

THE LUTHERAN VISITOR.

"ONE LORD, ONE FAITH, ONE BAPTISM."—EPHESIANS IV: 5.

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Rev. A. R. RUDE, Columbia, S. C.

Communications.

For the Lutheran Visitor.

Greater Church Love—How to Awaken it.

NUMBER FIVE.

BY ITS LITERATURE.

We have mapped an extensive work for the ministry. It is far too great for those who have large parishes and preach to each congregation only once or twice a month.

Many, very many, care but little for, because they know so little about her, and they know little only because they read none.

The importance of this means may be known both by observation and experience.

Our fathers, without the public ministrations of the gospel, still maintained their attachment to their church by reading publicly, and, when sufficient copies could be obtained, privately, Arndt's True Christianity, Luther's Sermons, and other authors of the church.

We have abundance of evidence, commanded by slight reflection, of

the importance of this means. We are sure none will question it, and we ask you to recall only what you know that you may feel sufficiently to set at once about the work of scattering it among your people.

We have a literature, or can have it, suited to any class, from the gray-headed grand sire down to the little boy, proportioned to every degree of mental calibre and culture.

As to what particular parts we shall bring to the notice of his people, we will leave to the judgment of each pastor. However, we would remind you of the importance of inducing them to subscribe for the paper which is the fairest exponent of the interest, wants and views of that section of the church to which you belong.

In concluding this number let us remind you, brethren, again of the very great importance of the means we have been considering in the attainment of the end we seek.

While we are away it will be in their homes as welcome visitors charming by their newness and freshness, or abiding there as inmates binding the hearts by their association.

Ministerial.

The Battle of the Age.

The Christian Register makes an appeal to the christian pulpits to meet and "confront unbelief and indifference in a large and generous spirit, but with a bold, clear and aggressive christianity."

religion; churches are built and theological schools endowed, but still there is a lack of deep spiritual piety. We join in such an appeal, believing that nothing but an "aggressive christianity" can successfully grapple with the materialism of the age.

The Palpit and the Little Ones.

The share of the pulpit in the religious training of children can not be ignored by any minister who is desirous of doing his whole duty. Pious instruction at home, or efficient teaching in the Sunday-school, can never become substitutes for ministerial duty.

Imagine boys or girls of average intellect compelled to sit for a whole hour listening to a discourse, scarcely a word of which they understand, and not one word of which is directed specially to them!

We would not, of course, have every sermon prepared in all its details, expressly for children. There are many themes of pulpit discussion beyond the capacity of childhood, and yet of great importance to others.

Blessed Day.—Through the week we go down into the valleys of care and shadow. Our Sabbaths should be hills of light and joy in God's presence.

as a part of the congregation. They will thus become interested in the services of the church, and will not require compulsion to attend.

Practical.

Fear of Judgment.

Jerome used to say that it seemed to him as if the trumpet of the last day was always sounding in his ear, saying, "Arise ye dead and come to judgment."

Shaking Hands as a means of Grace.

I maintain that shaking of hands, rightly administered, is a means of grace. You, my dear sir, are established, and every one knows you to be, a solid man.

Rich for a Moment.

The British ship Britannia was wrecked off the coast of Brazil, and had on board a large consignment of Spanish dollars.

Selections.

Pic-Nic Religion.

Is money to be raised for church debts, church building or repairing; a Sabbath-school or a missionary enterprise; for the increase of the minister's salary; to relieve the poor, or for any benevolent operation?

Pious Example.

Example is more potent than precept in influencing others. Our precepts may be judicious, but our example may nullify all its effects.

There is something about the exemplar man that recommends his religion. Others "take knowledge of him that he has been with Jesus."

Who can estimate the glorious effects of a pious example? The works of the good man follow him to the grave, to the resurrection, through all eternity.

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Resisting the Holy Ghost.

Rev. Dr. Cuyler delivered in his church in Brooklyn on a Sabbath evening recently, a sermon on the text, "Ye do always resist the Holy Ghost," which is thus reported:

"Who is this being?" it was asked. The very being whom men are always opposing. Has any one seen him? Certainly not; but his existence is by no means to be doubted on that account.

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to raise funds for some object of benevolence? It is money, money! Money we want, money we must have, gospel or no gospel, heaven or no heaven.

Conviviality is the ultimatum, the first and the last. "Let us have a jolly time, eat, drink, and be merry, for to-morrow we die."

All false religions seek to attract interest by amusements and animal gratifications. The worshippers of the golden calf sat down to eat and drink the oblations to their new god, and then rose up to play.

Honey-Comb of the Psalms.

Martin Luther styled the Book of Psalms "an epitome of the word of God—the little Bible in themselves."

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