



PAUL'S GOSPEL.

By Rev. Thomas Yates.

Text—"Remember Jesus Christ, raised from the dead, according to my gospel."—II Timothy 2:8

You will notice the intensity of the possessive pronoun. It glows with passion; it makes the text incandescent—"My gospel." It is not proprietorship; it is identification. It seems like egotism; it is really uttermost self-surrender. It is not possible to separate the man from the message; they are one, fused in a grand and growing experience. He had a message, and the message was in the grain and the fibre of his being. He has written a sentence of it to his friend, and then, as if impatient lest what he has written should bear, even for an instant, the look of an impersonal utterance, he hastens with a kind of happy pride in self-committal to give himself away on it—"According to my gospel." The weight and the impact of a transformed personality is thrown into the utterance. You feel the thrill of terrific conviction in this little possessive; it vibrates with energy. Whatever the gospel is, it is become to this man a consecration, a passion, an enthusiasm, and, if need arise, it will become a martyrdom. It is little wonder that the world thought this man a provocative man, or that few men in human history have so compelled the world to take count of them.

Paul has one great certainty; he is certain that he is right. The audacious faculty of mounting a pulpit, is the inevitable expression of any audacity, the audacity of knowing that he is right. He is sure about some things that really matter; he is on the ground. Further the audacity of knowing that he is right this man adds another audacity, that of believing and saying that the fact of his being right is a good thing for the world. The Gospel is not true news only, but good news. The thing about which he was right was not to be neglected without impoverishment. It is of passionate moment to men; it concerns their highest welfare; it is a Gospel of good tidings, and he who has it is under necessity to preach it. This man, then, is finely revealed in this little phrase that he has added like a postscript. Such a man is always a challenge, never more a challenge than today, when the temper of our time does not encourage it.

He is sent to guard the church and to hold forth the good news in Ephesus, where the splendor and the arrogance of paganism had made the place a proverb. One hesitates to paint the picture of that city as it was, the home of superstition and sorcery, the citadel of the most immoral and brutal of idolaters.

Do you wonder that the restlessness and superstition outside worked a slow and subtle mischief within? Is it any wonder that, with that atmosphere soaking into their life, it was easy to drift from the realities of religion?

My brethren, we need a deep, effective force lodged at the heart of our church life, at the heart of its pulpit ministry, at the heart of all its varying work. The only justification for a church is that it shall have something at the heart of it, of which it says, with a passionate joy of possession, "My Gospel," which it exists to utter. This very church fabric is not here for any beauty it has, but for the good tidings it brings. It is not a memorial; it is a witness. At the heart of the church's life, feeding the church's life, the power of its ministry, the burden of its mission, lies the great force of an organic relationship with a Divine Lord, an intensely personal relationship, realizable and actual, with every believer.

CHRISTIANITY AND GAMBLING.

By Farnford Slack, M. P.

Text—"Casting lots."—Matthew 26:25.

It is 382 years since an Act of Parliament was passed, in the reign of King Henry VIII., the preamble of which alludes to impoverishment and crime and neglect of Divine service as amongst the social evils which in those remote days arose from gambling. And so, in an ever increasing degree, and with added miseries, the evil has been growing ever since. You ask for evidence. Open any newspaper and I shall be very much surprised if you do not find somewhere in its columns, of the growing evil of gambling. And during the whole of those 382 years laws have been constantly passed and constantly amended for dealing with this evil. Those laws have, in my opinion, never been sufficiently drastic,

and, for the best of reasons, they have never been sufficiently clear. There are many men in high places to-day who are afraid of dealing with this subject, and for the best of reasons. I find that in the middle of the eighteenth century—more than 150 years ago—a very remarkable Act of Parliament was passed, which was subsequently repealed. And it provided that any one convicted of losing £10 at one time as a result of betting or gaming, or of losing £40 within the space of twenty-four hours, must, upon conviction, of course, pay five times that amount for the benefit of the poor of the parish. The gambling habit, which is so far-reaching, and which sends its feelers out with such ramifications, is working terrible havoc to-day. It is one of our greatest and most threatening national curses. And, thank God, the Christian Church is at length waking up to its responsibilities in the matter.

Let me give you a few facts. There are at least 20,000 bookmakers in England to-day; 20,000! and not a man of them plying an honest trade. Their turnover has been estimated to be £50,000,000 sterling by the year, by unremunerative trade; all, in so far as the Commonwealth is concerned, wasteful and injurious. Only last November a bookmaker was fined £100 at Reigate. The police, when they carried away his book from the place where he carried on his "business," found by referring to his bank-book, that during the previous twelve months he had paid £12,000 into his banking account. His books showed a profit of £1,761 on the average during the last seven years; and he had, at the time he was brought before the magistrates one client who owned him £6,000. That was in November. Last August a young man, who was a messenger at a newspaper office, was fined by the magistrates for systematically carrying on betting with boys. And this is one of the worst phases of this evil; it is attacking our children, and to a far greater extent than you and I, in our smug respectability, could think possible. And it was found that this gentleman in one of his books had 1,484 entries covering a space of only ten days; and those betting transactions extended in amount from 1d. to 2s. 6d.

I ask you what must be the attitude of all Christians, nay, all thoughtful men and women towards this great evil? It has degraded our sport, it is spoiling our national games, it is deteriorating our national character, it is destroying our position as a nation amongst the other nations of the world, it is spoiling our national example. We as Christians and good citizens, as patriots, must do what in us lies to discourage this evil habit. Christian men, and women, too, have a special obligation. I have been fighting for years past, whenever I have had the opportunity, against all forms of lotteries and raffles in connection with bazaars. There was one raffling transaction recorded in the New Testament. You know what it was when the soldiers at the foot of the cross cast lots for the dying Christ. That is not a very laudable precedent for us to follow in any institution, bazaar, or whatever it may be, when we are trying to get money for what we call a Christian purpose. See to it that you always refuse to play for money at any simple game, however small the odds.

SHORT METER SERMONS.

The man who blushes for his religion is only wasting his emotions.

Whoever is a god to himself is apt to be a devil to his neighbors.

You cannot teach children to keep the Sunday by making them hate it.

Our loads are always lighter if we will at least look as though we liked them.

The only thing that comes to the man who waits is the certainty of being left.

Some men think that the Almighty only gave them sense enough to prove that he had none.

Some men could reconcile the Bible and science if only the Bible would be reconciled to their sins.

Labor to give the best expression to yourself rather than to make the best impression on others.

We could get along with less mourning for our sins if we had a few more real funerals over their remains.

The pessimist is the man who realizes that it is hard going uphill, and therefore he puts on the brakes.

If people were as ready to put in the offering as they are to pass on the sermon the church would soon be rich.

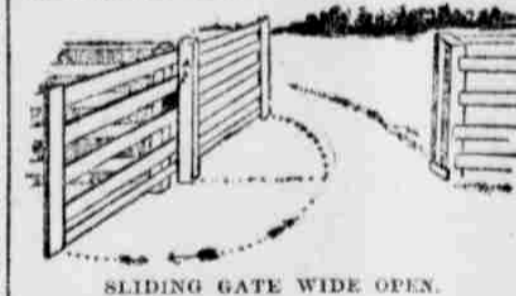
Instead of real love being such a ladylike thing, it often has blisters on its feet, corns on its hands, and a back that aches with loads of others.—Henry F. Cope.



FARM AND GARDEN.

Simple Farm Gate.
The gate shown in the accompanying illustration is recommended by a correspondent of the Montreal Family Herald. The gate is intended for inside locations, upon a farm instead of bars or swinging gates which are troublesome and apt to get out of order. The correspondent has six of these gates on his ranch, and expects soon to put in as many more. It will be noticed that the gate is not hung on hinges. It consists simply of a hurdle which stands between two strong posts set so that the gate easily passes back between them. The second bar of the gate rests on a cleat A, shown in the illustration. This cleat consists of inch lumber, four inches wide and 12 or 14 inches long. The gate will slide easily if the top of the cleat is greased. As the gate is closed it slips between the two posts, which prevent it from being pushed either way.

Points in favor of this gate over



SLIDING GATE WIDE OPEN.

those in ordinary use are as follows: It is cheaply and easily made; it is not liable to get out of order; quickly and easily operated; requires only ordinary fence posts, no hinges, or latch, and it locks automatically.

This Year's Wheat Crop.

Another bumper wheat crop is in prospect. Estimates by the Department of Agriculture on grain in the field indicate a total yield of winter wheat of over 411,000,000 bushels against 401,685,887 in 1903 and 325,374,503 in 1904; a gain of 10,314,113 bushels over 1903 and 85,225,497 bushels over 1904. The estimate on spring wheat is 348,000,000 bushels, but there are good reasons for believing that the yield will be from 10,000,000 to 15,000,000 bushels greater than the present estimate. However, the comparison, accepting the estimate as correct, is interesting, showing an excess for 1905 over the yield of 1904 and less than 1903, as follows: Estimate of yield of spring wheat, 1905, 348,000,000 bushels, against 355,183,656 in 1903 and 279,696,656 bushels in 1904, about 7,000,000 bushels less than the yield of 1903 and 68,303,344 more than last year. According to the official estimate, the total wheat crop of the United States this year will be 670,000,000 bushels. Unless serious damage comes to spring wheat during its ripening, the total wheat yield of the United States will be about 118,000,000 greater than in 1904 and 33,000,000 in excess of 1903.—Epitomist.

For Sharpening Posts.

To save lots of work in sharpening posts, fix up the rig illustrated, advises Charles Hecht. The forked pole



RIG FOR SHARPENING POSTS.

is 12 feet long, the brace of 1x4 being about 5 feet high. A stump makes the best block upon which to sharpen post.

Poultry Pickings.

Save the cabbage for the hens. Leaves make good scratching material.

Cracked corn will put fat on a fowl about the quickest of any feed.

A lot of extra cockerels are a nuisance. Kill them off if you want eggs.

As a rule hens fall off in egg production after they are three or four years old, and it is only in exceptional cases that it is advisable to keep them.

Green cut bone or good beef scraps will force the pullets to early maturity.

Dampness is one of the worst troubles of poultry keepers. Sunshine is sure cure.

If eggs were sold by weight the talk about big eggs would give place to that of more of 'em.

Line water is a corrective of fowl diseases and is also a good remedy for soft shelled eggs.

A duck grows faster than a chicken, sells for more in market, costs no more to feed and needs but little care.

To obtain the best results from hens keep them in flocks of from thirty to forty with one or two males. Crowding never pays any breeder.

Commercial Fertilizer.

I used three tons of fertilizer from one of our large packing companies in 1903. I used it on my corn field, putting it in the hill with the corn-planter; this was on black sandy loam. I had a good crop of corn, but as my soil was in good condition I was unable to say how much benefit the fertilizer was to me, if any; therefore, in 1904, I made up my mind to give it a thorough test as far as my farm was concerned.

This year I used five tons. This fertilizer came from a different packing company from the first lot, but was supposed to be the same as to its chemical value. We used 1,000 pounds to acre, mainly, as in the first year; still we planted strips through our fields with 200 pounds per acre, and in the same field we left strips without any fertilizer. The first two months we thought we could see a little advantage in favor of the corn that had the fertilizer, but later on, and at husking time, we were unable to see that the use of the fertilizer was of benefit to us.—P. G. Freeman, Iowa.

Cost of Making Beef.

It has been accepted as proved that the younger an animal the lower is the cost of putting on flesh and fat. Some experiments have been made to prove this, but the data are too meager to permit of the building of very strong arguments on them. Professor Mumford of the Illinois station has taken up the question and is making an experiment that will at least add to the volume of the data if it does not settle the question, which it probably will not. Herds of various ages are being fed at the station, and these will be marketed as fast as ready and careful reports compiled of the cost of gain made on each lot. There is a point beyond which it does not pay a farmer to keep an animal, even though that animal is all the time gaining in weight. The station is trying to find the point at which steer feeding must stop, if a profit is to be made. Every day after that point the farmer is losing money and losing the time he is putting on the care of the animal.

The Auto Nuisance.

During an English farmers' meeting, the chairman had suggested that he should instruct his teamsters to hold their wagons across the road when autos were approaching at a furious rate. He received the following amusing communication: "As I doubt the power of the average farm laborer to distinguish between the innocent and the guilty, I offer my services. I hold a discharge as a sergeant from the army, and am a trained shot. At least fifty autos pass my house every day. With an ordinary magazine rifle I could get about thirty daily, and I offer my trained services to the chamber at a charge of six pence per head. I should like to know to whom to forward the heads. I could use explosive or poisoned bullets if so desired."

How Sunday Affects the Cows.

The manager of the Wisconsin experimental farm once said that he could tell the Sundays in the calendar by looking at his milk record, which showed the daily yield, because the quantity obtained was invariably smaller than on a week day. "Our men milk a little later on Sunday morning, and a little earlier at night, probably hurrying the operation, and the cows resent the treatment by giving a somewhat smaller yield of milk." It was observed, also, apropos of the necessity for kind and gentle treatment of dairy cattle, that a new hand obtained less milk from a cow than she would yield to a milker, not necessarily more expert, to whom she was accustomed.

The Oat Crop.

The oat crop is one that requires a great deal of moisture throughout the season, and the best crop is assured by preparing the soil so it will conserve moisture. The reason the old plan of seeding oats in corn stubble falls so frequently is because the ground is stirred shallow and wet early in spring time and when a few weeks of dry weather come it bakes as hard as the road and remains in this condition until harvest. It is not a good plan to be in too big a hurry about sowing oats. When the ground has dried out so it is in good condition to break then start the plow.—Ohio Farmer.

Sod Houses and Telephones.

Sod houses and telephones are the strange combination now offered by the prairies of the Middle West. Yet the combination is less strange than appears, for the present sod houses are by no means to be despised, particularly in cold weather. They are built with considerable attention to comfort, and, with an interior lining of Portland cement, offer almost the advantages of a stone building, and at the slightest cost, while the network of telephones overcomes the isolation of earlier days.



THE HOUSEHOLD.

Rhubarb Pie.

Peel the rhubarb and cut quite fine. Cover the pie plate with good rich crust. Fill with the rhubarb, heaping it in the center. Add one cupful of sugar mixed with two tablespoonfuls of flour. Some like to add a little grated nutmeg. Cover with an upper crust, cutting a slit in the center. Bake in a quick oven. If the juice threatens to overflow in spite of the flour used, roll a sheet of glazed note paper in a small tube and push it down through the center until it almost touches the lower crust. Do not remove until the pie has partly cooled.

Green Peppers and Chicken.

Peppers cut in rings with dull scissors and combined with lettuce and French dressing are as good a simple salad as one could wish for. A delicious made-over dish of chicken is constructed with the aid of green peppers. Cut off the tops of the peppers and scoop out the membrane. Parboil for about five minutes. Cut up the chicken, mix with boiled rice, and fill the peppers with the mixture. Place in a baking pan and pour in enough stock or water, immerse the peppers half way and bake for half an hour.

Strawberry Pudding.

Place one quart of berries in a dish and sprinkle over them one-half cupful of sugar. Put one pint of milk in a double boiler. While this heats beat well together the yolks of three eggs, one-half cupful of sugar and one-fourth cupful of flour. Stir this into the boiling milk and cook this for twenty minutes, stirring often. Remove from the fire and add one-fourth teaspoonful of salt. Beat the whites of three eggs to a stiff froth, add three tablespoonfuls of sugar and heap it on top of the pudding. Decorate with large berries.

Fig Puffs.

Sift together one pint of flour and two tablespoonfuls of baking powder. Rub into the flour a heaping tablespoonful of butter and add one cupful of chopped figs. Add milk enough to make a soft dough (a cupful and a quarter or possibly less), and pour into a dozen well-buttered cups, filling them a little more than half full. Set in a steamer over a kettle of boiling water and boil steadily half an hour. If necessary to replenish the water, do so from the boiling tea kettle. Turn out on dessert plates and serve hot with hard sauce.

Boiled Cream Dressing.

Many families do not like olive oil, and for those who do not eat salads on this account boiled cream dressing made as follows will be found delicious: Add a tablespoonful of sugar, half a teaspoonful of salt, a fourth of a tablespoonful of white pepper, a teaspoonful of mustard to a half a cupful of vinegar; place in a granite ware basin over the fire, and when hot beat in a cupful of cream or milk, two eggs, a tablespoonful of butter; let become cold.

Beef and Poached Eggs.

Cut some fillet steak into small rounds, brush over with salad oil and grill until done. Fry some little rounds of mashed potatoes, and place a piece of steak on top of each. Then poach some eggs, trim them round nicely and place on top of the steak. Place a little horse radish and butter on top of the egg, or a little plain butter if preferred, make a thick brown sauce, chop up the remainder of the cuttings from the eggs and put in it. Pour round each little mound, and serve.

Potato Balls or Marbles.

After paring your potatoes thoroughly wash them and cut into balls by the use of a French cutter. Boil in water in which you have thrown a little salt. Have ready a white sauce composed of two tablespoons butter and two of flour with one cup of milk and a seasoning of salt and pepper. When well blended pour over the marbles, adding a tablespoon chopped parsley and serve.

Nordland Croquettes.

Take a cupful of mashed potatoes, the same amount of very fine bread or cracker crumbs and the same of finely minced cheese and mix all together. Set the mixing bowl on the stove and stir in one-third of a cupful of butter, a little cayenne, a teaspoonful of salt and two eggs. Form into croquettes, roll in egg, then in cracker crumbs, and fry in hot fat.

Ideal Breakfast Food.

The grape fruit is now looked upon as the ideal American breakfast fruit and is being highly recommended by physicians as a tonic, it having a considerable percentage of quinine. The grape fruit makes a magnificent appearance in a collection of tropical fruits, and its juice is subacid and very refreshing.