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Sanitary Meat Market

"Say, John, this is Tuesday night don't forget
the beef steak!"
Phone 150. O'Neill, Nebr.

"Conscience."

One of the faculties with which the creator endowed the soul of
man is the faculty by which he distinguishes between right and wrong,
and which commands and obligates him to do the right and avoid the
wrong. We call this faculty conscience. Without it man could not be
held to account for his actions. Conscience, however, in its natural
state is not what it is intended to be. Like other faculties of the soul
it is in need of enlightenment. A perverted conscience may make a
man a criminal. The example of the Apostle Paul proves this. Be-
fore his conversion he considered it a matter of conscience to do many
things contrary to the name of Jesus, and he did them. And when he
was instrumental in shutting the Christians in prison and putting them
to death, his conscience approved the act. A perverted conscience
made him a criminal or, as he puts it, the "chief of sinners." After his
conversion his conscience smote him for doing these very things, for
persecuting the church of God and wasting it. Gal. 1, 13.

Now where is the enlightenment and training of conscience to be
done? It would be regrettable, indeed, if this work were relegated to
the home and church exclusively, while the school gave attention only
or at least preferably to the intellectual side of man. The knowledge
imparted by the school may be as useful to a villain as to an honest
man. Therefore conscience must teach and impel a man to make the
right use of his knowledge. The development of character is an im-
possibility without the development of conscience.

What means have we to develop conscience? We have the ten
commandments, the moral law, as interpreted in the Sermon on the
Mount. These commandments are the standard. They teach that it
is right to love the Lord, our God, and to serve Him with all our heart
and with all our soul. Deut. 11, 13, and that this is the
great commandment in the law. They further teach that it
is wrong and wicked to disobey or despise parents or masters, to in-
flict bodily harm or hurt upon our fellowman, to lead a lewd and im-
temperate life, to steal and cheat, to belie, slander and defame our
neighbor; but that it is right and our duty to promote the temporal
and spiritual welfare of our neighbor in every way possible. A con-
science taught and nurtured in these commandments is brought up to
the standard, it is dependable, it is in truth the voice of God and the
vice-gerent of God in the soul of man.

What our country needs above all in these trying times is the
loyalty of its citizens. With this it stands, without it, it falls. Now
loyalty may be a matter of sentiment, a matter of prudence. There
is reason to believe that in not a few cases it is a matter of dollars and
cents. It should be a matter of conscience, a sacred duty. That is
what St. Paul makes it when, exhorting to obedience to constituted
government, he enjoins the Christians: "Wherefore you must needs be
subject, not only for wrath (fear of punishment), but also for con-
science sake." Rom. 13, 5. It is, therefore, just as wrong and wicked to
be disloyal, to refuse to render unto Caesar the things that are
Caesar's, as it is to steal, to commit murder, arson or any other crime.

What we need in times of peace as well as war is not more highly
educated men and women. We have a plenty of them in this our
country whose proudest boast is that it is studded with schools. What
we need is more conscientious men and women whose lives exemplify
the teachings of the Bible, and are an object lesson in all Christian
virtues. We shall not have them, unless we give to conscience the due
amount of teaching and training to keep it right when it is right, to
set it right when it is wrong, and to make it a commanding and im-
pelling force.

That conscience may be a mighty force in man, there is no doubt.
What gave to the apostles Peter and John, unlearned and ignorant
men in the eyes of the Council of Jerusalem, the boldness to stand
(Continued on page six.)

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