

LIVING TRUTHS OF THE AGES

"And the Common People Heard Him Gladly"

[A Plain Talk to Plain People by Rev. R. C. Hardin, North Platte and Whittier, Neb.]

This is most significant language, as showing the manner in which the teachings of Jesus were received by the great common people: "THE COMMON PEOPLE HEARD HIM GLADLY."

But what shall we say of the other class—the uncommon, the "bon-ton," or wealthy class? Did they then or since ever hear Him gladly? No. They heard Him with utter disdain. They called him a babbling, an impostor, a seditious person—an anarchist. They mocked, scorned and crucified Him.

But why did the common people hear Him gladly? Because there was that in His discourse that awakened their sympathies. He had something to offer them which they needed. His youth had been passed amidst scenes of poverty; His younger manhood, in toil with fellow-workers at the carpenter's bench.

Such surroundings as these had brought Him in daily association with those whose condition had long made them strangers to the life of free men and who had grown hopeless for that deliverance promised by the prophets of old, to be realized in the reign of a coming Messiah.

His mind had carefully analyzed the economic conditions of His own time, and His knowledge of the past history of His race had so aroused the sympathies of His great heart that He assumed their championship and took at once His rightful place in their esteem—their Friend and Brother.

Hence, when He taught them, they heard Him gladly; His words fell upon their ears as a heavenly benediction.

Again, when He began to preach, He struck at once a chord of sympathy in the breasts of His hearers, the vibrations of which have come ringing down the ages in the song of "Peace on earth and good-will to men."

For hundreds of years before, His nation had been gradually drifting away from the divine teachings. The law of the "year of jubilee," no longer enforced, had given place to oppression, until the opportunities of the people to enjoy more than the most meagre share of the products of their own toil had reduced them to the limit of a bare existence.

No wonder, then, when He announced His mission to be, "To preach the gospel to the poor, to heal the broken-hearted, to preach deliverance to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, and to preach the acceptable year of the Lord"—the year of jubilee—that "the common people heard Him gladly."

within its sacred precincts, but when the fact is understood that only the Jewish shelve could be used for the purchasing of sacrifices and that Roman coin had become the circulating medium, and the further fact that the object of these money-changers was to change the shekel which they had "cornered" for the coin of the realm, there can be no doubt that they were indeed thieves.

It seems to me that the grandest of the many lessons to be drawn from these great truths is that the one complete and sovereign remedy to be applied to the social and industrial conditions of the present time is found in the practicable application of the teachings of Jesus to our individual and, through that, to our national life.

The great fault of the preaching of the past is that it has been too prone to spiritualize all Bible truth and to make the kingdom of heaven apply alone to the higher conditions of our being, instead of allowing us some of its benefits applied to our temporal life. When Jesus reached out after the spiritual nature, so warped and degraded by the environments of His day, He did it by first blessing in some way the temporal life.

He gave sight to blinded eyes, hearing to deaf ears, made the lame to leap, the tongue of the dumb to sing, and taking the poor demoniac by the hand and lifting him up, cast out the evil spirit from him and then made him spiritually whole. Yet the ministry has so spiritualized all truth that the poor, hungry and oppressed people have been driven to the conclusion that the church had no longer anything to offer them, and thus is the charge disproved that the toiling masses have forsaken the good. The fact is that the toiling people are just as loyal to the gospel of Jesus today as they ever were, but they want its truths pure and undefiled; they want its philosophy to be applied to the employer as well as to themselves and the equality of privilege which it teaches made the controlling spirit of our laws.

When we can discover the impress of the Christ-mind in our laws, then will be exemplified the angelic announcement of His mission, "peace on earth, good-will to men." And when the pulpits of our land shall emphasize the teachings of Jesus applied to our social life, then will the common people hear Him gladly.

The sociology of Jesus stands out so prominently in His teachings that the church cannot presume to ignore its bearing upon the social needs of the hour, nor fail to make such application of it as will make its impress felt upon our national policy and lead us toward the God-given right of human equality. He came not to translate men into the kingdom of heaven, but to put the kingdom of heaven into men, that it might become the inspiration to individual and social life.

Again, that Jesus is still, as he has always been, the friend of the common people. He still speaks to us, through His word, of the same life and the same duties as He did to those who "heard Him gladly" by the shores of Galilee.

He came to establish among men a divine sociology which should rest upon that doctrine too often forgotten. "The Fatherhood of God and the Brotherhood of Man." He would give us, in place of a despotism to which we are hastening, a socialism recognizing the great doctrine, giving us a community of interest in all natural opportunities and thus insuring to us a condition in which would be neither the millionaire nor the tramp.

The economies with which God has enriched our globe would be the common property of all. There would be no syndicates or trusts, corporations or monopolies, but such a community of interest and effort as would redound to the welfare of all. He would say to the modern Pharisee and Sadducee: "You have shut up the kingdom of heaven, you have despoiled widows' houses, you have laid burdens upon the people that you will not so much as try to lift."

Of ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell? A government founded upon any other than the principles of a divine sociology must be destructive of liberty. We cannot safely reject the wisdom of One who foretold the destruction of those ancient systems that enslaved the class who were its wealth-makers and patriots, but in the history of their fall we should discover the direful miseries that await us if we do not get back to the principles of equality and justice which were the foundation of our own national life.

"Back to your tents, O Israel," should be our cry, and, listening to the voice of the Carpenter of Nazareth, when we pray, "Thy kingdom come," we should emphasize that prayer with a ballot that speaks for human equality and economic freedom.

A New Financial Plan

Do away with all banks and issue all money by the government, by the following plan: Make all post offices places of loan and deposit, as follows: for a loan applicant shall give postmaster amount wanted and kind of security; and postmaster shall reduce the same to writing by use of blanks furnished for that purpose, and shall send such application to central office which shall be located at the state capital and shall be organized as follows, and shall be known as the Loan Commission.

in other cases of appraisal, and such loan on real estate shall not be for more than 20 years; and such real estate shall be land used for agricultural purposes; and on town property or land used for other than agricultural purposes no loan shall be for a longer term than ten years; and if such property consists in part of buildings thereon, then the appraisement of such property shall be made in two parts, one of the real estate, the other of the buildings or other improvements thereon, and all buildings and improvements shall be insured, and any loan made on such property shall be a lien on such insurance until such loan is paid; Loans on chattels shall not be made for more than five years, said chattels shall be insured, and said loan shall be a lien on such insurance. In case of personal security shall be sworn as to qualification, which shall not be for less than double the amount; and said loan shall not be for more than one year unless a sworn statement is made that said security has not depreciated; and further that no loan be made to any person company or corporation or any party whatever who is not a bona fide citizen of the United States, neither shall there be loan on any security more than two-thirds of assessed valuation on agricultural lands, and not more than one-half valuation on other securities; neither shall any one person obtain a loan on more than 640 acres of land, and interest on said loan shall not exceed two per cent per annum; and if it be found that two per cent will more than pay the expenses of said loan department then said interest shall be reduced to the actual cost; and in case of deposits being made at any post office the postmaster shall give to said depositor a certificate of deposit which shall have attached his signature and stamp of said post office. The money so deposited shall be forwarded by said postmaster to central office within twenty-four hours of receipt of the same. Said certificate may be used in business the same as a government note, and shall be a legal tender in all business transactions; and said certificate of deposit shall be made redeemable at any post office by giving the postmaster sufficient time if necessary to call for the money from the central office, and said certificate of deposit shall not draw any interest. And in order to meet all demands the government shall be prepared to furnish central offices with such amounts as shall be necessary to meet its demands; but in no case shall such office draw from the government an amount to exceed one-half the assessed valuation of the state where said office is located. The commissioner of such office shall give security in amounts collectively double the amount that they will hold in said office.

And to further establish confidence and prevent any depreciation in the credit of the government, the government shall coin all gold and silver bullion that shall be presented into U. S. coins at the ratio of 16 to 1 on the same terms as existed prior to 1873. And after five years the government may at its option redeem the bills issued by this act in coin in such sums as the coin on hand will justify.

A FREE THINKER.

The People's Government a Farce

EDITOR WEALTH MAKERS: Metallic money is a relic of barbarism. It is brutal in the extreme. The master that spoke as never man spoke disposed of the money question in a very few words. "Whose image and superscription hath it?" in other words, whose fiat? The image and superscription, or fiat, constitutes money, no matter what its substance. History is repeating itself. The destruction of the Jewish nation was preceded by a period of oppression. In 1776 the English tax on tea caused our forefathers to take a bead on the red-coated demons. What kind of Americans have we now that will tamely submit to the direct descendants of Judas Iscariot, the Jewish bankers who mock at the people's distress and sing:

What care we for labor,
That Peleban crowd?
Our vassals we draw from
The rich and the proud.

Our Dukes control the great wealth of the land, and they smile in their hauteur, "the people be damned." Every precinct in this great nation should send a delegation to Washington with winchestsers in their hands to enforce their demands. When you are dealing with a brute you have to use force.

THE MORTGAGE BIG

Did you ever see a mortgage big?
A mortgage big;
It eats the farm, the cow, the pig,
The cow, the pig,
It eats the butter and the cheese,
It eats the hives of honey bees,
It eats the peach and apple trees,
The apple trees.
It eats the handsome two year old,
The two year old;
The pretty gelding must be sold,
He must be sold.
It eats the wheat, the oats, the corn,
The farmer's heart with grief is worn,
His overalls are tattered and torn,
Are tattered and torn.
It eats the duck and it eats the hen;
It eats the hen;
It comes in the dark you know not when
You know not when.
The farmer's wife is filled with sighs,
It puts the tear drop in her eyes,
It steals her plums and apple pies,
Her apple pies.
It makes her wear an old print dress,
An old print dress;
It fills her soul with great distress,
With great distress.
It hurts and injures every arm,
She knows down in her bosom warm
That's why the boys all leave the farm,
They leave the farm.
Did you ever see a mortgage big?
A mortgage big,
It eats the goose, the cat, the pig,
The cat, the pig,
It eats the haystack and the hen,
It makes a wreck of perch and pen,
And oh! it makes a wreck of men,
A wreck of men.
—Selected.

Spaniards Active Over All Cuba. Tampa, Fla., March 19.—The reports of the Progresso, a Cuban steamer that arrived last night, give credence to the uprising in the eastern department and say much activity exists among the Spanish troops on the entire island. Thirteen prisoners are reported in the prisons of Havana. The Cubans had a recent engagement with Spanish troops in the outskirts of Bayamo. The affair lasted two hours and 300 Spaniards were killed and wounded.



Blood Poison THE BANE OF HUMAN LIFE, Driven Out of the System by the Use of Ayer's Sarsaparilla

"For five years, I was a great sufferer from a most persistent blood disease, none of the various medicines I took being of any help whatever. Hoping that change of climate would benefit me, I went to Cuba, to Florida, and then to Saratoga Springs, where I remained some time drinking the waters. But all was no use. At last, being advised by several friends to try Ayer's Sarsaparilla, I began taking it, and very soon favorable results were manifested. To-day I consider myself a perfectly healthy man, with a good appetite and not the least trace of my former complaint. To all my friends, and especially young men like myself, I recommend Ayer's Sarsaparilla, if in need of a perfectly reliable blood-purifier."—JOSE A. ESCOBAR, proprietor Hotel Victoria, Key West, Fla.; residence, 352 W. 16th St., New York.

Ayer's The Sarsaparilla Admitted for Exhibition AT THE WORLD'S FAIR

SPAIN IN A PICKLE.

Treated Fairly, but Must Answer Uncle Sam.

Washington, March 25.—Yesterday was the regular cabinet day, and the President and his advisers gave up most of the time of the meeting to a general discussion of foreign affairs. Two things were practically decided upon. Spain is to be treated fairly, but delays will be frowned on. The cabinet crisis is assumed to be a reasonable excuse for failure to consider the Alliance matter promptly, but once the new ministry is in working order Uncle Sam will insist on an answer to his demands. When the new Spanish cabinet assumes the reins the first thing to be considered will be something much in the shape of an ultimatum from the United States. Admiral Meade's fleet is handy to Cuba, and it is said that at the first intimation there will be a display of Yankee ships in Cuban waters, and they will not be at all particular about keeping outside the three mile limit.

In certain diplomatic circles there are rumors afloat that the administration is losing some of its enthusiasm in the Nicaragua matter. The right of Great Britain to demand indemnity is conceded. The way in which it is to be collected is the question at issue. In fact, intimations have been given to Nicaragua that Great Britain's claims must at least be adjudicated, and that if it is repudiated in advance the United States will withdraw the right hand of fellowship. At the same time it is said there will be no trifling if Great Britain shows a disposition to enforce the claims in any high handed manner. If Nicaragua can not pay a claim found due England will have to content itself with being in the position of an unsecured creditor of an insolvent concern. It is believed the administration will concede that Great Britain has a prima facie claim on Nicaragua, which should be paid, and that if the little republic concedes the same thing but that its poor but honest condition is properly recognized.

What is troubling some people in the state department is the fact that Europe seems to be combined against America. First came the significant combination of Germany, Austria, France, Belgium, and Denmark against the meat trade of the United States. Spain at the same time, though a gainer by the discriminating duty on sugar, put the United States in the second or higher table of customs duties. It backed down from this position on a little bluff from this country about retaliation, but then wound up by firing on the Alliance. Now, while the United States is busy with the Cuban and Nicaraguan incidents, Great Britain, Germany, France, and Belgium are combining to make trouble in Venezuela. It begins to look as if it were getting to be a case of all Europe against all America.

INCOME TAXES ROLL IN.

Returns Already Made. Washington, March 25.—Income tax returns are pouring into the office of the commissioner of internal revenue at such a rate as to make the income tax division a beehive of industry and activity. These returns, it is stated, are much more numerous than were calculated upon in the first estimate submitted to congress as the basis of action. The estimate then was that 80,000 corporations and individuals were subject to the tax. After the law passed and the estimates of the fifty-eight collectors of internal revenue were completed it was found that they aggregated 490,000 returns from corporations and individuals. This estimate is considered entirely too high, and if the income tax is paid by 240,000 individuals and corporations it is believed the law will have been more generally enforced than is usual with a new enactment of this kind when first put into operation.

The Baltimore Plan,

now practically endorsed by President Cleveland, is attracting universal attention because it is based on the evident fact that the currency and banking systems of the country must be reformed.

But is the Baltimore plan a reform? It gives the associated banks the power to expand the currency and relieve the country. It also gives them the power to contract it at will and create universal distress for their own private gain.

It puts the credit of the government behind every bank note. It donates all but half of one per cent of the profit on the note issue to the banks, and it leaves plenty of opportunities for a Napoleon of Finance to wreck a bank and leave the government to pay the notes.

It leaves the banks free to demand the highest interest that the several states will allow, and affords no relief to farmers and business men of moderate capital.

Contrast with this

The Hill Banking System.

In "Money Found," an exceedingly valuable and instructive book published by Charles H. Kerr & Company of Chicago, and for sale at the office of this paper at 25 cents, Hon. Thos. E. Hill proposes that the government open its own bank in every large town or county seat in the United States, pay 3 per cent on long time deposits, receive deposits subject to check without interest, and loan money at the uniform rate of 4 per cent to every one offering security worth double the amount of the loan.

This plan is not an expense to the government, but a source of large revenue.

It secures the government amply, which the Baltimore plan does not.

It relieves the distress of the common people, which the Baltimore plan does not.

It protects not only note-holders but depositors, who are unsecured now and under the Baltimore plan would be still worse off.

In a word, the Baltimore plan is in the interest of the bankers, the Hill Banking System is in the interest of the people.

Consider them both, and ask your congressman to vote for the one you believe in.

And send us 25c, immediately for the book. "Money Found" has no equal in its line. Address,

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J. Y. M. SWIGART, Secretary,

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