

The Deaf Lutheran.

A MISSIONARY MONTHLY.

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An Infidel's Prediction Come to Naught.

Truly, the victorious march of the Gospel cannot be stopped. All predictions to that effect are nonsense. "In less than a hundred years," said Voltaire in a bragging spirit, "Christianity will have been swept from existence, and will have passed into history." Well, infidelity held high carnival in France, untold misery following in its wake. More than a century has passed. What has happened? Voltaire, the scoffer, has "passed into history," history with rather an offensive odor to it; but his printing-press has served to print the Word of God, and his house, which became a depot for the Geneva Bible Society, has been stacked with Bibles many a time over.

Our Preachers.

When Luther saw the cattle in the pasture, he said, "There are our preachers, the milk carriers, the butter carriers, the cheese carriers, the wool carriers, who daily preach to us faith in God, that we shall trust Him as our Father, who cares for us and will nourish us."

The subject and object of the Holy Scriptures is to commend to us the chief work of God, that is, faith in Him.—Luther.

Among all the gifts of God to men the best and most glorious is that of His Word. If any man would take it from us, he would take the shining sun from us and leave us in utter darkness. The world without the Word would be a hell and the kingdom of Satan, notwithstanding the fact that rich men and wise men were found in it.—Luther.

Peace.

"Can I do anything for you?" said an officer in one of our glory battles in America, during that awful conflict, to one of the lads in blue, whose life was trickling away upon the green sward.

"Nothing," said the dying soldier, "nothing!"

"Shall I get you a little water?"

"No, thank you, I am dying."

"Is there nothing I can do?" said the officer; "shall I write a letter to your friends?"

"No, I have no friends that you can write to. But there is one thing I should be much obliged to you for. In my knapsack you will find a Testament. Open it at the 14th chapter of St. John, and near the end you will find a passage that begins with the word 'Peace.' Please read it."

The officer took up the blood-stained haversack, took out the Testament, and turned to that chapter which your pastor has read so often, as a lamp in the valley of the shadow of death, the matchless 14th chapter of John; and he read: "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give unto you. Not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."

"Thank you, sir," said the dying man; "I have that peace; I am going to the Savior." And winging its way from the poor, bleeding body, the spirit ascended; and, as Noah stretched out his hand to the dove, the infinite Love grasped him and drew him in. For him to live was Christ; for him to die was gain—gain everlasting!—Ex.

BELIEVE on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved.— Acts 16, 31.

THE DEAF LUTHERAN.

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Rev. T. Wangerin, Managing Editor.

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Ephphatha Conference.

The Lutheran Ephphatha Conference had a very successful meeting at St. Louis, Mo., from the 14th to the 17th of May. The following missionaries were present: The Revs. T. M. Wangerin of Milwaukee, A. Reinke of Chicago, A. Boll of Toledo, N. F. Jensen of Kansas City, C. Schubkegel of St. Louis, and J. Salvner of Minneapolis. Revs. Boll and Wangerin delivered sermons in the sign-language which were then criticised and discussed. The Revs. Reinke and Jensen gave catechisations on several commandments, which were also discussed at length. Rev. Salvner read a paper on "The History and Present Status of the Various Missions for the Deaf in the United States," showing where and how the different churches labor among the deaf. On Sunday evening, May 16th, a service was held, an account of which will be found in this issue. It was resolved that Ephphatha Conference meet next year at Chicago. The following papers are to be given: Sermon in the Sign-Language by Revs. A. Reinke and J. Salvner respectively; Catechisation on the Eighth Commandment, by Rev. C. Schubkegel; Catechisation on the Ninth and Tenth Commandments by Rev. A. Boll; Continuation of "Uniformity of Signs," by Rev. A. Reinke; "Hints for Successful Mission-Work," by Rev. T. Wangerin. It was also resolved to extend the thanks of the conference to Rev. Obermeyer and his congregation, to Prof. Barthel and the student's choir for their kind services rendered. The thanks of the conference was extended also to Rev. Wangerin's Young Men's Society for helping to defray the expenses of furnishing programs for the conference-service. On Monday afternoon, the conference closed, every missionary returning home with new zeal and courage to labor on in the vineyard of

the Lord to the glory of His name and for the eternal welfare of our deaf fellowmen. May our Heavenly Father bestow His richest blessings upon the labors of every one of our missionaries for Christ's sake!

Conference Service.

"O give thanks unto the Lord for He is good and His mercy endureth forever." These words of the Psalmist are expressive of the feelings of our missionaries for the deaf on the evening of May 16th, when a large number of deaf and hearing people assembled in Zion Lutheran Church of St. Louis, in order to hear about our Mission for the Deaf. As this service undoubtedly is of interest to the readers of "The Deaf Lutheran" we herewith give a short account of the program rendered.

The service opened with a fine Organ Prelude by Prof. J. D. Barthel and the singing of the Gloria Patri by the congregation, the Rev. A. Reinke, of Chicago, acting as interpreter. The Rev. C. F. Obermeyer, Pastor of Zion Lutheran Church, in a fervent prayer then invoked God's blessing on our missionaries and their work, the Rev. J. Salvner, of Minneapolis, acting as interpreter. In the first address, delivered both in signs and orally by the Rev. A. Reinke, we were told "How God blessed our Mission." Then the Rev. A. Boll of Toledo, Ohio, spoke both in signs and orally on the subject "Why preach Christ Crucified?" His answer to this question was threefold:

1. Because Christ commanded it; 2. Because only such preaching is to the glory of God; 3. Because this only can save souls from eternal damnation.—

In the following address, delivered by the Rev. C. Schubkegel of St. Louis, Mo., and interpreted by the Rev. T. Wangerin of Milwaukee, those present were exhorted to earnest and continuous prayer for our Mission for the Deaf, because of Christ's command to pray and His promise that God would gladly hear such prayer. Following this address Mrs. A. Kugelmann and Miss. E. Engelhorn beautifully rendered in signs the hymn "Rock of Ages," while students of Concordia Seminary sang it with organ accompaniment. The next address signed by the Rev. J. Salvner and

interpreted by the Rev. N. F. Jensen of Kansas City, showed "The Necessity of Instruction before Joining Church," giving the following three reasons for it, viz: 1. Such instruction alone enables us to continue in the Word of God; 2. Such instruction alone enables us to defend our faith against false prophets; 3. Such instruction alone enables us to comply with the divine injunction of Holy Writ (I Cor. 11, 28, 29.) to examine ourselves before partaking of the Lord's Supper.—Hereupon the congregation sang the hymn "O Christ, our true and only Light," while the Rev. N. F. Jensen rendered it in signs. The next number on the program was an address by the Rev. N. F. Jensen, with the Rev. J. Salvner as interpreter on the subject "Which Church shall I Join?" Rev. Jensen said that in deciding this question we should not be guided by reason, but solely by the Word of God, which enjoins upon us the duty to continue in the Word of God. Therefore we should not be influenced by external things such as a beautiful house of worship, or a good speaker and the like in deciding this question, but we should above all things search for that church which in every respect continues in God's Word. Thereupon the Rev. T. Wangerin, made a few remarks in regard to our Church Paper for the deaf, "The Deaf Lutheran," telling his hearers that this paper not only gives the deaf good, sound Christian reading matter, but also keeps them in touch with all the doings in our mission. Rev. Wangerin also urged the hearing as well as the deaf to subscribe to this paper and thus help to support our mission. The Concordia Seminary Student's Choir, under the direction of Prof. J. D. Barthel then sang the beautiful hymn "Abide with me," which was followed by an encouraging address, delivered by the Rev. C. F. Obermeyer and interpreted by the Rev. A. Boll. The Rev. Obermeyer heartily entreated the missionaries to continue in their difficult but noble work of preaching the Gospel, and exhorted the deaf to grasp the opportunity given them to provide for the salvation of their immortal souls. He also urged all Christians to pray earnestly for our Mission for the Deaf and to support it by their gifts to the best of their ability. The service closed with the Benediction, and the singing of the Doxology, but more than half an hour

after the service the deaf and the missionaries remained together in earnest and encouraging conversation, and many a promise was given that evening to more earnestly heed Christ's words: "Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness." May the Holy Ghost help them to keep their promise and may He continue to bless the work of His missionaries for the deaf to the glory of God and the salvation of immortal souls.—

The collection taken up in this service for the benefit of our Mission for the Deaf amounted to \$47.10.

Try the Spirits.

In the last issue we said a few words regarding "the qualifications of a true minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ" and pointed out that, according to Scriptures, he "must be apt to teach" (I Tim. 3, 2.) In this connection we wish to add a few words.

As the minister "must be apt to teach," that is, able to teach his hearers all things whatsoever Christ has commanded him to do, so also must the hearers of God's Word not only be willing to hear, but also able to judge. The hearer must be able for himself to judge whether his preacher is "of God," that is, whether his pastor is truly a servant of God, who teaches the Word of God in every detail, or whether he is a "false prophet." Your duty, deaf reader, is not only to listen to the "sermon" preached to you, but you must, according to Christ's command, convince yourself, that your minister is preaching God's Word only, and that he is not unequally yoking together truth and error. This is your duty. For thus it is written in I John 4, 1: "Beloved, believe not every spirit, (every preacher and teacher in the church) but TRY the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world." You SHOULD make it a point to judge your pastor, and see whether he is preaching the Word of God in every detail.

How can you do this? The Christians of Berea give you an example worthy of imitation. The apostles, Paul and Silas, had there preached the Gospel of Jesus Christ. And what did the "noble" Bereans? We are told

that "they received the Word with all readiness of mind." They gladly heard it. They did not refuse the Gospel. But they "searched the Scriptures daily, whether those things were so." Though they were "noble," their nobleness of mind was not of such a nature that they blindly followed Paul and Silas, simply because they thought that such good men like these two would certainly preach the truth. No! "They searched the Scriptures daily, whether those things" preached by Paul and Silas were true. Not before they convinced themselves from the Bible that Paul and Silas truly preached God's Word in every detail did they receive them as their brothers in Christ.

Go and do likewise, deaf reader! Do not become a blind follower of any man, deaf or hearing, but "try the spirits." Not everyone claiming to be a "preacher" is "apt to teach." There are many false prophets nowadays. You should compare your pastor's teachings with those of the Bible, and if in any respect he preaches different from the Bible, it is your duty to avoid him. Rom. 16, 17; Matth. 7, 15. On the other hand you are not doing him an injustice by refusing to accept his doctrine till you have "searched the Scriptures" and convinced yourself "whether those things are so," but you are doing nothing less than your Christian duty. God grant that you do it.

The last day lies hid; therefore watch every day.—Augustine.

CHRIST has abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light. II Tim. 1, 10.

THE BLOOD of Jesus Christ, God's Son, cleanseth us from all sin. I John 1, 7.

THIS ISSUE being "Conference Number" the reports from our various mission stations had to be omitted.

O make the deaf to hear Thy Word,
And teach the dumb to speak, dear Lord,
Who dare not yet the faith avow,
Though secretly they hold it now.

SERVICES FOR THE DEAF.

CHICAGO, ILL.

Congregation of Our Savior, Crystal St., near North Hoyne Ave., Northwest Side. Services every Sunday, at 3:30 p. m., by Rev. Arth. Reinke, 145 Crystal St., Chicago, Ill.

ST. LOUIS, MO.

Lutheran Emmans Church, cor. Jefferson Ave and Armand Pl. Services every second and fourth Sunday of the month, by Rev. C. Schubkegel, 4165 A Pleasant St., St. Louis, Mo.

TOLEDO, O.

Trinity Lutheran Mission for the Deaf. Services in church, corner Vance and Ewing Sts., the first Sunday of the month, at 2:30 p. m., by Rev. A. Boll, c. o. Carlton, Toledo, O.

FINDLAY, O.

Services in the homes of the deaf by special appointment, by Rev. A. Boll.

LIMA, O.

Services the second Sunday of the month in the church, corner Kibby and Jackson Sts., at 2:30 p. m., by Rev. A. Boll.

CLEVELAND, O.

Services by special appointment, by Rev. A. Boll.

FORT WAYNE, IND.

St. John's Lutheran Congregation for the Deaf. Services the second Sunday of the month in St. Paul's Chapel, corner Barr and Madison Sts., at 7 p. m., by Rev. A. Boll.

INDIANAPOLIS, IND.

Services the fourth Sunday of the month, at 8 p. m., in the church, corner Ohio and North East Sts., by Rev. A. Boll.

PERU, IND.

Services by special appointment, by Rev. A. Boll.

LOUISVILLE, KY.

Congregation of Our Savior for the Deaf. Services the fourth Sunday of the month, at 2:30 p. m., in the church, E. Broadway and Underhill Sts., by Rev. A. Boll.

DETROIT, MICH.

Services for the deaf the third Sunday of the month, at 3 p. m., in the church, corner Gratiot and Rivard Sts., by Rev. A. Boll.

MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Y. M. C. A. Building. Services every Sunday, at 11 a. m., by Rev. J. Salvner, 2115 9th Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn.

ST. PAUL, MINN.

Trinity Lutheran Church, corner Wabasha and Tilton Sts. Services every Sunday, excepting the last Sunday of the month, at 3:30 p. m., by Rev. J. Salvner.

STILLWATER, MINN.

Salem Lutheran Church, corner 4th and Oak Sts. Services the last Sunday of the month, at 3:30 p. m., by Rev. J. Salvner.

WINONA, MINN.

Services on the Tuesday preceding the third Wednesday of every month in the Y. M. C. A. Hall, at 8:15 p. m., by Rev. J. Salvner.

LA CROSSE, WIS.

Services every third Wednesday of the month in the Y. M. C. A. Hall, at 8 p. m., by Rev. J. Salvner.

ELKHART, IND.

Trinity Congregation's Schoolhouse. Services by special appointment, by Rev. Th. Claus, 119 Clinton St., Hammond, Ind.

SOUTH BEND, IND.

St. Paul's Congregation's Schoolhouse. Services by special appointment, by Rev. Th. Claus.

KANSAS CITY, MO.

Services at Lutheran Church, 16th and Cherry Sts., every first and third Sunday of the month, at 3 p. m., by Rev. N. F. Jensen, 1400 Tracy Ave.

OMAHA, NEBR.

Services at Lutheran Church, corner 28th and Parker Sts., every last Sunday of the month, at 3 p. m., by Rev. N. F. Jensen.

MILWAUKEE, WIS.

Emmanuel Chapel for the Deaf, 1711 Meinecke Ave. Divine services every Sunday, at 10 a. m., by Rev. T. Wangerin, 1711 Meinecke Ave.

RACINE, WIS.

Services every last Sunday of the month, at 2:30 p. m., corner Kewaunee and North Erie Sts., by Rev. T. Wangerin.

SHEBOYGAN, WIS.

Services every four weeks at the homes of the deaf, at 7:30 p. m., by Rev. T. Wangerin.

OSHKOSH, WIS.

Services every four weeks, 226 Bowen St., at 7:30 p. m., by Rev. T. Wangerin.

NEENAH, WIS.

Services by special appointment, by Rev. T. Wangerin

LUTHERAN SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF, NORTH DETROIT, MICH.

The object of this school is to give its pupils a thorough Christian and common education. The regular course of instruction occupies from 7 to 8 years. Children are admitted from the age of 8 years on. Full information and application blanks may be obtained from, Rev. Wm. Gielow, Supt., North Detroit, Mich.