputation:

"The Court of Common Pleas, to which Mrs.

Russell appealed for alimony, denied Pastor Russell's plea that he was penniless. The court heard evidence showing that he had transferred property worth \$317,000 to the Watch Tower Bible and Tract Society, of which he is the president. Referring to one transaction involving a sheriff's sale of property worth \$20,000 for less than \$200, the court said: 'The purpose of this whole transaction was to deprive the wife of her dower interest and was a fraud upon her.' The evidence produced against him in the alimony case was that he accumulated a fortune through stock speculation and donations from his followers, who are taught to believe that the millennium is due in October, 1914."

The man's wife had procured a divorce from him on statute grounds and the above proceedings followed. Such facts are not pleasant reading, but when such a man advertises himself as a "great preacher and expositor" and sends out his emissaries to lecture and distribute printed matter in his behalf, it is time that the truth be made known.

A number of the great corporations, especially railroads, require that their employes abstain from the use of intoxicating liquors. Their example is being followed by large business firms of the more reliable class. This is doubtless done purely as a matter of business policy with a view to fewer losses, larger gains and general business efficiency. In the best business centers drinking men are not wanted as employes in first-class establishments. There are plenty of men who have their wits about them and clear consciences, to fill reputable positions. The drink habit is one which the business world is coming to recognize as fatal to efficiency. When increasing competition shall bring out the facts in the case more prominently still, it will be generally accepted that sobriety is a prime qualification for business success. There are higher reasons for sobriety than mere business policy. No man who comes in contact with others, either in a business way or socially, has any moral right to be under the influence of liquor. If he wishes to claim this right let him isolate himself from all other rational beings. There is a still higher consideration. Intemperance is one of the grossest sins against God.

Here is light for some isolated cases of ministers and others who say Romanism is a very good kind of religion and its aims and methods should not be opposed. A census of the kingdom of Spain recently made by direction of his majesty Alphonso, discloses the following facts: Sixty per cent. of the land is uncultivated; thirty thousand towns and villages have no schools; of the seventeen millions of inhabitants of Spain, twelve millions can neither read nor write. No nation of the world affords a better demonstration of the impotency of Romanism to lift the masses. It has for centuries been the most exclusively Roman Catholic country in Europe. Until recent years it has been a crime to open a Protestant place of worship within the kingdom. The land has been thronged with hundreds of thousands of priests, friars and nuns. The people have been burdened with taxation and the public treasury has been drained to support the Church and her institutions; yet more than two-thirds of the people can neither read nor write. The masses are idle, vices are rampant and anarchy is rife. A contemporary remarks: Yet there are those who are trying to push Romanism in this country, and a great army of monks and priests and nuns, expelled from Spain, have come to our land recently to help "make America Catholic," and to introduce the felicities and

elevating influences that have made Spain ignoble.

THE HOME MISSION CAMPAIGN.

We are in the midst of Home Mission Week. It is the culmination of a series of studies and popular meetings that have been in progress in the evangelical Churches for months past. The subject has been handled and studied with a thoroughness that is without a precedent. Never before has systematic study and effort in this department been engaged in concertedly by so large a proportion of Protestantism in America. This should prove to be the dawn of a new era.

By dint of a vast amount of research, toil and expense, data have been supplied that contribute immensely to our store of knowledge concerning the great work of home evangelization, and furnish a powerful incentive to persistent and intensified effort. The array of tables and figures is astounding and well-nigh appalling. To evangelize America is a task that challenges the courage, faith, liberality and whole-hearted consecration of two scores of millions who profess a like precious faith throughout the continent.

Illiteracy, immigration, the growth of cities, the negro problem, neglected rural sections, mountain missions, metropolitan districts, perils of the American home, the liquor octopus, anarchy, industrial and financial monopoly, commercialism, increase of crime, increase of vice, political misrule and corruption—these are topics that startle us and at the same time should stir to renewed and determined action.

It is not a question of saving the nation, as some would put it, but a question of honoring our Lord who has given us our civilization and brought us into the kingdom for such a time as this. It is the question of reaping a great harvest of souls while the fields are white and the laborers are few. It is a question of obedience to his command and responding to the appeal of opportunity while opportunity still tarries, but is hastening on.

The apostles viewed a more appalling scene in their day, yet it afforded not a barrier but an invitation. They were not overawed, but entered into open doors their "Lord also working with them." Their proclamation caught the ear of the masses and their persecuted religion spread over the Roman empire. They followed their leader, relied on his promise, trusted him for his grace and gloried in his cross. By this sign let us conquer.

MISSIONARIES AS NATION-BUILDERS.

The world at large has reached the point where it is ready to pay tribute to the wisdom, energy, talent and high character of missionaries in foreign lands. There was a time when diplomats, traders and other adventurers attempted to discount the character and services of the men in the forefront of the world's evangelization, but that day has passed. The opportunity for half truths or whole untruths on this behalf is rapidly diminishing. We have gotten wise as to the situation so that prejudiced statements from hostile sources won't go. A better class of men are found in foreign legations than formerly and the cable and wireless bring all the news to our shores. The knockers of missions have signally subsided.

The literal, palpable truth is that the mission force has done more in foreign lands for their civilization, the development of their material resources, the stability of government and the betterment of domestic conditions than ever a