

# THE CHRISTIAN CONSERVATOR

Remove Not The Ancient Landmark Which Thy Fathers Have Set.

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## Notes and Comments.

### Evan Roberts.

A nameless lad to the Master gave  
His thoughtfully provident store—  
Of fishes two, and of loaves but five;  
Not one of the throng had more.  
And yet five thousand were fed that day;  
The lad, too, had his fill.  
And the baskets of fragments carried away  
Made many an after-meal.  
And now there cometh a lad again  
With his consecrated store—  
Of love for God and his fellow-men,  
To the Master's augmentative power:  
Great multitudes eat of the bread of God,  
And the fragments carried afar  
Are feeding yet others with heavenly food  
In lands both distant and near.  
—Christian Commonwealth.

### Religious Freedom for Russia.

On Easter Sunday the Czar of Russia issued a rescript granting religious freedom to the hitherto proscribed unorthodox religionists in his dominions. This rescript will affect about 40,000,000 of his subjects, who have hitherto been proscribed on account of their religious belief. They will henceforth be allowed to worship according to the dictates of their own consciences and to own property and hold civil offices, privileges which were hitherto denied to those who withdrew from the orthodox, or Greek, church. Speaking of this concession the New York World says:

If the promised reform is carried out in more faithful spirit than previous pledges it may help to allay political agitation. Religious persecutions, even in recent years, have been one of the Czar's worst crimes against civilization.

### Illinois and Prohibition.

Municipal elections were held in many of the towns and cities of Illinois on the 18th of April and in about 290 of them license or no license was the issue. Of this number something more than one half voted no license, electing mainly what was called a citizen's ticket. Illinois has no local option law. The arrangement there is for the city council and the mayor to issue license, but there is no law compelling them to issue licenses and unless they choose to do so they need not do it. Hence, the people took advantage of this fact and nomi-

nated men for these offices pledged against issuing license, and thus they forced the issue upon the liquor men. In this way the saloon has been put out of several counties entirely and out of all except one or two places in other counties.

### Effect of Law-enforcement.

On the first Sunday of the closing of the saloons and other places of low resort in St. Louis by enforcing the Sunday laws there was a decrease in the number of arrests of over sixty per cent from the number on the previous Sunday. And the per cent of decrease would have been larger still but for the fact that the saloons were wide open in East St. Louis just across the Mississippi river and on the roads leading out from the city, but beyond the city corporation.

### Doubtful Amusements.

The Cumberland Presbyterian says, "Doubtful amusements are like doubtful eggs—so likely to be bad that it is safest to let them alone." Commenting upon this, another exchange says: "Whenever any practice crosses the boundary of the certainly right, and enters the domain of the possibly wrong, Christian people should follow it no further."

This is certainly clearly expressed truth, and it will apply to institutions as well as to practices. And should it be heeded by all our churches and church members, there would either be a wonderful abandoning of such practices and coming out from such institutions, or a wonderful falling off of church members.

### Party to the Evil.

Most all good men who understand the nature of the lodge refuse to connect themselves with it. Others withdraw from it when they learn its nature, or continue as merely nominal members. Bishop Warren of the M. E. church, a few years ago, is reported to have said: I have belonged to several secret organizations, including the Freemasons. I do not belong to any of them now, and shall never belong to a secret society again."

But Bishop Warren and other influential men owe it to the church and nation, not only to sever their connection with these anti-Christian organizations,

but to publicly expose them and to warn their brethren and the general public against them. To know the evils of such organizations and not to expose them, under the circumstances, is to be a party to these evils. But, possibly, it is expecting too much in our day to expect every otherwise good man to have the courage of his convictions. Real moral courage on all questions is very rare among men in high position in either church or state. The world has not had many Pauls and Luthers. But Peters at Antioch are found on every hand.

### The New Theology.

The following summary of the new theology as given by The Lutheran of Philadelphia is terse and clear, but not very complimentary to the new theologian:

A pantheistic God, instead of a personal God; a human Savior, instead of a divine Savior; infallible scholarship, instead of an infallible Bible; 'modern thought,' instead of a 'thus saith the Lord,' a development of religious ideas from the human mind, instead of a revelation from God; the natural in all things, the supernatural in nothing; reformation, instead of regeneration; culture, instead of conversion; a change of environment, instead of a change of heart; the energy of the flesh, instead of prayer and faith; interest in the secular, instead of zeal for religion; nobody afraid of hell, and nobody caring much about heaven; everybody coming out right anyhow, and nobody on the wrong track except those who cling to the faith once delivered to the saints.

### Niagara Preserved.

An attempt was made in the New York legislature to turn over Niagara Falls to a private corporation, the effect of which would have been, as another has well expressed it, "to hand out a few millions of the people's money to a single corporation and immediately to destroy one of the most famous objects of natural beauty and grandeur in the world."

The evidence seems clear that many of the legislators were bribed to vote for the measure and at one time it seemed impossible to defeat it. But public sentiment was aroused on the question and was brought to bear on the legislature, and the result was that the bill was withdrawn. But a few days later an attempt was made to rush through another bill which, however, failed to carry by one vote and the falls, for the present at least, are saved from desecration.