

REASONING ON SCARLET SINS

Most Religious Teachings Are
Unreasonable, Says Pastor.

THE HINDRANCE OF CREEDS

Turning From the Creeds to the Bible Means a Return to Reasoning—A Refusal of Human Ipe Dixits—Greater and Lesser Sins—Punishments Proportionate—The Sins Which God Styles Scarlet, Men Often Consider Merely White Lies—The Scarlet Sins Theology Condemns Often Less Important With God.



Richmond, Va., April 6.—Bible students of all denominations were deeply interested in Pastor Russell's visit today. A series of special Bible lectures has been in progress for some months; and Pastor Russell has been brought here, evidently for climacteric results. His two topics were, "BEYOND THE GRAVE," and "SCARLET SINS." We report the latter from the text, "Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet they shall be as white as snow."—Isa. 1:18.

Although thoroughly loyal to the Bible and very reverential, the Pastor has evidently cut loose from the creeds of all the churches. He admitted that they all contain kernels of Truth, but declared that the truths are buried in a mass of chaff, and worse, are hidden in God-dishonoring theologies so violently unreasonable that their best friends and supporters are ashamed of them and prefer never to think of them.

The Pastor claimed that the repugnance of the credal rubbish heaps hinders people from looking for the kernels of Truth which they contain. And this is well, he said. Why should we trouble and disgust ourselves to search for the grains which the various creeds contain, while we have in the Bible a whole garner full of Truth, clean and pure? He urged all Christian people to abandon their creeds and to come together as Bible students, intent only on knowing the testimony of God's Word and obtaining the guidance of His Holy Spirit in the understanding of it. So doing, he declared, all true Christians would soon be so united in heart and spirit that outward forms of federation would be useless and as absolutely ignored as in the days of Jesus and the Apostles.

Jesus held up to ridicule and scorn the inconsistencies of His day. If He were here today, He would similarly show us many inconsistencies in our estimation of sin and righteousness, the Pastor believed. Jesus ridiculed the religious leaders of His time when He pointed out their carelessness to give a tithing of their increase, even to the smallest of seeds, and their showy religious performances to be seen of men.

Our Lord declared that while so doing, they practised the greatest out-rages against the very spirit of God's Law of righteousness; that in mean ways they took the bread from the poor, the orphan, the widow, and to divert attention from their course, they hypocritically lengthened their prayers. It was not that praying was wrong, or that tithing was objectionable, but that their recognition of these showed them to be all the more responsible in their gross violations, in "devouring widows' houses," and other sharp practices whereby they took advantage of those within their power through adversity or otherwise.

This principle still operates, said Pastor Russell. The same sins lie at the door of many professing godliness and holding church membership. Today, as in our Master's time, there is a way of keeping within the limits of the law, a way of keeping out of the penitentiary, while at the same time the spirit of the law is outraged and trampled in the dust of avaricious money-getting. And now, as then, these money-lovers often pose as philanthropists, and hold high places of honor and charity. The Pastor spared not this class. He declared religious hypocrites the worst of sinners in the sight of Heaven. Of all sins theirs were the most scarlet in God's sight, he believed.

Greater and Lesser Sins.
Today wealth covers a multitude of sins. To be financially unsuccessful is a crime, on account of which many will consider that a wife is justified in breaking the obligation of her marriage vow and seeking a divorce—a crime on account of which some churches would feel justified in rejecting the culprit as undesirable and striking his name from the list of members. What matters it that Jesus addressed some of His most comforting words to the weary and heavy-laden and unsuccessful? (Matthew 11:28-30.) What matters it that the Scriptures declare that not many rich, wise, great or learned has God called to the Heavenly Inheritance—but chiefly the poor of this world rich in faith?—1 Cor. 1:26-29.

It is the same amongst Catholics as amongst Protestants. So long as the sinner remains a member of the church, almost every crime can be ab-

solved. But be the person ever so just, ever so reverential, his would be a sin of scarlet hue and unforgettable, were he to attend Protestant services or in any way seek fellowship with God outside of the Roman communion.

Sins Scarlet and Crimson.
The Prophet Isaiah discriminates between scarlet, a bright red, and crimson, a deeper red, as indicating shades of guilt in the same kind of sin. For instance, murder would be a scarlet sin, if committed by a worldly person; but hatred would be a crimson stain—a sin of deeper dye—if cherished by the child of God. As love would be the fulfilling of the Divine Law, so hatred, which is the most violent form of selfishness, implies its flagrant violation. The Ten Commandments mention covetousness of our neighbor's possessions and happiness, theft of his property or good name or influence, and murder, the taking of his life, as the culmination of selfish disregard for his rights. In older times, when chemistry was less appreciated, less understood, scarlet and crimson dyes were estimated the most durable, the most difficult to remove; hence in our text these are used to symbolize sins of greater selfishness and depravity.

All mankind have inherited tainted blood from Father Adam. Selfishness of varying hues is found in every member of our race. One difficulty with many is that they do not have the proper focus upon the Divine Law. They know that any transgression of God's Law is sin. Taking the letter of that Law they try to avoid the cruder forms of theft, adultery, murder. This is the same mistake that the Jews made.

It was Jesus, the great Teacher, who gave the clearer conception of the spirit of the Law. According to His interpretation, theft could be committed in the heart, by coveting in a most desperate way, by stealing the good name or the business or the reputation or the trade-mark of another. Similarly, according to Jesus, the crime of adultery might in God's sight be committed without the overt act. Jesus declared, "Whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already, in his heart"—if he lacked merely the opportunity.—Matthew 5:28.

Whoever accepts these definitions intelligently realizes that the world's increase of knowledge has brought increase of responsibilities; and that if open crimes today were much less frequent than formerly, the responsibility of today would still be greater than formerly. But this is not so. Every thing indicates to us that human selfishness has kept pace with the increase of knowledge. The thievish spirit abounds everywhere, not only amongst the poor, but also amongst the wealthy. Not all of the vast fortunes of our day were honestly obtained, so far as we may be able to judge. And although there are noble rich men, it is, alas! too evident that the love of money, a root of all evil, has made thieves and robbers of some in high stations.

The civilized world needs to awaken its conscience to the high ideals of the Master—the Golden Rule, which does to a neighbor as it would that the neighbor would do to him if the conditions were reversed. It seems not possible for human law to reach such cases. Those who cannot be influenced by the Scriptures must wait for their lessons and chastisements till the New Age of Messiah's Kingdom.

The vice crusaders have recently been telling us that millions of dollars are spent in New York City alone every year in the white slave traffic. What an awful picture of entrenched sin! When we read such reports and remember our Master's definition of adultery, we stand appalled! That the great Western Metropolis, nevertheless presents a fair outward appearance which belies such a condition of heart is a matter for congratulation! All pure-minded people should be glad that if sin cannot be fully stamped out, it can at least be kept to some extent under cover! The stench of the public reports is something terrible!

The murders of the past year are terribly significant. But if we take the viewpoint of the great Teacher and consider that all who entertain murderous thoughts are really murderers in God's sight—we feel constrained to ask, "How does God regard the conditions now prevailing in the world? They are not only worse than at any previous time, but still more evil because of our increased light, our increased realization of the principles of justice. It would not seem to be putting the matter too strongly to say that from the Divine standpoint the world is practically full of thieves, liars and murderers.

this enough at the present time. God's call of this Gospel Age is for those who not only desire to resist sin and to escape from slavery to it, but who, being made free, will enlist with all their powers to oppose sin, under the leadership of Jesus—under the banner of the cross. To these comes the assurance of passing from sin to right-ness, from death to life, through the Redeemer.

For these, all the back charges of condemnation to death on account of sin are set aside. A new page of the ledger of God is opened for them. Thenceforth the record of their past is canceled through the blood of Christ. Their sins of scarlet are removed. Their hearts, figuratively speaking, are as white as snow. They are pure in heart, although they have the treasure of this new heart in an imperfect body. The imperfections of their flesh, ever present, will seek to assert themselves; but they as New Creatures and sons of God through Christ are to resist these steadfastly.

"Unspotted From the World."
Do you tell me that I am setting too high a standard, and that the millions who read my sermons weekly will be discouraged instead of being helped? I answer that one with God is a majority; and that the Scriptures call upon me to "Cry aloud and spare not: . . . show My people their sins!" There are approximately four hundred millions of nominal Christians in the world; yet nowhere on earth are these sins to be found in so rank a development, of so deep a crimson, as amongst the professed followers of Christ.

God knows, the Bible declares, that none can do perfectly. But is this an excuse for any of us? Should we not do the best that we can to approximate the Divine standard in our actions, words and thoughts? What we can do is what God requires of us. All the remainder, as we have seen, has been fully provided for in the Savior, and the mercy and forgiveness which He can properly bestow upon the willing and obedient of heart, whose shortcomings are merely those of hereditary weakness and unfavorable environment. It is the purity of heart, of intention, of will, that constitutes saintship from the Divine standpoint, and not actual perfection; for, as we read, "There is none righteous, no, not one."—Romans 3:10.

It is a part of my duty, dear hearers, as a minister of God, to speak His Word, to awaken the consciences of all those with whom I have any influence. It is my duty to lift high the Royal Standard of perfection, that all may see as in a mirror their own shortcomings, and that, seeing these, they may flee to the Master and lay hold upon the grace of God provided for all in Him. The Apostle speaks of the Church class as keeping themselves unspotted from the world. From what we have seen, dear friends, the term "world" includes nearly everybody claiming to be a Christian. The real Christians are few and far between.

But I hold that many more would be real Christians if the Truth were properly presented to their minds. Instead, millions come under the delusion that they are Christians, when they have not taken even the first step of repentance and reformation. And of those who have repented and reformed, comparatively few have taken the next step necessary to their induction into the family of God. The second step is the acceptance of the merit of Christ's sacrifice as that which atones for their sins. More than this, to attain the full blessed privileges of the "Body of Christ, which is the Church" of the "First-borns" (Ephesians 1:22, 23; Hebrews 12:23), it is necessary to make a full consecration of heart and life, time and talent, in fluence, everything, to the Lord—to be His footstep followers.

This is the only call of this Gospel Age. Only those who hear it and accept it enter into present opportunities and full privileges of sonship. Only these have opportunity of becoming members of the Royal Priesthood of glory, members of "the Bride, the Lamb's Wife." But others, as we have seen, have a measure of responsibility for their conduct, even if they do not come to Christ; and each will receive stripes in proportion as he has done wrong, or blessings in proportion as he has given even a cup of cold water to one of the Lord's faithful saints.

It Will Be Different By and By.
After the elect class of this Age shall have been perfected in the First Resurrection, Messiah's Kingdom will be set up. For this we pray, "Thy Kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth, even as it is done in Heaven." Then matters will be different. No longer will it be possible for men to profit by wrong-doing, and no longer will any suffer for right-doing. Then every doer of righteousness will have a blessing, an uplifting, a strengthening. And every one following sin, unrighteousness, we are assured, will have stripes, punishments, intended to correct his wrong course and point him to the right way.

The Lord figuratively points to that New Era and explains the change that will then come, saying in respect to all who desire to be in harmony with Him, "I will take away the stony heart [selfishness] out of your flesh and will give you a heart of flesh"; kind, sympathetic, loving. (Ezekiel 36:25-27.) This work will progress amongst men during the thousand years of Messiah's Kingdom. The grand result will be that all lovers of sin and unrighteousness will eventually be destroyed in the Second Death as natural brute beasts (2 Peter 2:12; and all the willing and obedient will be lifted up from the imperfections and blemishes of heredity, and again become images of God in the flesh.

PUBLIC WELFARE COMMISSION BILL

Norton Measure Reaches Senate
After Hard Time in House.

CARRIES ONLY FIVE THOUSAND

Senate Said to Be Favorable to the Measure, and May Increase the Amount Set Apart for Its Work. Blue Sky Law Changed by House.

Lincoln, April 7.—After one of the hardest fights ever waged against a bill, house roll No. 423, has reached the senate, where it is said to be slated for the same opposition that it met in the lower house. The bill, introduced by Norton, creates the Nebraska conservation and public welfare commission and has for its purpose the development of the state and the giving of publicity to useful facts regarding the state, the facts to be based on accurate surveys, made under the supervision of the commission.

When the bill came up for final passage in the house so strong was the sentiment for it that only three votes were recorded in the negative, two on account of the meagerness of the appropriation—\$5,000.

The strong sentiment exists in the senate that the bill should be amended so it will carry \$25,000 for the biennium.

Blue Sky Bill Changed by House.
In committee of the whole the house recommended for passage the Cordell blue sky bill, after amending the meat out of it. One amendment exempts from operations of the bill those mining concerns organized for five years past in any state, providing the directors and officers are residents of Nebraska. Real estate men are exempt from the provisions of the bill, but the state conservation commission is to answer any questions regarding a real estate proposition and pass on such propositions for the public.

BIG INTERURBAN PROJECT
Construction Company and Financial Agents to Meet Soon.
Lincoln, April 7.—The fate of the Omaha, Lincoln and Beatrice Interurban railway, as far as immediate and perhaps ultimate construction of the line between the capital city and the metropolis is concerned, is to be settled within a few days, when the Northern Construction company officials, the concern that is to take over the company's bond issuance approved in a recent railway commission order, meets with financial agents who are to consider getting behind the project.

If the terms under which the bonds are issued—authorization of the Nebraska commission to allow the company a return of 11 1/2 per cent on the investment at the outset—are acceptable and the future forecasts no attempts on the part of the state legislature to build up stringent conditions under which the road may operate, it is likely the deal will go through successfully.

Engineer O'Brien Killed.
Gothenburg, Neb., April 7.—Engineer D. J. O'Brien of Union Pacific train No. 9 was struck and instantly killed by the engine of train No. 8. O'Brien was oiling his engine and stepped onto the eastbound track just ahead of the engine of train No. 8, which was going through without stopping here. O'Brien is a married man, his widow and family living at North Platte. The body was taken to North Platte. O'Brien was pulling No. 4 in the wreck here March 14, and his engine stood at the same spot that this accident occurred.

Moyer's Body Found.
Geneva, Neb., April 7.—The body of H. J. Moyer of Archer, Neb., formerly of Lincoln, was found in a draw by boys out hunting. A coroner's jury held the man had been murdered, but since a small amount of money was found on his body, Sheriff Ashton is inclined to believe it a case of suicide. Moyer left his family in Lincoln last January.

Robbers Baffled by Postoffice Safe.
St. Edward, Neb., April 7.—Four unsuccessful attempts were made to blow the money safe in the local post office. The robbers had access to several hundred dollars' worth of stamps, but left them untouched. The explosions were heard by several people, but no alarm was given.

Mosquito Bite Fatal to Girl.
Omaha, April 7.—Jessie Doris Walker, three-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Walker, died of malaria fever after an illness of three days. The attending physician pronounced the cause of the disease a mosquito bite, the little girl having been bitten in the neck by a mosquito.

Clay Center Superintendent.
Clay Center, Neb., April 7.—Miss Clara Schneller has been elected superintendent of the city schools for the coming year, present Superintendent, Spenciner not being a candidate. He will go on a ranch in Thomas county the coming year.

Kidnaper Denied Parole.
Topeka, April 7.—Joseph Gentry, one of the kidnapers of Marian Bleakley, the famous "incubator baby," was refused a temporary parole by Governor Hodges.

JOSEPH E. RANDELL.
United States Senator
From Louisiana Who Is
Fighting Free Sugar.



Senator Ransdell is leading the protest in Washington against the plan of the radical tariff makers to take off the duty from sugar entirely. The sugar cane interests of the south and the best sugar men of the west are backing him up.

MISSISSIPPI RIVER IS THREATENING

Father of Waters May Reach
Highest Stage of History.

Memphis, Tenn., April 7.—With the Mississippi river swelling toward what will probably be the highest stage in its history, the only report from the levee workers that might be regarded as unfavorable came from Biggs, Ark., south of this city, where a "boll" developed. Officials of the St. Francis levee board, who have supervision over this section of the levee, expressed the opinion, however, that the situation there was not serious.

MOVE TO CONTROL WATERS
Lane to Ask Federal Aid in Curbing of Floods.

Washington, April 7.—Secretary Lane will recommend to President Wilson and through him to congress that control of flood waters be dealt with in a comprehensive way by the national government. He reached this decision in part as a result of a conference with Dr. Aaronsohn, engaged in reclamation and irrigation work in Palestine.

Dr. Aaronsohn recommended that Sir William Willcox, the British engineer who built the Assuan dam, be consulted about the control of the waters of the Ohio and Mississippi rivers.

Churchmen Memorialize Morgan.
New York, April 7.—Memorial services for the late J. Pierpont Morgan were held in St. George's Protestant Episcopal church, of which he was a vestryman for forty-five years, and in which his funeral is to take place, probably on April 14. Each worshiper found in the rack before him a church bulletin recording the death of Mr. Morgan. The money wizard was a regular attendant and took an active part in the services, one of his accustomed duties being the passing of the collection plate.

River Stationary at Cairo.
Cairo, Ill., April 7.—Cairo now is passing what is supposed to be the crisis of the flood. The river practically is stationary, but is expected to remain at an extremely high stage for several days. Grave danger still menaces the city from the seepage through the levees, or from the results that might follow a high wind, which would dash the waters against the levee.

Life Losses in Ohio Large.
Columbus, O., April 7.—Basing their figures on reports received from field agents throughout the Ohio flood districts, officials of the Red Cross society who have been placed in charge of the relief work in this state issued a statement estimating that 454 persons lost their lives during the floods. Ohioans numbering 77,133 need aid for rehabilitation, according to the statement.

Chicago's New Morals Court Opens.
Chicago, April 7.—Chicago's latest venture in the suppression of vice, the new morals court, was officially opened this morning. The class of men and women with which the new court will deal will be chiefly those which in the past have been taken before the police courts from the segregated districts.

Youthful Robbers Slain.
Greenville, S. C., April 7.—Breaking into the basement of a dry goods store here, Leonard Smith, aged seventeen, and Rowley Martin, twenty-one years old, were shot to death by three policemen concealed in the place in anticipation of robbery. One of the officers was severely wounded.

EXTRA SESSION OPENS AT NOON

New Tariff Revision Bill Introduced in House.

WILSON TO BREAK PRECEDENT

President in Person to Present Message on Tariff Question—Executive Thinks He Can Better Express Himself—Will Make Suggestions.

Washington, April 7.—Both house of the Sixty-third congress got down to business in extraordinary session today. The Democratic tariff revision was introduced in the house.

The report submitted to the house accompanying the bill earned an average reduction of 50 per cent on the entire bill as compared with the present law. This, it was stated, is lower than the average reduction made in any tariff bill since and including the Walker bill in the 50's.

Important additions to the tariff free list, as reported, include: Raw wool, hogs' and shoes, hide leather, skins, meats, lard, salt, iron ore, timber, agricultural implements, sewing machines, typewriters, printing presses, road machinery, news print paper, wood pulp, cotton bagging, barbed wire and steel rails.

The bill, it is estimated, will result in a loss in revenue of from \$80,000,000 to \$85,000,000, as compared with the Payne-Aldrich law. The saving to the people, it is estimated by the Democratic experts, will aggregate several times this loss.

The house Democrats have been called to consider the bill in caucus tomorrow morning. At that time the question of procedure will be considered, whether the bill, including the income tax, be taken up as a whole or schedule by schedule. The prevalent opinion is that the entire tariff will be considered as one measure.

The president and party leaders having agreed upon free raw wool, there will be no trouble getting it through the house and the senate leaders propose that there be no kicking over the traces when it reaches a senate caucus.

It was asserted by some leaders that efforts of senators to dodge a caucus pledge on the wool or one-cent sugar with the free-in-three-years proviso would not be tolerated.

Clark Re-Elected Speaker.
When the house convened at noon the Democrats re-elected Speaker Champ Clark. The Republicans nominated Representative Mann of Illinois and the Progressives nominated Representative Murdock of Kansas.

The Democrats, with a majority of approximately 150 members in the house, contemplate little trouble in running things to suit themselves. In the senate the Democrats lined up with fifty-one senators, Republicans forty-three, Progressives two.

The senate had organized already for the new congress and its session was a mere routine meeting. Immediately afterward, however, a Democratic caucus will be held, when the fight to revise the senate rules will begin. This matter will occupy the senate for a part of the time that the house busies itself with its weeks of tariff debate.

Wilson in Person to Present Views.
Setting aside precedents of more than a century, President Wilson will appear in the halls of congress tomorrow to deliver his first executive message in person. He announced to Democratic congressional leaders that he would go to the floor of the house when it convened tomorrow and there give that body his views on the tariff.

This decision of the president evoked much comment among the congressional leaders. He will be the first president of the United States to appear officially before either branch of congress in deliberative session since John Adams in the first few years of the last century. An attempt was made exactly 100 years ago, in 1812, to revive the custom, but President Madison declined an invitation to discuss foreign relations with the senate. Since then no president has even suggested joining in the deliberations of congress.

President Wilson made his plans known to Majority Leader Underwood of the house, Representative Palmer of Pennsylvania and the other house Democratic leaders, that they might prepare for the event.

The president believes that he can get in closer touch with the members of both houses of congress by personally expressing his views to them. In addition to his official visits to the floor of the house, which will become a matter of White House policy, the president will take advantage of these visits to hold conferences with the party leaders in congress.

Will Make Suggestions.
The president has been told by his friends that such a procedure is fraught with embarrassments unless he tactfully keeps to his purpose of merely giving advice as the leader of his party and offering suggestions to those with whom he confers. Those who have discussed this with him say he is convinced that congress will not misunderstand his intentions, that he will go to the capitol in a spirit of friendly co-operation, so that there may be at all times a unanimity of purpose between the executive and the legislative departments of the gov-