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1831 *Sixty-Ninth Year.* THE 1899

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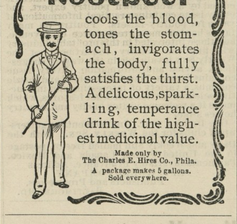

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May 13, 1897. Water Street

SUBSCRIPTION to the TRANSCRIPT $1.00 per year.

A CHINESE WEDDING.

Everything Connected With the Ceremonies Is Decked In Red.

The Chinese place a significance upon every color, and in connection with a wedding red obtains a deep rooted, mysterious importance, the next bridal color in value being gold. At a betrothal the bridegroom elect sends his sweetheart a pair of bracelets fastened together with a piece of red ribbon or cord. The bride and bridegroom drain two wine cups at the wedding, which are also connected by a red cord. In northern China the attendants wear tall felt hats, and each hat has a red feather stuck upright in it. The attendants also carry the wedding presents. A sedan chair bears the bride herself.

In south China a sedan most wonderfully gilded is used by the wealthy classes, and it is decorated with what appears at first sight to be brilliant inlaid stones, but which are in reality the glossy feathers of the kingfisher. A handsome cloth of glowing red with trimmed border is also thrown over the chair.

In the case of the poorer classes red is also the prevailing bridal color, and a chair of ordinary carved wood, painted a bright red, is used. Above the door of the chair a kind of charm is placarded or hung upon a red cloth. The chair itself is sent by the bridegroom, accompanied by what corresponds to our best man. This functionary brings with him a letter written in yellow or gold upon red paper, praying the lady to enter and take her place.

Men dressed all in red and carrying red parcels containing the presents fall into the procession. Other bearers carry boards and banners, inscribed in golden letters upon a red ground. These banners tell the pedigree of both parties. Behind the bearers come the other attendants, with long poles, on which are hung very handsome lanterns. The bride's veil is of bright crimson hue and her dress regal gold and scarlet.—Wide World.

JACK HORNER.

The Rich Plum That He Extracted From That Christmas Pie.

For the benefit of those who are not quite little folks Agnes Carr Sage, in Lippincott's Magazine, tells the origin and history of some famous nursery stories and rhymes, among them "The Pleasant History of Jack Horner," containing "His Witty Tricks and Pleasant Pranks," for so it is set forth in a very old chapbook, carefully preserved in the Bodleian library.

It appears that this worthy was steward to an abbot of Glastonbury. The good abbot learned that his majesty Henry VIII had seen fit to be indignant because the monks had built a kitchen which he could not burn down. Now, a king's indignation was dangerous and must be appeased. Therefore the abbot sent his steward, Jack Horner, to present the sovereign with a suitable peace offering. It took the form of a big and tempting looking pie, beneath the crust of which the transfer deeds of 12 manors were hidden.

But Master Jack had an eye for the profit of No. 1, and on the road he slyly lifted the crust and abstracted the deeds of the Manor of Wells. On his return, bringing the deeds, he plausibly explained that they had been given to him by the king; hence the rhyme:

Little Jack Horner
Sat in a corner (of the wagon),
Eying his Christmas pie:
He put in his thumb
And pulled out a plum (the title deed),
Saying, "What a brave boy am I!"

Christ's Promise of Rest.

This rest that Christ promises is not an idle, æsthetic ease, but means the moral equilibrium of life. Wordsworth's "Central peace, subsisting at the heart of endless agitation," is a faint picture of the deep, abiding rest that a man has in trusting and obeying Jesus Christ.—Rev. Robert T. Mathews, Christian Church, Louisville.

Love Works Righteousness.

Love is the only power that works righteousness, and manhood and womanhood are quickened by the call to duty. There is a move toward the hills of goodness which gives courage to every weakened soul, and there is a wonderful incentive when a soul is born into the light of God.—Rev. Clinton Simonton, Universalist, Portland, Me.

Walking With God.

If a man walks with God, there must be in his mind and heart the same thoughts and purposes that God has. How can two walk together unless they are agreed? Walking with God will not only keep our heads right in their thought, but our hearts in their impulses.—Rev. Dr. Frank M. Goodchild, Baptist, New York.

The Sure La Grippe Cure

There is no use suffering from this dreadful malady, if you will only get the right remedy. You are having pain all through your body, your liver is out of order, have no appetite, no life or ambition, have a bad cold, in fact are completely used up. Electric Bitters is the only remedy that will give you prompt and sure relief. They act directly on your liver, Stomach and Kidneys, tone up the whole system and make you feel like a new being. They are guaranteed to cure or price refunded. For sale at M. A. Toulson's Drug Store only 50 cents per bottle.

God's Plans For All.

God has a distinct plan for each one of us in sending us into the world. Not only does he create us all to be useful, to take some part in the world's affairs, to honor and glorify him in some way, but he designs each person for some definite place and some specific work. He does not send us into life merely to fill any niche into which we may chance to be lifted by the vicissitudes of life or to do whatever bits of work which may drift to our hands in the vast, complicated mesh of human affairs. God has a plan, embracing all his creatures and all their actions, and in this plan every intelligent being has an allotted place and an assigned part.—Rev. G. W. Wilson, Congregationalist, Omaha.

He Couldn't Grasp It.

Harry, aged 5, was taking his first ride on the cars, and was curious to know the meaning of certain signposts along the track. "Papa," he asked, "what does W. and R. mean?"

"It means for the engineer to ring and whistle," was the reply.

"Well," said the little traveler, "I can see that W. stands for wring, but I can't see how R. stands for whistle."—*Chicago News.*

Warm the Milk.

At this time of year it is often a difficult matter to churn cream and extract its butter fats. Warming the milk to 140 degrees is an effective remedy for this. It will also enable the dairyman to get a greater amount of cream from the same milk than he otherwise would, but the milk should not be allowed to become much warmer than 140 degrees or it will make the butter soft. As the warmed milk is cooled pretty much all the cream will rise at once. It should be skimmed before the top hardens into a crust, as it speedily will. When put away to await churning at this season, cream should be stirred once a day, so as to mix all its parts together and prevent mold forming on the surface.—Boston Cultivator.

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RELIGIOUS THOUGHT.

Gems Gleaned From the Teachings of All Denominations.

Religion believes in man as the child of infinite possibilities born to an endless destiny.—Rev. Jenkins L. Jones, Unitarian, Chicago.

The Bible.

The Bible is for all time and all men. None of us needs all of it, but each of us needs his part of it.—Dr. Frank Crane, Methodist, Chicago.

Strong Wills.

A strong will is God given, but when devoted to unholy purposes it becomes the instrument of our own ruin.—Rev. F. O. Harding, Congregationalist, New York.

Voice of Conscience.

The voice of conscience is the voice of God, and whatever is meant to teach us or inspire us in duty is to be heeded well.—Rev. J. C. Adams, Universalist, Brooklyn.

Development of Character.

He who has by choice made the spirit life his own has begun a long journey; he has eternity in which to complete the development of his character.—Rev. Mr. Rollins, Congregationalist, San Bernardino, Cal.

How God Blesses a Church.

When God blesses a church in the present day, it is not here a drop and there an atom, but God literally snows it under with a whole avalanche of mercies.—Rev. Frank De Witt Talmage, Presbyterian, Chicago.

Man's Highest Aim.

Man's highest aim is to save others, for in that effort he finds his highest interests, as well as his greatest pleasure. We are all bound together, and together we must go down or up.—Rev. George W. Stone, Unitarian, Kansas City.

The Gospel.

In modern times the gospel has been victorious. We sometimes complain of the slow progress of missions, as though nothing had been done. Is it nothing that the church has been aroused to her duty?—Rev. Dr. Mingins, Methodist, Asbury Park, N. J.

Value of Man's Soul.

The world is as nothing compared with the value of a soul. Jesus gives the supreme place to the spiritual life of man. Only that is profitable which enriches man here and fits him to become a resident of eternity.—Rev. E. L. Powell, Christian Church, Louisville, Ky.

Interruptions.

As the life of Jesus Christ was made up of interruptions, and the interruptions are the best part of his life, we should thank God when we are interrupted by some one's need. That shows that God has still some use for us.—Rev. Myron W. Reed, Independent, Denver.

Everlasting Gratitude.

Gratitude is the noblest of exercises and has most to do with God. Repentance and faith have reference to ourselves in consequence of the fall of man. Gratitude existed when there was no lost Eden to deplore and will continue to exist in heaven forever.—Rev. A. C. Morehouse, Methodist, New York.

Human Greatness.

Genuine human greatness exists only when the man or woman has been confronted with a stern and disagreeable fact quite unlike the picture painted by fancy and has resolved to get sweetness and light from that. The path of duty is the path of glory.—Rev. George A. Thayer, Unitarian, Cincinnati.

Leaves and Our Lives.

Like the leaf, we fade gradually. From day to day we hardly see the change, but the work of decay is going on; we are slowly fading as the leaves. But, oh, the joy of the aged believer! He fades, but he brightens; he sleeps, but he is to live again! The fading leaf is a type of triumph.—Rev. Dr. Madison C. Peters, Presbyterian, New York.

Children and Christianity.

We cannot but lament that our children should be growing up without clear notions of both the contents and requirements of their religion. We see them growing up all around us with the vaguest possible notions of Christianity. Schools are thoroughly secular, parents are too busy, and thus the child gets nothing from either.—Rev. J. B. Nies, Episcopalian, Brooklyn.

Pray to Be Good.

Let those of us who never can be great pray that we may be good. Adverse circumstances may make goodness more difficult to some than others, but there are no conceivable circumstances that can make goodness impossible. Next to goodness and indeed a part of goodness is "godness" or "godlikeness." The goodness of Barnabas was most effective because it was divinely reinforced and inspired. "He was full of the Holy Ghost."—Rev. J. P. Brushingham, D. D., Methodist, Chicago.

Helpful Voices.

Strong, helpful personality has a voice that this world needs to hear. It is, "I am the voice." Finally this voice of John was a wilderness voice. Some of the most helpful voices have been such. In what a wilderness of carnality and riot Luther spoke. Oh, what sin and misery are all about us! Behold, if you have the love of God in you speak! Speak! Say, "Behold, the Lamb of God, that taketh away the sin of the world!" God calls you to be a voice of hope.—Dr. Lee, Presbyterian, Cincinnati.

The Christian the Church Needs.

The true Christian is a Christian all the week. You will not need to put a sign on your breast or across your forehead to let the people know that you are Christians. You will not need to follow the example of the Pharisees. You will not need to put a sign before your store. Your packages, when opened by customers, will tell whether you are true to your religion, and wherever you go you will be known as a Christian. You remember faith was inspired in certain of the people because it was said they were acting like Jesus of Nazareth. That is the kind of Christian the church wants. Trust not in rituals, but in real life.—Rev. J. D. Rankin, Baptist, Denver.

A Narrow Escape.

Thankful words, written by Mrs. Ada E. Hart, of Groton, S. D. "Was taken with a bad cold which settled on my lungs; cough set in and finally terminated in Consumption. Four doctors gave me up, saying I could not live but a short time. I gave myself up to my Savior, determined if I could not stay with my friends on earth, I would meet my absent ones above. My husband was advised to get Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption, Coughs and Colds. I gave it a trial; took in all eight bottles. It has cured me, and thank God I am saved and now a well and healthy woman." Trial bottles free at M. A. Toulson's Drug Store. Regular size 50c. and $1.00. Guaranteed or price refunded.

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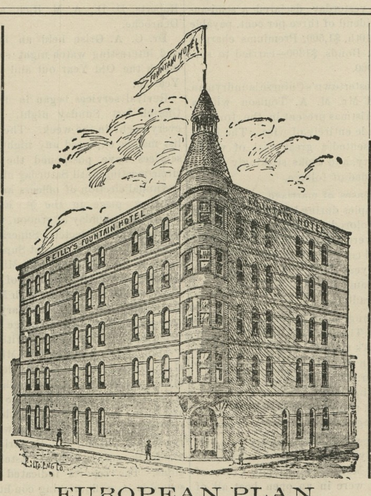

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