

Sir: Replying to your request, ~~in answer~~ ^{for a few}
lines of comparative estimate of
Bishop Vincent's life and work, per-
mit me to say that the work by
which Dr. Vincent will be chiefly re-
membered, is not one the value of
which can yet be fairly estima-
ted. What the scope of the "Chautauque
idea", will be, or what will be its
effect on the civilization of tomorrow,
is a problem no man can solve.
How far it will reach and what
will be the ~~most~~ ultimate character of
its influence no one ^{can} with safety pre-
dict. As an educational ^{idea} ~~method~~
it is one of infinite capacity. At the
same time it is one of supplemental
method rather than of distinctive
quality, the ultimate value of which
depends rather upon result ~~and~~ result.

ant forces, ^{parent} than popular approval or
extended adoption? As an institution
~~or~~ ^{or} ~~he~~ he has made Chautauqua a success,
which is avouched by the number, ^{activity,} ~~success~~
and, in many respects, the essential inferiority
of its imitators. As an education-
al method ^{the} ~~its~~ success, ^{of the Chautauqua plan} will have to be
estimated by its ^{relation to} ~~effects on~~ the universal
system of American education.

In the former sense there is no sort
of doubt that Dr Vincent's peculiar per-
sonality has been more valuable than
all other influences combined. His counse-
lors have been wise men; but his person-
ality has been the ~~the~~ main spring upon
which their success has depended; with-
out him Chautauqua, whether as an
idea, a method, a resort or an

investment, would not indeed have
been a failure, but it would never
have been a success. Instead of the
magnificent assemblage of which yearly
crowds the auditorium and makes
populous the ~~our~~ strangely anomalous
and evanescent city by the little inland
lake, there would today be on ^{Fair} Long Point
only the desiccated remains of an out-
grown means of grace and its degrading
accessories — an old-fashioned ^{camp =}
Meeting. ^{good sense} That Bishop Vincent had the ~~best~~
to perceive that the camp-meeting had
outgirded its usefulness, and the
sagacity to suggest and the tact
to devise, ^{and establish} something better, is a

fact which has deservedly made him a foremost man in the religious world of today. The value of this discovery however, depends very greatly upon the power of the Church — I do not mean Methodism, alone — to assimilate such a method.

Whatever may be the result, to Bishop Vincent must be accorded the praise rarely given to any one man, of having materially and appreciably swerved and affected the religious and educational methods of a whole country. To judge him today would be as unfair as to measure Wesley by what he lived to see or Pascal by the hopes that clustered about the Shrine of Learning when his learning and his magnetic hope made bright.