

THE SOCIAL QUESTIONS

A Celebrated Sermon by a Noted Montreal Minister. Mr. Silcox.

THE GOSPEL TO THE POOR.

Truth That Would, if Believed, Transform the World—All Should Read This Sermon and Meditate Over It

Concerning Sin and Salvation. (CONTINUED FROM LAST WEEK.)

God in heaven today hears the cry of earth's weary toilers as truly as he heard the bitter cry that arose from the slave fields of Egypt 3,000 years ago.

"LET THERE BE LIGHT."

The light must be turned on these social subjects. The press must do it. Men who love truth and justice and humanity must stand in the pulpits of the land and speak out against the wrongs of men as distinctively as did the prophets of olden time.

Has not the Bible something to say on work and wages? How can a man preach the gospel of God and not discuss social problems? You imagine that God is principally interested in ecclesiastical matters—he is chiefly occupied with listening to the prayers of the devout.

To each his due portion. I believe it is God's will that the necessities and conveniences and comforts of life should be more evenly distributed and shared than they are today.

It is a fundamental truth of Christianity that God is no respecter of persons. He sends the rain and the sunshine indiscriminately to all. There is enough of everything to go around.

It is fortunate for us that the sun is 90,000,000 miles away from the earth. If it were nearer and men could get at it, they would organize a company, board it up, bore gimlet holes through the boards, put a meter on and sell it for so much per ray.

The present century has made marvelous progress in material wealth, but it is a question whether this increase of wealth has bettered the condition of the masses of the people.

Henry George—and I would that his books were more widely read—affirms that the tendency of what we call material progress is in no wise to improve the condition of the lowest class in the essentials of healthy, happy human life.

DOWNWARD TENDENCIES.

Who gave the electricity its marvelous power of light and motion? Who cutteth out rivers among the rocks? Who created the ocean as a highway for the ships of the nation to sail on? Who stored the minerals in the mountains? Who gave the soil its fertility? By whose labors have these riches been gathered from

underneath but through society. Those who are above the point of separation are elevated; but those below are crushed down to lower depths still.

It is in the cities that the sharp contrasts between wealth and want are most visible. There are to be seen enormous wealth and saddest poverty; sumptuous idleness and unrewarded toil.

Tennyson in "Locksley Hall Sixty Years After," deals with these sad facts of life as they were to be found in the large cities across the sea.

"It is well that while we range With science, glorying in the time, City children soak and blacken Soul and sense in city slime."

There among the gloomy alleys, Progress haunts on palsted feet, Crime and hunger cast our maidens By the thousands on the street.

There the master scripps his haggard Seamstress of her daily bread, The single sordid garret Holds the living and the dead.

There the smouldering fire of fever Creeps across the rotted floor, And the crowded couch of insect In the warrens of the poor."

That great social inequalities exist no one can deny. That these inequalities should exist no humane man will affirm. It was surely never the intention of the Creator that a few of his creatures should hoard and hold the bulk of the world's wealth, while the vast multitudes were pining in penury, and dying in want.

TO EACH HIS DUE PORTION.

I believe it is God's will that the necessities and conveniences and comforts of life should be more evenly distributed and shared than they are today. It is against the will of God that Dives should revel in luxury, while Lazarus, at his gate, dies in poverty.

The author of "The Message of Jesus to the Men of Wealth," reminds us that the cross is more than a historic event. "It is the law by which God acts and expects men to act.

"Give me the power to labor for mankind, Make me the mouth of such as cannot speak; Eyes let me be to groping men and blind, A conscience to the base and to the weak."

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The same greed that has gobbled up the land would gobble up the sunshine. A corporation already controls the lightning and charges what they will for the electricity to carry our messages over land and sea.

God has made this world so that there is air enough to go around, and sunshine enough to go around, and acres enough to go around. The right to sunshine, the right to air, and the right to land are inalienable rights.

We proudly point to the amazing increase of wealth in this nation. We say that our country is rich, and it is. But as Lyman Abbott recently asked, "who made it so?" We have been digging coal and iron out of the hills of Pennsylvania, and out of the rock reservoirs we have been pumping oil.

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the mountains and plain and sea? Did our father in heaven intend these rich possessions for all his children or only a favored few?

If the Bible is true these necessities of life belong, of right, to the whole family. If Paul is orthodox, the laborer should be the first to enjoy these blessings, for it is written, "the husbandman that laboreth must be first partaker of the fruits."

The social unrest that exists today arises from the fact that the toilers—the real producers of wealth—are waking up to the truth that they have been unjustly deprived of their God-given rights.

He who sees a sparrow fall will not fail to see and succor human souls smothered and dwarfed by the greed of the millionaire sweater. He who, when on earth, had not where to lay his head, will not forget the homeless outcasts of today.

Things refuse to be forever mismanaged. Some day, by laws as fair and fixed as guide the planets, the heirs of the world's wealth will come into possession of their inheritance.

"When wilt thou save the people, O God of mercy, when? The people, Lord, the people, Not thrones and crowns, but men. Flower of thy heart, O God, are they. Let them not pass like weeds away; Their heritage a soulless day— God save the people."

JUSTICE, NOT CHARITY.

If I understand the temper and mind of the working man today, it is not charity he wants. It is justice, simple justice. He is not a mendicant with hat in hand asking capital to give him a penny.

The final solution of these social problems will never be reached until the teachings of Jesus Christ are accepted and put into practice by those who call themselves by his name.

England's New Attorney General. LONDON, Oct. 22.—Sir R. T. Reid has been appointed attorney general in succession to Baron Russell of Killowen.

Robbed While Delivering a Lecture. CHICAGO, Oct. 22.—While Dr. McGlynn of New York was speaking at the Auditorium last night a thief quietly walked away with his hat and overcoat.

San Francisco sealskin inspectors say that out of 14,740 seals taken 13,000 were females.

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sanctuary. You can make the whirl of the factory wheels make sweeter music than that which arises from full voiced organs and white-robed choirs in cathedrals grand. You can help usher in the golden age that prophets have foretold and prophets have sung of, when justice, truth and love shall be supernal and regnant everywhere.

Where should the church of Christ be in this work of reform? She should lead the van. She should take the initiative in all movements that tend to lift humanity to higher levels.

Let us, with head and heart and hand, help the cause of humanity forward. Let us recognize and fulfill the fraternal responsibilities of citizenship. Providence hath so ordained and doth decree that whether we will or not, we are our brother's keeper.

The Fathers Favored Government Money.

Jefferson, Madison, Gallatin, Dallas, Calhoun, Jackson were all in favor of the government issuing the paper money direct to the people and opposed to banks of issue. They, with many others, held that congress had no power to charter a bank, and all the democratic platforms up to the war had this plank: Resolved, "That congress has no power to charter a national bank."

By the Eternal!

We need an Andrew Jackson in the white house just about now. In his day when engaged in a war with banks and money sharps he said: "By the eternal, we will see which is to rule, the money power or the people."

Fell Dead in Camp.

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo., Oct. 23.—Ralph D. Willis, chief clerk in the office of the United States internal revenue collector at St. Louis, died of heart disease in camp on the Gasconade river, thirty-five miles from this city at 7 o'clock Thursday night.

Investment Company Officers Indicted.

ST. LOUIS, Mo., Oct. 23.—Among the indictments handed down by the federal grand jury yesterday, were those of Messrs. McDonald and Walls, president and secretary respectively, of the Guarantee investment company of Nevada, Mo.

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Fitzsimmons Has Signed.

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The Farmers' Mutual Insurance Company of Nebraska.

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THE SAN LUIS VALLEY, COLORADO, is a stretch of level plain about as large as the State of Connecticut, lying between surrounding ranges of lofty mountains and watered by the Rio Grande River and a score or more of small tributary streams.

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Advertisement for The New Commonwealth, a great people's party paper of New York, offering reduced rates for round trip tickets.

Advertisement for Creamery and Dairy Supplies, featuring various equipment like butter tubs, boilers, and engines, with contact information for Kansas City, Mo.