DID WE GIVE THANKS? TO WHOM DID WE DO SO?

The Celebrated Brooklyn Pastor Back From Britain.

Oklahoma City, Nov. 27.—Pastor Russell of Brooklyn Tabernacle addressed large audiences here twice today in our principal Auditorium. We report one of his addresses from the following text:

"O, give thanks unto the Lord, for he is good; for his mercy endureth forever"—Psalm cvii, 1.

Thanksgiving Day appeals to all of us, and we are glad that the Pilgrim Fathers long years ago started the custom. They placed it at the end of the harvest and in recognition of the same. The keeping of such a day appeals to all civilized mankind in a considerable degree, because our Great Creator so organized us that the quality of reverence, of worship, lies prominently on the top of our heads. The man or woman, rich or poor, educated or ignorant, bond or free, who has not this organ of veneration developed in considerable measure cannot be appreciative and deferential toward his Creator, and hence would not enjoy Thanksgiving day. We are glad that these are comparatively few. We are glad to suppose that the majority of this great nation of civilization looked up to God with grateful hearts and rendered him thanks for blessings manifested.

Hindrances to True Reverence.

Nevertheless, the numbers increase yearly of those who are losing their reverence for the God of the Bible and vaguely turning towards a God of Nature, of whom they profess to know comparatively little. These irreverent and unthankful fellow-creatures are not generally the most ignorant of our race, nor the least favored in temporal mercies and blessings. Among them are many learned, wealthy, influential. Their condition is well represented by that of a young woman who called at my study recently. In substance she said, "I have lost my God. I am unhappy. I am hoping that you will be able to assist me in finding him again." Thank God, we were able to assist her, and now she is able to give thanks to God in all sincerity.

I am not speaking to the irreverent in this audience, nor to those of this class in my larger audience of millions all over the world, to whom I speak through the public press. I am speaking to others who, while not yet fully in the faith, are still disposed to give thanks. I speak to these because I realize that each day is bringing to the world greater intelligence, more independent thoughtfulness, in a wider use of reason. I speak because my experience teaches that unless these be fully armed with the Truth and awakened to independent thought, they are almost certain to fall into unbelief—Evolution, Higher Criticism, and a mere form of godliness, which denies the real power thereof.

The Truth Shall Make You Free.

The Great Teacher prayed for his followers, "Sanctify them through thy Truth; thy Word is Truth (John xvii, 17). To be forearmed with the Truth is to be safeguarded against the error. To be ignorant of the Truth is to fall a prey to the error—especially in this "evil day," when "a thousand shall fall at thy side and ten thousand at thy right hand" (Psalm xci, 7). The difficulty with us has been that many have supposed that the conversion of the world and its sanctification can be better accomplished by misrepresentation of Divine Character and Justice. Unconsciously we have learned to twist and interpret our Bibles to fit the erroneous creeds which were handed to us by our well-meaning forefathers. The Day of Judgment upon these false creeds is upon us. Unless we learn that they do not properly interpret the Bible, we will reject the Bible when we reject the creeds—and that must be very soon for all thinking people. "To the Law and to the testimony; if they speak not according to this Word, it is because there is no light in them" (Isaiah viii, 20).

Causes For Ingratitude.

"Come, let us reason together, saith the Lord!" If our creeds tell us truly that we were all born damned, either to Purgatory or to eternal torment, should we give thanks on this account? If our creeds tell truly that an elect handful of saints will escape the torture, how do we know whether or not we belong to that elect handful? Have we sufficient information on this subject to give thanks therefor? If our creeds tell truly that nearly all the members of our families, nearly all of our neighbors and friends, being unsaintly, not "sanctified in Christ Jesus," not followers in the footsteps of Jesus, not of those "who walk not after the flesh, but after the spirit"—these all, except a mere handful, are doomed to more horrible torture than the worst earthly sufferings we could possibly imagine for them, and are doomed to these for centuries in Purgatory, according to the Catholic; or for all eternity, according to our Protestant theories, can we honestly thank God for any of these conditions, if we believe them to be true? Can we "worship in spirit and in truth" a Creator who would make such an atrocious plan? And could we respect his honesty if he labelled it "good tidings of great joy to all people"? Assuredly we could not!

If the foregoing things which have come down to us from the "Dark Ages" be true, of what consequence, in comparison, would be the material harvests of earth, which would merely encourage and stimulate the bringing into being of larger numbers of our race to experience those tortures? If these things be true, rather should we give thanks for famine and pestilence, which would obliterate our race entirely and thus save future thousands of millions from the horrors of eternal torture. These thoughts will come to all intelligent beings sooner or later. We bring them forward now, in order that we may offset them with the Truth—that we may show the fallacy of these "doctrines of devils," as St. Paul designates them (I Timothy iv, 1). We bring them to your attention so that we may not only demolish them, but give you instead the true, satisfactory portion, the Truth, the Bread that came down from heaven to give life eternal, not merely to the saintly few of the Church, but to mankind in general. Those who get the proper view of our Creator and of his glorious Plan for human salvation will be forever protected from such fears and doubts respecting Divine goodness. Getting the proper view of the Heavenly Father's character, through the discernment of his Plan of the Ages for spiritual Israel, natural Israel and the world in general, they will hereafter be able to celebrate every Thanksgiving Day much more abundantly, much more intelligently, much more happily than any in the past. More than this, to these every day will be a happy day if, rightly exercised by the goodness of God, they shall give him their hearts. Then truly they may say,

"O happy day that fixed my choice
On thee, my Savior and my God!
Well may this glowing heart rejoice,
And tell its raptures all abroad."

God's Mercy Endureth Forever.

In the Psalm from which our text is taken the Prophet David repeats this sentiment of Thanksgiving to God because of the ever-continuance of his mercy, twenty-six times. Our English translation does not give us the exact thought, however. Properly translated it would read, "O give thanks, for his mercy endureth ever." The word *evermore* nearly represents the thought of the Hebrew, which signifies *not forever*, but *to a completion*. As long as there is any use for mercy, God's mercy will continue. When the great Divine Program shall have been accomplished, when "every creature in heaven, and in earth, and under the earth, shall be heard saying, Praise and glory and honor, dominion and might be unto him that sitteth upon the Throne and unto the Lamb forever" (Revelation v, 13), then there will no longer be need for mercy; mercy will have accomplished its work.

Mercy signifies the setting aside of justice in some manner, for some reason. Justice is the foundation of God's throne—the foundation of the Divine Government. Justice had control of Father Adam and offered him eternal life in an Eden home, as a reward for obedience; or death, extinction, as the penalty for disobedience. As Divine Wisdom had foreknown, man disobeyed and the penalty of Justice, "Dying thou shalt die," was executed. Through heredity all of Adam's race became involved—all inherited sinful tendencies and dying constitutions.

For more than two thousand years death reigned under the edict of Justice, and our race as a whole were subject to it. A little later the Law Covenant was made with Israel—one nation out of many. It seemed to offer mercy, but did not. They were placed under the Law and were merely offered eternal life if they could keep the Law—which they could not keep, because of inherited blemishes, moral and physical.

It was over four thousand years from the time Justice struck the fatal blow, until Divine mercy stepped forward with the healing balm. God's mercy is his love in active operation for the relief of the condemned. Although God is Love, and hence must always have been loving and kind and merciful of disposition, yet this quality of his character was held in restraint as respects condemned men for more than forty centuries. So the Apostle explains, saying, "Herein was *manifested* the love of God, in that he sent his only-begotten Son into the world" "that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (I John iv, 9; John iii, 16).

But meantime the darkness of sin and the misrepresentations of Divine character by the Adversary had so operated upon the fallen race that—eyes had they, but they saw not; ears had they, but they understood not; hearts had they, but they comprehended not, the message of Divine mercy. They fulfilled the Scriptures in slaying the One sent for their relief. And they have misunderstood, slandered, maligned, "killed" his followers—the few blessed with the hearing ears and the understanding hearts and the eyes of faith. These few constitute what the Scriptures designate the true Church of God, including the Apostles and all the faithful throughout this Age—the household of faith, "the Church of the First-Borns, whose names are written in heaven" (Hebrews xii, 23). These constitute the Little Flock, to whom it is the Father's good pleasure to give the Kingdom, which shortly (Messiah's Kingdom) is to bless and uplift the world, operating through natural Israel.

Mercy Rejoiceth Over Justice.

Man's necessity became God's opportunity for the display of his glorious character—perfect in Justice, Wisdom, Love and Power. While love could not clear the guilty, it could provide a Redeemer to suffer, "the Just for the unjust." But Divine Justice could not allow this, unless with the consent of the sufferer. Hence we read that God set before his only-begotten Son a glorious Plan and invited his co-operation therein. The Son assented, left the heavenly glory, was made flesh and "offered himself" an acceptable sacrifice, "the Just for the unjust"—for the redemption of Adam and his race. The Father honored him by raising him from the dead to a still higher glory and honor than he had before, to immortality—the divine nature. Now, from his glorious station, he is empowered to be the Mediator between God and men—between Divine Justice and fallen humanity. He is empowered to give the earthly rights which he sacrificially laid down for Adam and his race—to so many of them as will accept the perfection of human nature and its rights and privileges upon terms in harmony with the Divine Law—the remainder he will destroy, annihilate "as brute beasts" (II Peter ii, 12; Acts iii, 23).

As though all this were not sufficiently wonderful; as though with all this the Heavenly Father's Wisdom, Justice, Love and Power would not be sufficiently illustrated, exemplified, God added another feature. Before beginning to deal with the world as a whole, to give back to the willing and obedient of the race human perfection and an earthly Eden Paradise and eternal life; before commencing this work of restitution (Acts iii, 19), the Father made known to the Son another feature of his Plan. He would give to the Son a Bride, a class selected from amongst the fallen race—called, chosen, faithful overcomers. These, as the Joint-Heirs of the Second Adam, will share with him in the uplifting of those of Adam's race who will become the children of Christ through obedience and adoption.

The trials and testings of all those who will become the Bride of Christ must be similar to those of the Redeemer. They must suffer with him if they would reign with him. As he sacrificed his earthly life and rights and interests, so must they. He exhorted them, "Present your bodies living sacrifices, holy and acceptable to God, a reasonable service" (Romans xii, 1). True, there is a difference between these followers of Jesus and the Captain of their salvation. He was brought into the world holy, harmless, undefiled and separate from sinners; hence his sacrifice is a perfect one. Those accepted as his members, as his Bride, belong to the race of sinners. They were "children of wrath even as others" (Ephesians ii, 3). Their acceptance as sacrifices, therefore, was not possible except as the great Captain of their Salvation imputed to those sacrifices a sufficiency of the merit of his sacrifice to compensate for their defects and to make their sacrifices acceptable to the Father with his and as a part of his—they being counted in with him as "members of his Body."

My dear friends, those of us who have the eye of faith and the hearing of faith to appreciate this, the Message of God's Word, may surely be thankful to the last degree. What more could our Heavenly Father do for us than he has done—redeeming us, inviting us to a new nature, giving us the aids by the way, and making us sharers in the Kingdom glory of his Son? More than this, he has been blessing our friends, our children, our parents, our neighbors, the heathen—all of mankind, of one family.

Thanks Because God Is Good.

"O, give thanks unto the Lord, for he is good; for his mercy endureth forever!" During this Gospel Age his mercy has been manifest to all those who take up their cross and follow Jesus. By and by these will be glorified by the "First Resurrection." Then his mercy will return to natural Israel, under the New Covenant (Jeremiah xxxi, 31), of which Christ and the Church are "Able Ministers," Servants, Priests and Kings. Could all the world discern, through the trials and tears and sorrows and imperfections and dying of their present experience, the glorious outcome which God is providing the whole world, they would be filled with praise to him who loved us and bought us back from the penalty of death and who ultimately will complete his glorious work through Messiah's Kingdom.

Have we not, as followers of the Lord, as Christians, misrepresented the facts of the case and endeavored to have people give thanks to God for unkindness, injustice, lovelessness—to a God whose mercy never reached us and would never reach any but a small proportion of our race through the knowledge of Christ; to a God whose mercy, even to the one-tenth of those who had ever heard of him, he said, would endure only for the present life and even among these bring a blessing only to a mere handful of the elect!

Let us go back to the Word of God and free our minds of the prejudices of superstition and misinterpretation handed down from the Dark Ages. Let us see the glory of our God, as revealed in the Bible. Let Christians give thanks that, by the grace of God, their eyes and ears of understanding are opening to a better knowledge of him. Let them give thanks, not only for redemption from the death sentence, but also for their call to sainthip and its consequent suffering in this present time and its promise of reward of glory on the spirit plane by and by!

Let the world give thanks in proportion as it is able to discern God's goodness and mercy for Adam's race—that eventually through the channel of the glorified Church the Divine blessing will be extended to every member of Adam's race, giving opportunity to all to attain life everlasting with full human perfection and an everlasting Eden upon this now sin-cursed earth.

LOUISVILLE.
(Courier.)

Mike Tritsch and family spent Thanksgiving at Plattsmouth with Mr. Tritsch's parents.

Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Cleghorn and daughter Mary, went to Plattsmouth Thursday morning to eat Thanksgiving dinner with George Stander and family.

Grandma Reichart and Fred Boedeker were at Omaha Saturday to see the latter's brother, Harry, who is in the hospital again and is in a very serious condition.

John Gauer, James Terryberry and John Schoeman went to Eagle Tuesday in Mr. Gauer's automobile to attend a shooting match.

Archie Gess, who has been laid up for the past month with catarrh of the stomach, returned home last Saturday from a two weeks' visit at York, with his sister.

Edith and Ellen Anderson and Mary Arvidson came home to spend Thanksgiving with their parents. Miss Edith and Miss Arvidson are teaching school near Wausa and Miss Ellen at Caltonia.

Mrs. Swan Loberg is reported improving nicely. She underwent an operation for gall stones last week at the Swedish Emmanuel hospital and 210 gall stones were removed, the operation being a very serious one.

Pedro Ramariz Ibaro, an educated young Mexican who has made his home in Louisville for several months and who is a most excellent citizen, has been anxious as to the safety of his father and sister since the uprising in Mexico, but Wednesday he received a telegram from his father in the City of Mexico assuring him of their safety, but advising the son to remain in America.

Read the Daily Journal.

GRYB-CARR STORES BIG OPENING DAY

A Large Crowd Assembled in Front Awaiting the Hour of Opening.

The Gryb-Carr Stores Company, located in the Coates' block, opened up Saturday morning with a big rush. Previous to the arrival of the hour for opening (10 o'clock) a throng appeared in front of the building awaiting for the doors to open. The windows had the day previous been filled with imported blue and white enameled ware, ten-quart dish pans, preserving kettles, stew kettles, wash bowls, etc., at the unheard of price of ten cents each, but only one article to each purchaser. It is unnecessary to say, that when the hour for sale arrived, these articles "went off like hot cakes," and in ten minutes after the sale opened there was not an article in either window. And the beauty of it was, these articles were all first-class, and every purchaser went home feeling well paid for getting there on time. They not only purchased the special sale articles, but they took advantage of the several bargain counters to provide themselves with many articles needed in housekeeping. The store was thronged the entire day, and the clerks were kept on the jump in waiting upon those who came and went.

A store of this character is a drawing card for the town, and such an establishment conducted on the plan this company expects to do business, can not fail to draw the people. Here the purchasers can find almost any article he needs, and the good housewife also finds what she has use for in her household duties, and they will all avail themselves of the opportunity to get just what they want, and the prices within their means.

The Gryb-Carr Stores Company is a fixed institution in Plattsmouth, and of the kind that is badly needed. Their five and ten-cent counters will always be filled with such articles as people need, and their large stock of articles, at higher prices, will also be complete, and the prices correspondingly low. It will pay every reader of the Journal to take a peep at the Gryb-Carr store, even if they don't want to buy.

Returns From South Dakota.

Robert Troop returned last Friday evening from northwestern Nebraska and South Dakota, where he went to look after his farms located there. Mr. Troop found crop conditions as good as in other localities of the northwest. His tenant had allowed about 125 acres of oats to become over ripe before harvesting, and some loss would be sustained on this crop. Grass was looking fine and lots of feed in the fields and pastures to fatten stock this winter.

The Straddler In for It.

Colonel Bates is taking rather a gloomy view of the predicament some of the legislators-elect are going to find themselves in in regard to the county option legislation. The colonel fears they are going to be troubled whichever way they vote, and the colonel is right. There is going to be a whole lot of pressure brought to bear on some of them to make them vote in accord with certain interests and no matter which side they take they are in for a certain amount of "cussing."—Nehawka News.