

JOINED TO CHRIST.

CONFIRMATION OF THIRTY-EIGHT CHILDREN AT FIRST SWEDISH CHURCH.

AN EDIFYING CEREMONY.

WITNESSED BY A CONGREGATION THAT TAXED THE CAPACITY OF THE EDIFICE.

REV. L. A. JOHNSTON OFFICIATES

And Preaches an Appropriate Sermon to the Newly Confirmed.

A class of thirty-eight boys and girls received the sacrament yesterday morning at the annual confirmation exercises of the First Swedish Lutheran Evangelical church, corner of Woodward avenue and John street. The congregation, one of the largest in the city, was joined by many strangers, and every pew and every aisle was filled. Nearly 2,000 persons were present. The church was decorated with palms, potted plants and cut flowers. The choir of twenty was led by Mrs. Wald, while Peter Johnson presided at the organ. The candidates for confirmation included 16 boys and 22 girls, all about fourteen or fifteen years of age. The boys were attired in black suits and the girls wore gowns of delicate white fabrics, with corsage bouquets. The class sat in a circle about the pulpit. The services that followed were conducted in Swedish. After a hymn by the entire congregation the pastor, Rev. L. A. Johnston, read the twentieth chapter of the Song of Solomon, beginning, "Judge me, O Lord, for I have walked in mine integrity."

The confirmation class next rose to their feet and replied in unison to the pastor's questions upon the faith and hope of the Christian. They answered readily, for during the past six months they have been receiving weekly instruction in the catechism and collateral Bible history. Before any child can be confirmed in the Lutheran church he must be able to recite the Lord's prayer. This it is that so few Scandinavian immigrants to America ever found difficulty. Six of the thirty-eight children examined yesterday, although Swedish, had become such good Americans that they were not proficient in their fathers' tongue. They gave their answers in English, and were examined individually. A hymn was sung by the choir. Still standing, the class was asked if they understood the nature of the renunciation that they must make, and of the burdens they must assume. They were asked to take up the duties of the true Christian. They knelt and the pastor prayed for and with them. Then he led the congregation in a prayer for the children, that they might be sustained in the sacrifice that they had taken upon themselves. While all remained upon their knees the pastor stretched forth his hands and invoked the benediction of the Holy Spirit upon the class. "The Lord bless thee and keep thee. The Lord make his face to shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee. The Lord lift His countenance upon thee, and give thee peace."

Each member of the class was hereupon presented with a copy of the Bible and with a book of holy reading. The latter was a present from the pastor, and its contents were of a nature peculiarly suited to the situation of one newly confirmed. Following a hymn sung by the whole congregation, the pastor delivered a brief sermon upon the duties of the Christian. "Come unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest; take my yoke upon you and learn of me, for I am meek and lowly in heart, and ye shall find rest unto your souls."

Mr. Johnston spoke of the importance of the time spent in the confirmation school, and the importance of the text in three divisions, based upon the words, "come," "take" and "find." "Consider the word 'come.' There are three ways by which you can come to Christ. First, there is the way of grace, which points out the path. Second, there is the way of reason. Peering down into our souls, we can detect the impediments to a personal communion with the Savior. Once discovered, they may be removed by conscientious and continued effort. Third, there is the path of humility. When we realize our own unwieldy efforts, he can usually accomplish with the aid of the Father. "Consider the word 'take.' You should take upon you the yoke of your Savior, and as your King. Take the yoke of His doctrine, the yoke of obedience, and the yoke of holiness. To take the yoke of Christ, but to will not take up the yoke of sin, will find peace for your souls. He who takes this promise, and how infinite its blessing! The cares of business, of domestic life, the sorrow and pain of illness, and the heartbreaks of bereavement—these, all these are to be softened and obliterated, for to your souls will be granted peace, and you will be made partakers of the peace of the Prince of Peace, the Savior, the Comforter."

The confirmation class sang a beautiful song setting forth the safety of the refuge that had just found within the church. Then, as they knelt in a circle about him, they received from the pastor their sacrament. He placed in the mouth of each the consecrated wafer, and returning, he gave to each the sacred wine to drink. There was a hymn sung by the congregation, and thirty-eight more souls had been joined to the body of Christ's church.

The children confirmed were: Elizabeth Noren, Ruth Peterson, Edna Anderson, Mary Anderson, Freda Person, Elsa Johnson, Hulda Johnson, Agnes Ekwall, Vilja Swenson, Hannah Fougstad, Carl Peterson, Edna Peterson, Hilma Gustafson, Selma Person, Ida Schober, Thora Johnson, Paulina Person, Hulda Carlson, Mary Nelson, Anna Anderson, Ellen Wall, Esther Hammarberg, Andrew Alberg, Gottfred Peterson, Carl Ekstrand, Edward Carlson, Carl Carlson, Gustaf Carlson, Algot Anderson, Carl Johnson, Herman Palmquist, Victor Thorsell, Axel Ekwall, Elmer Anderson, Ferdinand Rydholm, John Johnson, Fred Vallin, Charley Hanson.

SEVERE WASHOUT.

Milwaukee Train Has a Roundabout Trip.

The heavy rains of last night caused a severe wash-out on the Milwaukee railroad between Hastings and Red Wing. The passenger train here at 10:30 Saturday night was delayed several hours, as it had to be brought around

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CHILIANS TALK WAR.

Relations With Argentine Becoming Seriously Strained. WASHINGTON, June 2.—Reports from the Argentine Republic show that there is a very active war party which is agitating the prospect of a war with Chile. The Argentine boundary commissioners have returned from Chile and reported satisfactory progress, but the Argentine press keeps up the talk of war, and the report received here is that the Chilean government is in a state of great excitement. "In the present critical state of feeling any such efforts on the part of our press, or of our public men, are to be severely deplored, some strict word is a border town, some petty insult to either of the national flags, and we would see the experience of a quarter of a century ago repeated." The Argentine government seems to regard hostilities as possible, and is taking every step of precaution. The national guard is being drilled, and officers have been dispatched to Europe to purchase armament. A loan of \$50,000,000 is being considered to meet possible war expenses. A report from Roseno states that a possible outbreak is imminent, so much so that the government has stationed the monitor El Plata in the harbor ready for action. At 2:30 p. m. the strategic points of the town are nightly occupied by the forces.

YOUNG PEOPLE DANCED.

It Greatly Shocked the Church Members at Tarentum, Pa. TARENTUM, Pa., June 2.—This usually quiet and prohibition town is greatly excited over a banquet given by the high school alumni. It has been the custom to hold an affair of this kind every year. After the speeches had followed the feasting one of the girls proposed that the affair end with a dance. The tables were cleared away and the young men and their girls danced until 2 o'clock the next morning. Many of the alumni held the Epworth League and Christian Endeavor societies. When the church people heard of the dance there was a hubbub. "The young folks have been ordered to make an explanation of their conduct. The ministers of the M. E., Presbyterian, U. P., and Cumberland Presbyterian churches have formed a combination to knock out the dance and are doing considerable talk in regard to the affair and will hold a prayer meeting," and when they got the young people in church talk in a way that could not be misunderstood. Some of the dancers may leave the church.

LOVE, NOT WRATH, ANGRILY RASCAL.

WOODWARD, THE THIEF, CAPTURED IN CINCINNATI, IS ACTING BADLY.

RECONCILE MAN TO GOD, HATES PROSPECT OF PRISON.

SAYS HE, RATHER THAN ATTEMPT TO RECONCILE GOD TO MAN.

Was Dr. Paulson's Subject—Says Strong Sermons by Other Men.

"And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission" were the words of the text announced by Elder Fifield at the Adversity camp yesterday at night. The speaker protested against the Pagan idea that has become well-nigh universal, viz.: That Christ died to reconcile the Father to us. The religious world today, with but few exceptions, teaches that God was very angry with us because of sin, and that the intercession of His Son, who has destroyed man, whereas, in truth, "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believed in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." The sufferings and death of Christ were not a manifestation of the wrath of God, but rather an amazing illustration of His infinite boundless love for fallen man. Says Jesus: "The Father loveth you." God does not need to be reconciled to us, for His great loving heart yearns for His erring children. But we must be "reconciled to God." And this is done for us "by the death of His Son" when we are crucified with Him. We must be "crucified with Him" not because God is angry with us and wants to kill us, but because He loves us, and wants us to live eternally. Every creature separates itself from the world and isolates itself in convents and monasteries, for fear of contamination, seeking thus to become holy, and so miserably fails that Draper says that "the degree of degradation and dishonor of a man is measured by the measure of the merit of the monk."

But Christ left the shining courts of heaven where all was glory, peace, righteousness and joy, with no danger or possibility of contamination, and descended into this dark world reeking with sin and pollution, to save the poor, degraded, fallen man. And true Christianity does the same thing now. It seeks the lost, the fallen and the outcast "for by so doing, thou shalt both save thyself and them that hear thee."

MAN THE MASTERPIECE.

At 2:30 p. m. Dr. Paulson continued his series of lessons, taking as his subject "Man, the Masterpiece of the Creator." Man, as he came from the hand of his Creator, was symmetrical, beautiful and faultless in form, and perfect in his entire being—the image and the likeness of God, and notwithstanding the ravages that are wrought by the laws of the Great Creator. The marvelous work of God is nowhere more wonderfully displayed than in the human body. The Psalmist truly says, "I am fearfully and wonderfully made; great and marvellous are thy works, which thou knowest not." "I am fearfully and wonderfully made; great and marvellous are thy works, which thou knowest not."

LOST TWO OVERBOARD.

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