

LOCAL AND GENERAL

Miss Emily Folk, of Pittsburg visited friends here Sunday.

Joseph Gunter, Grahamton, left Tuesday for Detroit, Mich.

John Howat, of Pittsburg spent Sunday with relatives here.

Miss Goldie Price is ill at her home on Broadway with the gripe.

Mr. and Mrs. William Moody announce the birth of a baby boy.

Mrs. Conrad Lapp, of Corriganville, was a recent visitor in Frostburg.

William Dando, of Braddock, Pa., spent Sunday with his family here.

Mrs. Mark Lewis left Sunday to join her husband in Turtle Creek, Pa.

Miss Agnes Cain, Centre street, is spending her vacation in McKeesport.

Rudolph Mendelsohn, of Morgantown, W. Va., is visiting relatives here.

Mrs. Edmund Lewis is visiting her daughter, Mrs. Lottie Weisch, Baltimore.

Mr. and Mrs. David Davis, of Pittsburg, were guests of relatives here Sunday.

Carl Dando, of Cleveland, Ohio, visited his father, Owen Dando last Sunday.

Frank Dando who spent the past week here returned to Akron, Ohio Saturday.

Miss Blanche Thornton, of Wilkinsburg, Pa., is a guest of Mr. and Mrs. C. F. Betz.

Prof. Earl Lewis, of this place, is teaching for the summer at Mt. Jackson, Virginia.

Dr. I. L. Ritter and Earl Metger have returned from a motor trip through Virginia.

Miss Margaret Porter, Mechanic street, is visiting her sister, Mrs. D. W. Plummer, Pittsburgh.

John Colborn, of Pittsburg spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. James Flynn, East Union street.

Marshall Lewis is at home to spend the fourth with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. L. Lewis, Hill street.

Miss Madeline Johnson, of Front Royal, Va., is a guest of Miss Susan Colborn, West Union street.

The homes of J. Fred, Dillon and James Brady, Maple street, are being improved by a coat of paint.

Miss Marie Lewis, of Pittsburg was a recent guest of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. David Lewis, Hill street.

Patrick Byrnes, of Pittsburg is visiting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. William James, Bowery street.

Allan T. Hartman, of Baltimore was a guest Sunday of his mother, Mrs. Annie Hartman, Ormand street.

Mrs. David Lewis of Eckhart is ill at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. F. Nickel, Borden Road.

H. Dorsey Etchison, democratic nominee for congress was a week-end guest of ex-Mayor George Stern.

Mrs. Robert Ricker visited her mother, Mrs. James McAllister, who is a patient in a Washington hospital.

Garrett Jackson, of Fairmont, W. Va., was the guest of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Jackson Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. C. F. Betz and their daughter, Miss Thornton motored to Oakland Wednesday and spent the day.

Mrs. Oscar Keafar, of Pittsburg spent Sunday with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Eakins, Welsh Hill.

Misses Vera Parker and Nellie Powell are attending summer school at West Virginia University, Morgantown.

Mrs. Samuel Bolton who has been a guest of her daughter, Mrs. Paul L. Hitchins has returned to her home in Philadelphia.

Mrs. Edgar Rowe and children, of Fairmont, W. Va., are guests of Mrs. Rowe's mother, Mrs. John McFarland, Mt. Pleasant street.

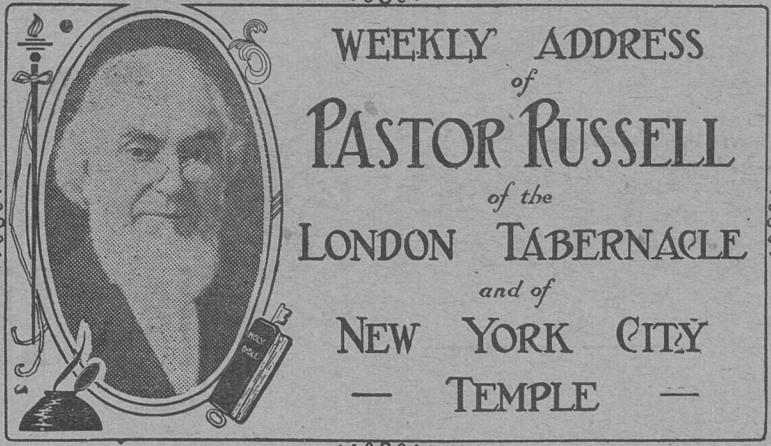
A dance and social under the auspices of Division No. 8, L. A. A. O. H. will be held in St. Michael's Hall Thursday evening, July 13.

Miss Rhoda Neal is at home from Virginia College, Roanoke, Va., to spend the summer with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Alex. Neal, Bowery street.

Mr. and Mrs. William A. Jones, of Baltimore were week-end guests of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Biddington, Wood street. Mrs. Jones will remain for some time.

Mrs. Joseph Eady and daughter, Margaret, who have been visiting Mrs. Eady's parents, Mr. and Mrs. George W. Taylor, Spring street, will leave to day for their home in Akron, Ohio.

Rev. and Mrs. J. N. Beall left Thursday for a month's visit in Fulton, Ill., and other cities of the middle west, returning home by the way of St. Louis. While in Fulton Mr. Beall will officiate at the marriage of his nephew.



THE LOVING KINDNESS OF OUR GREAT GOD

Misunderstanding of God's Character Leads Men Into Skepticism.

LOVE OF GOD CONSTRAINS—MANY MADE AGNOSTICS BY ERRONEOUS TEACHINGS—VERY LITTLE GOSPEL PREACHING FOR MANY CENTURIES—HEATHEN BEWILDERED BY UNREASONABLE AND CONFLICTING CREDITS—TRUTH NOW CLEAR TO EARNEST BIBLE STUDENTS—MAJORITY OF COLLEGE PROFESSORS KNOW NOTHING OF THE TRUE TEACHINGS OF THE BIBLE—MANY TRUTH-HUNGRY SOULS STUMBLING INTO LATTER-DAY ERRORS—TO KNOW GOD ARIGHT IS LIFE EVERLASTING.

St. Louis, Mo., June 25.—Pastor Russell spoke today before the I. B. S. A. Convention which is in session in our city. His text was, "Because Thy loving-kindness is better than life, my lips shall praise Thee." (Psalm 63:3.) The Pastor said in part:

More and more are we noticing that the Bible presents to us a God of loving-kindness, and from that viewpoint calls upon us to render some return to Him. More and more are we impressed with the erroneously of the creeds. How they misled us into thinking of our Heavenly Father as anything but the kind, loving Parent presented in our text! In harmony with this thought of the loving-kindness of our God, the Apostle says, "The love of God constrains us." (2 Corinthians 5:14.) Since Christ is the "express image of the Father's glorious person," God also constrains us—draws us to Himself by His love.

It is very probable that the reason why so many have been kept away from God is that He has been very seriously misrepresented to us all and by us all. When we read the Apostle's words to the effect that the heathen are feeling after God, if haply they might find Him (Acts 17:27), we ask ourselves, Why is it that the heathen have not found the Lord? Evidently St. Paul expresses the right sentiment here; for mankind are so constructed that the highest and noblest organs of our brain are those that call for reverence for the Almighty God. Therefore it would be the most natural condition for all men to desire to have a God, to have fellowship with Him, to have His favor and blessing, and to have the everlasting life which He has offered.

But we find the very reverse of this, not only in Christian lands, but in lands where the Gospel has been preached to a very limited extent. Not only do we find many who neglect the Lord and care little for Him, but we also find many who have turned away from Him entirely and who are antagonistic to Him. They call themselves agnostics, a term which signifies persons who do not know anything definite about God, persons who demand proof of the existence of things supernatural. There is a difference, however, between an infidel—an unbeliever—and an agnostic. Some of the leading people of our day candidly confess that they are agnostics. They are feeling after God, trying to find Him. Then there are some who drift from one denomination to another; and others, such as Christian Scientists, who are outside of all so-called orthodox denominations—all feeling after the Truth, but not having a knowledge of it.

REPULLED BY FALSE TEACHINGS

It is difficult to estimate how much harm has been done by the doctrines which misrepresent God's character. Erroneous teachings are responsible for the many denominations all calling themselves Christians, though knowing little about God and Christ—for the most part, merely formal professors. Only a few claim to be fully consecrated to the Lord. After all these centuries of preaching, we would naturally expect better results. The trouble is that during all these centuries there has been very little real Gospel preached. If we had been taught the simple Truth during the entire Gospel Age, and not the "doctrines of demons," doubtless the results would have been more like those obtained in the early Church, when

ed even by the early Church. Because of God's loving-kindness our lips shall praise Him. How far removed is this thought from what many of us were taught in childhood—that God was vengeful, ready to throw us to the Devil; but that our Lord Jesus stepped in and said, "Please do not! I died for these people. Allow Me to show them mercy!" and that then the Father would say, "For Your sake I will; otherwise I would throw them into eternal torment."

What a wretched picture! Where would God's loving-kindness be? But when we see that God arranged a wonderful Plan of Salvation before the foundation of the world, that He has a great Purpose in gathering out of the world a Church, a Bride for His Son, to become Heavenly beings of the Divine nature (2 Peter 1:4), for the blessing of all mankind; then we begin to see His loving-kindness, His tender mercy.

RIGHT AND WRONG VIEWPOINTS

Now we have come to a time when our conceptions of God are growing clearer. We are awakening from the sleep of the past. We are getting our eyes of understanding open a little.

We are looking and thinking in the right direction. Many others are looking also, but in the wrong direction.

The great professors in our colleges are looking, and are seeing things, too; but they are not looking in the right direction, however.

A former professor in one of our western colleges came into the knowledge of Present Truth recently. One day he remarked to one of the brethren, "It is not necessary to teach Evolution to the young men and women who come to college. They enter with their minds already prepared on that subject, having gained ideas along this line from their school books and elsewhere. They have already been taught that Evolution is the way by which man came into the world. Furthermore, nearly all of the faculty in all of our colleges and universities are Evolutionists."

Many of the thinking people of the world are looking about in the direction of Theosophy or New Thought or Christian Science. They are searching for light, not knowing where to go. The degree of light which we have who have come to understand God's Plan is to be highly appreciated.

"Blessed are your eyes; for they see!" You have looked in the right direction—that which God has pointed out in His Word. Higher Critics, Evolutionists, and others who lead to their own understanding are in darkness. Those who are looking carefully into the teaching of the Bible are being drawn closer to God, and are obtaining a deeper appreciation of Him as a personal God.

All who accept these theories of regard God as a Principle without personality. If any who follow these creeds still believe in a personal God, it is because they have not as yet gotten the idea of their leaders. The theory is that there is a principle of good which operates everywhere, and that principle is God. Hence they say that God is everywhere and in everything. To them God is a great law of nature. Is there any intelligence in such a law? Is there any sympathy, any love, there? Not a bit! They worship the principle, instead of the great Source of the principle. They adore the law and not the great Author of law.

GOD'S LOVING-KINDNESS KNOWN TO FEW

Our text speaks to those who have learned to know God. Since the days of the early Church not many have known of God's loving-kindness. It has been lost sight of, even as the teachings of the Bible have been.

Only through the Bible can any know of God's loving-kindness and tender mercy.

The words of this text have been true of all who have been in close relationship with God throughout the Gospel Dispensation.

More fully than ever before do the Lord's people realize His love and mercy today.

More light is shining upon this class than ever before. Truly we know something of the loving-kindness of our God.

If this realization has come into your heart, it is having a transforming effect upon your heart and your mind; for it is having this effect upon all of God's people. The Psalmist declares that this loving-kindness of our God is better than life—the present life, not the future. It is this loving-kindness which has provided for a future life for us. In view of this fact, we count what remains of the present life as a trifling thing, not worthy to be compared with what God has in reservation for us. As a training school for the life to come, this life is very valuable, but not for its own sake. So we are glad to lay it down in the service of God. We have not been compelled to do so, however. God is not compelling any one to sacrifice. Whoever makes a sacrifice that is acceptable to God must do it of his own free will.

Our hope is built upon the loving-kindness of our God. As soon as we have understood our Father in Heaven, nor His Plan. We had a devilish idea, engendered by the doctrines of demons. (1 Timothy 4:1.) During the Dark Ages, men were burned at the stake and put through various forms of torture, all in the name of Jesus, in the name of religion. What a terrible mistake! Did not this drive the people away from the Lord and the Truth? Did it not do great injury to those who perpetrated such crimes as well as to the world at large? Yes; and it all resulted from the lack of knowledge of God.

WILLING SERVICE, NOT COMPELATION

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If we had been taught the simple Truth during the entire Gospel Age, and not the "doctrines of demons," doubtless the results would have been more like those obtained in the early Church, when

demanded our praise; it is not that we MUST do this or that. We should not ask, "Must I do this?" or, "Will God require that?" This is not the right spirit: rather, it is just the reverse. Let us serve the Heavenly Father and do His will as our Lord Jesus did. He said, "I delight to do Thy will, O My God! Thy Law is written in My heart." (Heb. 10:5-9; Psalm 40:7, 8.) We, too, will praise God with joyful lips for the privilege of service and of suffering for His Name.

This spirit was exemplified in St. Paul and Silas, when on account of their loyalty to the Truth they were imprisoned at Philippi. There in the prison, with their backs smarting from the stripes which they had received, with their hands and their feet fast in stocks, and with their bodies in a most uncomfortable position, these two faithful servants of God had so great an appreciation of God's loving-kindness that their lips gave utterance to songs of praise, telling of Good Tidings to others.

So it is with us, dear Brethren. We cannot keep God's gracious Message to ourselves. As the Prophet said, "It is like a fire in our bones; we cannot stifle it." (Jeremiah 20:9.) We must declare our appreciation of the glorious things which He has in reservation for the Church and of the blessings which He has in reservation for the whole world of mankind. Because His loving-kindness is better than life, we praise Him with joyful lips.

WONDERFUL STORY OF GOD'S LOVE

To know God is life eternal, the

Master said. (John 17:3.) This being

so, not many as yet have eternal life;

for only a few know God. It is not

sufficient to know that there is a God,

nor to realize that He is a living

Being, not a Principle. As the Script

ures say, "He that cometh to God

must believe that He is [a personal

God], and that He is a Rewarder of

them that diligently seek Him." (He

brews 11:6.) We first believed; then

we sought to know His will concerning

us.

Thus doing, we found that He had

made a provision in His Love where

by we might come from under the

condemnation of sin and death and be

admitted into His family. We of

fered ourselves to Him through Christ

our Redeemer. God accepted us and

gave us the usages of His Holy

Spirit. By and by, if we are faithful,

we shall be born in the spirit plane

and have joint-heirship with Christ

Jesus our Lord.

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