

34TH YEAR

CHRISTIAN NATION

"**RIGHTEOUSNESS EXALTETH A NATION.**"

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THE MARCH OF EVENTS.

For Blinded Soldiers

A LARGE number of the soldiers who are returning permanently disabled from the battlefields of Europe are blind. The methods of modern warfare result in an unusual proportion of wounds inflicted upon the head and face; and blindness is the portion of many a disabled soldier. About a thousand Englishmen have been blinded in the fighting thus far.

England is striving to do what can be done for these blinded soldiers and sailors. Otto Kahn, of Kuhn, Lobe & Co., has placed a property in Regent's Park, London, owned by him, at the disposal of the Blinded Soldiers' and Sailors' Care Committee. The institution conducted there by the committee for the benefit of the blinded men is called St. Dunstan's Hostel for Blinded Soldiers and Sailors. Here the men are taught one or more of the following occupations: Massage, shorthand writing, telephone operating, boot repairing, mat making, basket making, joining, poultry farming and market gardening. Of the thousand men blinded thus far, 224 have already passed through St. Dunstan's Hostel, having learned one or more useful trade, and 354 inmates are at present in the hostel. Arrangement has been made practically to double the capacity of the institution.

In a report of the committee just issued, Sir Arthur Pearson, himself blinded, tells of the work done at St. Dunstan's. Soldiers with badly damaged eyes are drafted to the Second London General Hospital, or in case heavy fighting has made the casualty list occupy the entire accommodations there, the men are sent to the Third London General Hospital. Once at this hospital, the blinded come directly under the care of St. Dunstan's. Members of the staff visit them daily while they are still in the hospital and encourage them to bear up under the awful depression which accompanies the first moments of a lifetime of blindness.

When they reach St. Dunstan's they are put under foremen who have their sight,

but many of the instructors are blind, like those whom they teach. The more intelligent and apt pupils are retained as teachers in order that the newcomer may feel encouraged by the fact that he is profiting by the knowledge of a man who was himself blinded on the battlefield only a short time before. Some of the graduates of St. Dunstan's are making larger wages now than they did before their misfortune.

Virginia in Line

A SECOND State has ratified the proposed prohibitory amendment to the Federal Constitution. This State is Virginia. On January 9th the General Assembly of Virginia convened. On January 10th, the Senate, by a vote of 31 to 8, ratified the proposed amendment. On January 11th, the House, by a vote of 84 to 13, followed the example of the Senate. Thus, by a vote of 115 to 21, the legislature of Virginia ratifies the proposed amendment to the Federal Constitution prohibiting the importation, exportation, transportation, manufacture or sale of intoxicating beverages. Virginia has had statutory prohibition since 1916. Mississippi ratified the amendment on January 8th, Virginia on January 11th. The ratification procession has started.

Women Vote "Dry"

THE first instance of the exercise of the franchise by women in New York State has not lessened the anxieties of the liquor dealers. The local option law of New York State submits the question of license to the voters under four propositions. These propositions concern saloons, stores, drug stores and hotels. In 1916, the township of Lisle, Broome Co., voted itself dry by an average majority of 81 votes on all four propositions. In 1917, the dry majority was reduced to 58. An irregularity in the submitting of the question afforded the liquor dealers an opportunity to protest the election, which they did. A special election was ordered for January 5, 1918. In the meantime Woman Suffrage

went into effect, giving the women of the State the right to vote after January 1, 1918. Moreover, the State election law provides that no registration is necessary for voting at a special election. The attorney-general of the State certified the right of the women to vote in Lisle. The "drys" again carried the election, this time with an average majority of 328. Practically all the women who voted cast their ballots in favor of prohibition.

Converted Hebrews

THE difficulty of the task before the Christian church in its efforts to bring the Jew to Jesus is well known to all who have done any work in that field of Christian endeavor. And yet the task is far from hopeless. According to *Watchword and Truth*, one of the results of the work of the Church during the past century was the baptism into connection with the various Protestant churches of 72,740 Jews. During the same period, 57,300 Jews were received into the Roman Catholic Church and 74,500 into the Greek Catholic Church. "There is one Protestant Hebrew convert to every 156 of the Jewish population, while the proportion from all other non-Christian religions together is only one to every 525. Three times as many Hebrew converts to Protestant Christianity enter the Christian ministry as those from the ranks of converts from all other non-Christian faiths."

Religious Liberty in China

THE latest draft of the Chinese Constitution omits the clause making Confucianism the basis of all education, and modifies another article so that it reads: "The people of the Republic of China shall have liberty to honor Confucius and liberty of religious worship which shall be unrestricted except in accordance with law." A long fight was waged in China by a Chinese graduate of Columbia University to have Confucianism made the State religion. But religious liberty seems to have won the day.

The Covenanter's Tribute to Democracy

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world, all this is necessary to the conquering of the world for Me, come! I want your service!

That is the martyr spirit. And if we expect Christ's universal dominion to be established we must get that spirit. John saw the martyr spirit prevailing upon earth during the millenium. If we are going to be ready for the establishment of Christ's law and will among the nations of the earth we must get that martyr spirit like Knox, and Melville, and Rutherford, and Cameron, and Cargill, and Renwick, so that we are willing to endure the privation of lands, and friends, and relatives, and pleasures of home, for Christ's Crown and Covenant.

WANTED, MEN OF FAITH.

The closing chapter of the life of Emily C. Judson is entitled, "The madness of the missionary enterprise." It is a chapter from her own pen. She tells of standing by the grave of the first wife of her husband, Adoniram Judson. She speaks of the thoughts that came to her, of all that she had done for Christ. She said to herself, could the words of her critic possibly be true? Was her enterprise, in the effort to open India to the Gospel, madness? As she looked about she could still see the Budhistic temples and pagodas, and the monks with shaven crowns and trailing robes promenading the streets, still revered by blinded idolaters, and all that remained of her who gave her life for those benighted people was a grassy mound and a mildewed, mossy marble. Has anything been accomplished, was it worth the cost? She replies, "Go traverse America from the borders of fair New England to the sounding shores of the Pacific; count, if they can be counted, the various missionary organizations that have sprung up within the last half century. Go watch the movements of the thousands and tens of thousand of churches by which Christendom is bespangled, and see with what simultaneous action they step forth to the support of the mighty enterprise. . . . Go, on a holy Sabbath morning, and follow the course of the sun, as he rises on the easternmost part of China, till he climbs over the rocky hills of the Far West to garnish the infant spires of Oregon and California. And what change have not fifty—thirty—ten—nay, five years wrought throughout that Sabbath track! How the music of the church-bells thrills upon the Christian's heart, as on, from port to port, he takes his joyous way! How few and inconsiderable the spots from which the voice of prayer and praise ascends not, and in which that 'Light of the World,' a Christian church, has not been kindled."

The missionary enterprise was not madness as it was termed by its opponents in its earlier advance. The skeptics or the indifferent may speak of the madness of the Covenanter cause, the exaltation of Christ as King of nations. It is not madness, it has every promise that the missionary enterprise has—*Victory through Christ!*

Call the Covenanters fanatics if you will. "Fanaticism is simply a mighty grip upon a mighty idea. It was the fanaticism of Columbus that discovered America; it was the fanaticism of Luther that gave the world the Reformation." The Covenanters have a *mighty grip upon a mighty idea*. It is the mightiest idea

that has ever impelled men to action—the *absolute sovereignty of Jesus Christ in every sphere of life*.

THE BATTLE FOR CHRIST STILL ON.

There may be some here who shall be called to go out to fight for democracy. Keep before you not merely that, but the crowned rights of Jesus Christ. Would that the plea of the Covenanters which was published in the Sanquhar Declaration: renewed in the Mecklenburg Declaration: and reiterated to Abraham Lincoln; had not been declined in the Revolution Settlement, in the United States Constitution, or in the amendments of Reconstruction and Reunion; for that, *the unlimited sovereignty of Christ, is the basis of all civil and religious liberty!*

God grant that the eyes of the world may be opened to see, and its ears opened to hear this message which is paramount above all others, for Christ who goes forth to conquer "Hath on His vesture and on His thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS."

Armageddon, a Lost Battle

BY REV. J. C. M'FEETERS, D.D.

Armageddon recalls the battle of Megiddo, where Josiah, King of Judah, fought with Pharaoh, King of Egypt, and lost the battle.

Pharaoh was at war with the king of Assyria, and had had to pass through little Judah to reach his enemy, just as the Kaiser forced his way through Belgium, to invade France. Josiah determined to resist, and was crushed. The war lasted ten or twelve years. At length Nebuchadnezzar, King of Babylon, joining the forces with the Assyrian, hurled his legions against Pharaoh. The king of Egypt was defeated and pursued to his own capital, where terms were dictated.

The battle of Megiddo brought defeat, distress, and mourning to Judah, the people of God.

Armageddon in Revelation (16: 16), is described as a world-war. Three unclean spirits are seen going forth unto the kings of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of the great day of God Almighty. The war-passage at present is at fever heat, all over the earth. War is the principal vocation in all nations. The governments make this the high calling, to which every other calling must contribute. The soldier is regarded as the most essential element in national life. Men and women, boys and girls, are everywhere moved by a common and crimson impulse to increase or sustain the fighting forces. The greatest business on earth today is man-slaughter. Surely this is Armageddon.

Autocracy and democracy are the two rival world powers in conflict. The forces are colossal; the clash of armies is terrific; the carnage horrifying, both sides seem to have grimly accepted the process of attrition, the largest host lasting longest. The collisions are not battles; the formations moving forward and backward, the attacks and counter-attacks, the waging of the offensive and defensive, the fields piled with the slain and flowing with blood; what is all this but "the wine press of the wrath of Almighty God; and the blood coming out of the wine press, even unto the horse-bridles."

If the first Megiddo battle be our guide, we find that the aggressor will meet with overwhelming defeat; his forces will be

turned back and pursued to Berlin, where terms of peace will be ratified.

Yet the battle of Armageddon will be lost, as a struggle for moral attainments, and the elevation of nations to right relation with God, and Jesus Christ. Without doubt there will be deliverance from despotic rule; the world will be emancipated from haughty lordship; the people will enjoy their rights and God-given powers; progress in commerce, education, and material welfare will surely forge ahead; but the democracy that shall win the day, and confer larger privileges upon the people, will remain disloyal to our Lord Jesus Christ, and rebellious against Almighty God. Even while this great battle terminates, it is said that "men will be blaspheming God." Armageddon will not bring the nations into covenant relation to Jesus Christ. Therefore it will be a lost battle; the fight will be on again, and in a more violent form than now. The millennium will come by way of the 19th chapter of Revelation; through a religious war, a general persecution, an effort of the devil to destroy Christianity from the earth. "And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies gather together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army." The world is now in her Gethsemene, in the great agony, with blood pouring from all her pores; she has yet to reach her Calvary; but the time is surely not far off, when this world shall pass through the death struggle into a new and glorious life." Such will be the "first resurrection."

The people of God should never be discouraged. The ordeals ahead are to be met in the strength of Jesus, and with a dauntless spirit. The dark day calls for bright lives to shine like the sun. O what a privilege to live in these times! Will we awake and meet our tasks and trials, and be ever ready for greater revelations of the Lord's plans and purposes. Surely we are in the thick of the fight. The battle of Armageddon is on, but not nearly over. "The kings from the east" must hurl their forces into it ere the end come. Our duty is to "watch, and keep our garments, lest we walk naked, and they see our shame."

How often it happens that just as the rich man is ready to say, "Saul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink and be merry," the Lord says to him: "Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee." His auto goes over an embankment, or is smashed by the fast train at the crossing; or the train upon which he is riding is wrecked, or in any one of a thousand ways his life is snuffed out in a moment, then what do all his possessions amount to?

Jesus knows every sacrifice we make for His service. He knows how much time we spend in waiting upon Him and His word. He knows how far we come to church, and knows all about the muddy roads and the hills. He knows how long it takes to get back home again, and how hungry we get. Jesus takes note of all these things and gives credit for them, and we may be sure will abundantly recompense all such sacrifices for His sake. When people manifest such desire for Him and His word, He will not deny them.