

# The PRESBYTERIAN

OF THE SOUTH  
COMBINED

THE SOUTHWESTERN PRESBYTERIAN  
THE CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN  
THE SOUTHERN PRESBYTERIAN

VOL. LXXXV. RICHMOND, NEW ORLEANS, ATLANTA, AUGUST 30, 1916. No. 33.

## Editorial Notes and Comment

RECEIVED  
AUG 30 1916  
VIRGINIA STATE  
LIBRARY

CHILDREN are often received into full membership in the Church while quite young. We believe that many others ought to be received and would be if properly trained and led by parents, pastors and Sunday-school teachers. Our observation has been that more mistakes are made in admitting grown people to the church than there are in the case of children. It is some times said that these children do not know the duties and responsibilities of church membership. This is true, but shall they always remain in ignorance? If we look over the membership of almost any church we shall find a great deal of ignorance and indifference on these subjects on the part of adults. This can be prevented in the case of new members, especially of children, by giving them the needed instruction, instruction, help and encouragement to train them for the service of God and the Church and humanity. In connection with juvenile courts and efforts for the uplift of children, there is used what is called the Big Brother plan. When a boy is brought before the court, instead of sending him to jail he is put in charge of some man who agrees to look after and encourage him, and do all he can to keep the boy straight. A minister told us of an incident that occurred in a church where he was preaching. A little boy, who was not blessed with Christian parents, was received into the Church. As he turned from the pulpit he was met by the oldest man in the Church, who came tottering down the aisle to meet him. Taking the boy by the hand the old man said, with much emotion: "I am weak, because I am old. You are weak, because you are young. Let's be partners and help each other." If there were more partnership of this kind formed more and better work for the Lord would be done. If there were more big brothers to look after the little brothers and sisters, there would not be so many boys and girls to go astray or at least to grow up into drones in the Church. The pastor and session might well arrange in many cases for such oversight and training of the young. This might be done quietly without any publicity and be all the more efficacious for that reason.

\* \* \*

LATENT power is that which exists, but does not show itself, or is not seen in exercise. Think of the latent power in the Church of God on earth! Why do we say that there is latent power in the Church? Because we see manifestations of power on the part of some of the members of the Church. If all of God's people did as much for the advancement of the kingdom of Christ, proportionately to their ability, as some few do, there would be such a manifestation of power as the world has never seen. In the warring countries of Europe the wonderful power of the

armies in the field is due to the fact that practically all the people at home, as well as in the army, are doing their best for their country. In this country there are forty millions of people who are supposed to be fighting under the banner of King Jesus. Suppose all of them were doing their best with God's help. Even Satan, our great enemy, would have to retreat before a victorious army.

\* \* \*

### GOD KNOWS BEST.

Whichever way the wind doth blow,  
Some heart is glad to have it so;  
Then blow it east or blow it west,  
The wind that blows, that wind is best.

My little craft sails not alone;  
A thousand fleets from every zone  
Are out upon a thousand seas;  
What blows for one a favoring breeze  
Might dash another, with the shock  
Of doom, upon some hidden rock.  
And so I do not dare to pray  
For winds to waft me on my way,  
But leave it to a higher will  
To stay or speed me, trusting still  
That all is well, and sure that He  
Who launched my bark will sail with me  
Through storm and calm, and will not fail  
Whatever breezes may prevail,  
To land me, every peril past,  
Within His sheltering port at last.

Then, whatsoever wind doth blow,  
My heart is glad to have it so;  
And blow it east or blow it west,  
The wind that blows, that wind is best.

—Selected.

\* \* \*

SCHOOL days are near at hand. Many parents have already decided to what schools they expect to send their children for the coming session, and many others are still trying to solve the perplexing question. The importance of a proper decision cannot be too strongly emphasized. It is during the school life that the character of the child is largely formed, or confirmed. If a school has been selected it might be well to look again and carefully into the reasons for your choice; and, if the reasons are not good make a change in the school. If the choice has not been made the greatest care should be exercised in making it. There are four principal points that ought to be kept in mind. These are what the school offers for the physical, mental, moral and spiritual welfare of its pupils. Neither one of these can be neglected without loss to the child. And there are enough schools that offer satisfactory conditions in all these points for it not to be necessary to select an unsatisfactory one. Physical conditions as to housing, but especially as to food and exercise are often overlooked and yet they are essential to the child's best work in school and to his future welfare. The provision made for giving proper mental training is usually looked into more carefully than anything else. This is one of the essentials of a good school, and

the child should have the best that can be given, provided other conditions are satisfactory. The moral and spiritual conditions are often overlooked, and yet these in reality are of more importance than anything else, for these settle the future of the student for this life and for the life to come, just as far as the influence of the school can be carried into the future. As a rule the schools connected with the Presbyterian Church meet all the needed requirements, and there are many others that do so, also. The welfare of the child demands the greatest care on the part of parents.

\* \* \*

IS DENOMINATIONALISM doomed, asks a writer in a recent magazine. If he means that the time is at hand when all denominations will unite in one great Church, or that this will be brought about in the near future, we have no doubt about answering the question in the negative. There never was a time when there were as many denominations as there are now. There has been much agitation about the union of the various churches. Certainly very little has been accomplished thus far. The Northern and the Cumberland Presbyterian churches tried to unite. Only a part of the Cumberland Church was willing to go into the organization. A large minority remained outside and preserved the old Church. So the number of denominations was not reduced. The Southern and the United Presbyterian churches tried to get together and they failed, although they are probably as near alike as any two denominations in this country. For twelve years the Presbyterian, Methodist and Congregational churches in Canada have been discussing union. Though it looks now that this union may be brought about, it is said that a large minority in the Presbyterian Church will not go into the union. So there will still be a Presbyterian Church in Canada. If union is desirable it would seem better for local congregations to unite where there seems to be need for it. When this has been done to any large extent, it will be time enough to talk about the union of the denominations. If the local congregations do not sufficiently agree with each other to come together, how will it be possible to combine them, so that there will be no friction, by any act of the Church courts. And yet one of the strongest arguments in favor of the union of the churches, is that there are so many weak churches in many communities that ought to be combined to make strong ones. If the effort wasted discussing and working over the question of union and in complaining about the friction that exists or is supposed to exist in neighboring congregations, were to be utilized in building up these weak churches, there soon would be no need for such complaint. The Lord is blessing the work of the denominations. Why not put forth all our effort to make our work more effective?