

work done, and now the Tree Planting association of that place is putting forth new efforts and plans, which are receiving decided encouragement. The present mode of operation is to persuade property holders on Fifth avenue and other notable streets to plant trees in front of their houses, that the curb of the sidewalks may be lined with a growth that will at once beautify the streets and give comfort to the people. By this process it is aimed to make many of the side streets which lead up to Central Park, which are now rendered handsome by the costly and artistic houses which they contain, still more attractive by removing the air of dryness and formality now there, and which needs only avenues of trees to dispel. So hearty is the reception accorded the tree planters that they are confident that in a few years a great improvement will be wrought out.

In this city there are yet many residence districts where the absence of trees on the sidewalks is quite noticeable, or where the lack of uniformity in planting gives an uncouth appearance. While Salt Lake City was once pre-eminent for its comparative position in having good shade trees of reasonably uniform appearance, there are now a number of cities who can give this place pointers in this matter.

#### WEATHER ALMOST TO ORDER.

The following from the Washington correspondent of the Chicago Record is good enough to deserve general quotation and publicity:

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 17.—Last Friday the people of Philadelphia were anxious to know whether they were going to have good weather on the day following, which had been appointed for the dedication of the Washington monument in Fairmount Park, in order that they might change their plans if necessary. It had been raining steadily all the week, and there were no signs of cessation. They did not want to ask the President and cabinet and diplomatic corps to unveil a monument in the rain, and so they consulted Prof. Willis L. Moore of the weather bureau and asked him to make a special prediction.

Professor Moore invited his superior officer, the secretary of agriculture, to go with him to the experimenting grounds of the bureau among the Virginia hills back of Arlington, to witness a test for the benefit of Philadelphia. A kite made of linen, about eight feet square, loaded with several meteorological instruments was released by the operator and in a few minutes passed entirely from sight in the heavens, carrying with it 8,500 feet of steel wire, by which it was anchored to the ground. After an hour or so the line was reeled up, the kite was drawn in and the automatic registers were examined. It was discovered that the temperature at the height of one mile above the earth was 24 degrees cooler than at the surface, and that the wind at that elevation was blowing at the rate of 100 pounds pressure, in a direction 90 degrees different from that of the wind on the surface of the earth. It was observed that the kite had passed through a region of calm before it reached the rapid currents of air, and that all the conditions indicated approaching atmospheric changes and a change of wind which would blow the

storm southwestward in the direction of the sea.

Taking the results of this experiment with those of other ordinary observations, Prof. Moore felt justified in predicting that Saturday, would be clear and cooler and the people of Philadelphia would have a good day. He telegraphed them to that effect and received a grateful acknowledgment.

Sure enough the prediction was verified.

#### POWER, NOT METHODS.

The Christian churches seem to be keenly aware of the slow progress they are making as regards the "saving of souls." Generally their spokesmen find it necessary to make the most of the statistical figures, in order to encourage, we presume, themselves and their followers in the work in which they are engaged, but occasionally admissions are made which put the situation in a different and perhaps less fanciful light than that of overwhelming figures.

For years it has been asserted that through the labors of the noted evangelist Moody thousands have been "saved" in this country and elsewhere. Pastors of churches used to unite in his meetings and labor with all diligence to gather souls into their respective folds. Imitators of Moody and Sankey multiplied on all sides, and it seemed for a time, judging from enthusiastic reports, that the time must be drawing near when only few sinners would be left to save, so complete did the evangelistic triumph appear.

In view of these facts the recent utterances of Rev. Robert S. MacArthur of New York in *The Watchman* are of great interest. He reviews the results of the Moody meetings in that city and unhesitatingly pronounces them "disappointing and humiliating." Direct conversions were few, far less in number than the reports indicated. In illustration of this, Dr. MacArthur states that efforts were made to find one hundred of the persons who on cards had signified their willingness to become Christians. Over sixty-four of these belonged to churches and consequently were on safe ground already. Others had given their addresses to what proved to be vacant lots, and others could not be found for other reasons. Of the one hundred persons there was not one, he says, likely to become a church member as a result of the revival.

On the further effects of the Moody meetings, the author of the letter to *The Watchman* asserts that they did much to disorganize ordinary methods of church work. They interfered seriously with Bible classes. Young men attended the meetings as ushers, and some young men and women as members of the choir; and they thus drifted away from their church home, and it is very doubtful whether all of them can ever be brought back again into the Sunday school or into church work.

The sad experience of some pastors is related. One of them expresses his gladness that these meetings had closed. He affirmed that they cut his evening congregation by "one half";

other pastors said that although their congregations were not so greatly reduced, much encouragement was given to many to hold their church obligations, never held too tightly, with a very loose grasp, if not with positive indifference. Contributions for local church work, and for various forms of city mission work, were also decreased as the result of these meetings.

Editorially *The Watchman* endorses these views. It says:

Notwithstanding all that was said of them, as held in New York, the great assemblies in Carnegie Hall, and Mr. Moody's skilful management, the outcome does not justify the diversion from the ordinary methods of winning souls, the turning aside of pastors and people from their own particular congregations, even though it may be that they receive a special and personal inducement. It does not appear that the pastors are made particularly more skilful, more efficient, or more devout, by reason of what they experience or observe in the great congregation and the preaching of Mr. Moody. The work does not gain power and retain it after he is gone. Soul-winning does not seem to be an art to be learned as one learns books, or a mechanical trade. Successful evangelizing comes not of manipulation, nor in the mastering of assemblies. Some things can be done that way; but all the manipulation of men does not effect the regeneration and salvation of the soul. A man may lead his fellow to the fountain of living waters, and try to convince him of its vivifying value, but he can not beget in the soul of the other a thirst for the water, or cause him to drink it and live.

The conclusion seems to be arrived at at last that the sensational pulpit work popularized by Messrs. Moody and Sankey is not what is needed. But what can the churches do?

May we be allowed to suggest that the question of saving souls is not after all so much one of methods as of power—divine power! The wonderful results of the Gospel message to the world in the beginning of our era were not due to the methods employed but to the power with which the messengers were endowed and which was manifest through the special gifts they had. With these proofs of divine authority gone, what is to be expected but "disappointment and humiliation?" If it be admitted that the truth of the Gospel message can be established equally well by the aid of reason, logic and eloquence, it must also be evident that all these means must fail in the encounter with an age that is given to deception and loves falsehood dearer than truth. Reason is powerless against man's selfish craving for sinful pleasures. Were the condition of man such that he naturally longed for truth, a logical discourse might enlighten him, but the case is the reverse; hence the disappointment of ministers without divine authority and the gifts of the Spirit of God.

There is no remedy except in the re-establishment of primitive Christianity. Christian churches with their auxiliaries may do some good work, but as to conquering the world for the Savior, they are in their present condition powerless, a fact too plainly evident in the flood of unrighteousness that is raging.