

RECEIVED
JUN 21 1916

The PRESBYTERIAN

OF THE COMBINATION

THE SOUTHWESTERN PRESBYTERIAN
THE CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN
THE SOUTHERN PRESBYTERIAN

Virginia State Library
"Comp. Libr."

VOL. LXXXV.

RICHMOND, NEW ORLEANS, ATLANTA, JUNE 21, 1916.

No. 23

ooo

Editorial Notes and Comment

ooo

STONEWALL JACKSON COLLEGE, at Abingdon, Va., is not to be lost to the Church, we are glad to see. Some time ago its buildings were burned and there was some fear expressed that they might not be rebuilt. A contract has just been given for the erection of one of the buildings at a cost of \$35,000. The trustees have raised \$75,000 to rehabilitate the school and expect to increase this very largely. Stonewall Jackson has done excellent work in the past in giving a good Christian education to girls, and doubtless it will be able to do even better in the future.

* * *

LAUREL is a small young church not far from Richmond. It is composed of people of limited means. They have recently erected a comfortable church building. But, as is often the case, there is a debt resting upon it. These good people do not intend that the debt shall remain. They are going to work it off. The men are planting a field of potatoes. The ladies are going to can fruits and vegetables. The boys and girls are going to gather berries. The proceeds of all this labor is to go to the debt. Other churches might do well to follow the example of their young sister.

* * *

ACCORDING to the report of the United States Internal Revenue Department there has been a falling off in the consumption of beer in this country during the first ten months of the present fiscal year. During the first ten months of the year 1915 the people of this country consumed 49,143,040 barrels of beer. During the same months this year the amount was 46,916,370 barrels. This showed a decrease of 2,226,670 barrels. And yet, think of it. About two barrels of beer was drunk for every man, woman and child in the United States. Some must have drunk much more than that amount, for the babies at least could not drink their share. How about yours, reader?

* * *

GREAT Britain for many generations has stood first among the nations of the earth in many respects. Her people have been brave and powerful and have done much for the advancement of righteousness in the earth. When she entered into this great war, it was generally felt that she would ring true in every respect. Her naval forces have sustained the high standard set by their predecessors in the "wooden walls of England." Her soldiers have done a work in the trenches of which the nation may well be proud. Strange to say, it is at home that the nation has failed to show its courage, and apparently has failed to appreciate the seriousness of this titanic struggle, or to realize that it has as important a part to perform in the great conflict as have the men in the trenches and on the ships. This is shown in the failure to deal with the liquor problem as have most of the other nations engaged in the war. Russia took the lead by

proclaiming total prohibition, which has been well enforced. France prohibited the use of the stronger liquors. Even Germany restricted the use of intoxicating drinks. On the other hand, as we are told by no less authority than the British Weekly, in England conditions in this respect are worse than ever before. The government seems to be absolutely controlled by the liquor interests, and will do nothing towards abolishing or even regulating this curse. The government hampers all other lines of business by cutting down imports of raw material, in order to get ships to bring in more war munitions, but no restrictions have been imposed upon the imports for the breweries. The increased wages paid in the munitions factories are going to the saloons. In 1915 the liquor bill of the country was \$65,000,000 more than that of the year before. Women, whose husbands are in the army or navy, are paid regular sums for their support by the government. Many of them are spending large parts of this in drink. Labor has been very inefficient for this reason. The government seems to be absolutely indifferent, or to be bound hand and foot by the liquor tyrant.

* * *

DO business men believe in missions? For answer let us refer to the recent Missionary Congress in Washington. Over twelve hundred of them, representing every profession and business and coming from every State in the Union, gathered in the National Capital to talk and hear about missions. They left their own business, paid their railroad fare, their hotel bills and all the expenses of the Congress, out of their own pockets. When a business man puts his money, his time, his efforts and his prayers into anything, it is pretty good evidence that he believes in it.

* * *

PRESBYTERIAN LIBERALITY is well known. This is shown in many ways. There is probably no denomination that is more liberal in the support of the work of its own Church. There is certainly no denomination that is more liberal in supporting general religious, charitable or philanthropic objects. Liberality is sometimes shown in such cases at the expense of the work of the Church. As long as the Church is doing its work satisfactorily it has and should have first claim upon its members for their gifts to support it. If all the gifts made by Presbyterians to outside objects were given to the work of the Church there would be no difficulty in doing the work the Lord has given the Church to do. Let him whom God has blessed with money to give see first whether his Church does not need and cannot use to advantage all that he can give. The Church is God's institution. Many other organizations do not give evidence of a wise use of means contributed for their support. The Church is ours. Its work is ours. Let us support it.

NORTHERN papers are announcing that Moderator campaigns in their Assembly are defunct. This is as it should be. In former years, long before the meeting of the Assembly, regular campaigns were inaugurated to secure the election of certain men to this high office. It is said that the candidates themselves sometimes took part in these campaigns. Presbyteries frequently nominated some favorite for the moderatorship. Such proceedings did not seem fitting in a court of the Lord's house. That is certainly a case in which the office should seek the man, and not the man seek the office. We are glad to see that this great Assembly is returning to the good old dignified custom from which the Southern Assembly has never departed.

* * *

MEN sentenced to death often see things in a clearer light than they ever saw them before. Dr. Waite, of New York, who was recently sentenced on his own confession, said a few days ago: "You know if I had read the Bible some fifteen years ago as I have since I have been in the Tombs, I would never have been heard of, except in some honorable pursuit." What an argument for teaching the Bible in the home and the Sunday-school. The State cannot control these institutions, but it can order the reading of the Bible in the public schools. Were this done the State would be saved the prosecution of many a criminal and many a life would be saved for useful service in the community.

* * *

OUR Church showed a gratifying growth during the past year, though not as large as we believe it ought to have shown. However, we may take courage of the successes and press on to higher achievements. Growth is shown in practically every department of the work. In membership there was a net gain of 15,884, or a little less than five per cent. A net gain of eleven is reported in the number of ministers, but we believe that this is an error and the gain was really much larger. The gain in Ruling Elders was nineteen, and of Deacons three hundred and sixty-six. There were added to the churches on profession of faith one thousand six hundred and forty-eight more than during the preceding year. The increase in number of adult baptisms was one thousand and twenty-three and of infants three hundred and thirty. A net gain of seventeen thousand nine hundred and seventy-four in the Sunday-schools shows activity in that department. Contributions for all causes show an advance over the preceding year of \$173,992. If every member of the Church would show during this year even a small percentage of growth, we wonder what would be the totals for next year.

* * *

Courage is heart age. Heart strength is in proportion to purity. "My strength is as the strength of ten because my heart is pure."