

# The Plattsmouth Journal

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## THE PANAMA CANAL.

The Atlantic fleet will assemble off Panama in February, in a war game which may last for several days, and will test the fortifications guarding the canal. With this announcement it became known that a secret test last fall proved the fortifications were worthless. Many changes have been made and the naval officers are anxious to put them to a test. President Wilson has been urged to be present for the tests and is seriously considering making the trip. It was learned yesterday that after the fall maneuvers off Guantanamo last year the entire fortifications and canal lock masks were reconstructed after the naval officers had made their report. Even the mortars, which guard Christobal, the Atlantic approach to the canal, were placed five miles further outside the breakwater. The test was made at the request of Colonel Goethals, and the naval officers' reports showed that they were able to draw almost perfect maps of the canal locks and fortifications from their fire control towers at night. They proved that an enemy approaching at night could have destroyed the canal with ease. The maneuvers in February will be similar to those held last fall. Day and night attacks on the canal will be made. The fleet officers from the fire control towers, 128 feet above the deck, will direct the attack. The fortifications were reconstructed particularly to guard against a night attack of an invading fleet.

How many stars can you see on a clear night? The number has been estimated by competent authority at about 6,000. The stars you see, except four or five, are not worlds like ours. They are suns, presumably the center of systems much like our own, and probably around them worlds and satellites revolve. The difference between a world and a sun is very great. Our earth has a diameter of about 8,000 miles, while the diameter of the sun is 900,000 miles. But compared with any of the central suns in the northern constellations, our sun is but a mere baby light in size. Light will travel eight times around our earth in a second of time. The sun is so far away from the earth that its light reaches the earth after a journey of eight minutes. The nearest star is much more distant from our earth than the sun; the light we see in the nearest star was four and one-half years in reaching us. Some of the other stars are so far away that their light required fifty years to reach the earth; a statement so big that we cannot realize its immensity.

The women of Bavaria have been given the right to vote on the election of judges and officers of the Chamber of Commerce. British militants might take note that Bavarian windows are still whole, no houses have been burned and not a single statesman horsewhipped.

S. R. Barton says he may get in the race for governor next year if his father-in-law, R. L. Metcalfe, concludes not to run on the democratic ticket. Silas is very considerate of his father-in-law, and it may prove a good thing for him that he is. What's the matter with congress, Silas?

One would think that the speed craze had reached the limit of propriety when one reads of the incident that happened down in New York the other day when a funeral cortege were placed under arrest for exceeding the speed limit.

And now Metcalfe, the Panama governor, wants to give up \$14,000 salary to become governor of Nebraska at a salary of \$2,500 per year.

The special session of congress will soon be over. Senators and congressmen have certainly earned their money this year.

The Outlook that is assailing the Monroe doctrine is published in London. Nothing better could be expected from that source.

About the greatest frauds in existence for the tracking of criminals is bloodhounds. They are not a success in the chase.

A contemporary concedes that the world may be growing better, but it insists that there are too many 3-cent men riding around in \$3,000 autos.

Senator LaFollette of Wisconsin predicts the early passing of Roosevelt as a political factor. If Senator Bob isn't very careful he may sail in the same boat, with the glib of the tongue.

There is but one way to drive an automobile—the safe way. Too many are anxious to go fast when there is no necessity for doing so. Did you ever hear of slow, careful drivers getting hurt?

When the Colonial Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution of Maine finishes the memorial tablet to Benedict Arnold some society should raise monuments to Judas Iscariot and Lucifer.

It is said that the native residents of the Panama Canal zone do not admire the American methods of sanitation. They have to admit, however, that we constructed the canal, and that we have kept it clean.

Some men are such consummate chumps that they imagine that whatever they have ever done or expect to do is right, and what others have done or expect to do is wrong.

Life is short to give up all to business and nothing to pleasure or rest. Too many people defraud their stomach, head and heart until they have made a competency. When they expect to enjoy the pleasure of life they are generally too old, or their greed for money has dried up all the well springs of their being, and they are incapable of enjoyment. Devote your business hours to business and your leisure hours to innocent pleasure and wholesome amusement and the cultivation of such things as will make life pleasant.

Woodrow Wilson is one of the greatest men that ever sat in the presidential chair, and never before did the foreign nations have more respect for the chief executive of this nation. In handling the Mexican troubles he has displayed such great wisdom that the countries interested are confident that in time he will settle the trouble and that when it is settled, it will be settled right. Every loyal American citizen should feel proud that we have such an able and conscientious man at the head of the government as President Wilson.

The people little realize what a very great change has been effected in all the departments at Washington. The men at the head of them are attempting to run them in the interests of the people and not for the benefit of the interests. Secretary Redfield recently told some manufacturers whom he was invited to address, that if any attempt was made to lower wages, giving as a reason the lower tariff duties, a rigid investigation of that industry would be ordered by his department and all the facts connected with the business given publicity. It is to be hoped that they will keep on breaking precedents at Washington until all the old evils are abolished.

## HOLY! HOLY! HOLY! LORD OF HOSTS

Knowledge of God's Character Shall Yet Fill the Earth.

## GLAREER LIGHT SHINING.

**The Pastor's Special Thanksgiving. Character is Known by Plans and Works—Holiness Not an Empty Title—He That Doeth Righteousness is Righteous—He That Plans and Does Holy Things is Holy—God Has Been Slandered—in Bible Language Blasphemous—Evil Plans Attributed to Him—Satan, the Deceiver, to Blame—Doctrines of Devils Were Worked into Our Creeds in the Dark Ages to Turn Us From God and the Bible—Clearer Light Shining.**



New York, Nov. 30.—Pastor Russell spoke here twice today. We report one of his themes, from the text, "Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of Hosts; the whole earth shall be full of His glory." (Isaiah 63.) He spoke without notes as usual, saying in part:

Since shortly after the Second Century the Christian Church has been gradually led into a total misconception of the Divine character as manifested in the Divine attitude toward humanity. Little by little heathenish doctrines respecting an eternity of torture for all except the saintly, favored few, were preached. Gradually men with fervent spirit enlarged upon the errors until today the most horrible descriptions of the Almighty God are printed in Christian publications, creeds, commentaries, etc. No heathen people have ever pictured their god in so devilish a light. Ugly, fierce, devilish, though their idols be, they cannot compare with the Satanic descriptions which Christians in the creeds of the Dark Ages have given of the God of all Grace and Father of Mercies—1 Corinthians 1:3.

The noblest and best people in Christendom have abandoned the horrible teachings of their fathers, and are more and more worshipping the God of Love, the Fountain of blessings. But the world still judges our God by our printed misrepresentations of Him. In heathen lands, the missionaries are more blinded, perhaps, than ministers in the home land. The rein of orthodoxy is more tightly drawn on them. No wonder they can make little impression on the heathen, who openly declare that they could not worship so unjust and vicious a God as the missionaries present—a God who has already sentenced their forefathers to everlasting torture, because of their ignorance of Jesus, in whose name alone is salvation!

It appears to me, therefore, that to whatever extent any intelligent Christian today gives open or secret support to these slanderous, blasphemous statements, of the creeds he is responsible. Nor does it seem to be sufficient that either a Christian or a congregation here and there should privately disown these doctrines. Denominational names stand as representative of the doctrines which led to the formation of these denominations. Would not the only honorable way of rectifying matters now be either as denominations, publicly, openly and in round terms, to repudiate the slanders of the Deity; or, since this would be tedious work, should not each individual set himself straight by as public a withdrawal from such creeds as was his endorsement in joining? The latter surely is the surest and quickest method of rectifying the difficulty. Moreover, it is the right method; for the Bible never authorized any one to organize various sects and parties.

The Bible recognizes only one Church of Christ—"The Church of the First-born, written in Heaven." Every one who has accepted Christ as his Savior and consecrated his life to be a footstep follower of Jesus—all such, begotten of the Holy Spirit, are members of the one true Church. Their names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life, and they have the promise that they will be granted abundant entrance into His Kingdom in the First Resurrection—if they abide faithful. "Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life."

**Seducing Spirits—Doctrines of Devils.**

Let me not be misunderstood. I am not charging that these blasphemous doctrines were intentionally brought in to misrepresent God or to deceive the Church or the world. I prefer to take the Apostle Paul's explanation. He wrote prophetically, "I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtlety, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ." (2 Corinthians 11:3.) This is exactly what has happened. The Church of Christ has been beguiled by earthly favors, not only into a wrong attitude toward the kingdoms of this world, but, as St. Paul declares, from the simplicity of the Truth into a mass of confusing and blasphemous error.

First came the beguiling of the bishops into thinking that they were successors to The Twelve Apostles and

equally inspired authorities and mouthpieces of Christ. Thus the doctrine of Apostolic Succession was gradually established. Jesus prophesied of these, describing them as false apostles, "which say they are apostles and are not," but do lie. (Revelation 2:2.) As the bishops received credit as being living Apostles, the inspired words of Jesus and The Twelve Apostles whom He appointed took second place, and with the masses Bible study ceased as wholly unnecessary.

Upon this foundation, the great Adversary built, item by item, the terrible doctrines of purgatory and of eternal torture. When finally, in the Sixteenth Century, the Bible again began to be consulted, Satan so worked matters that some of our forefathers retained the Hell of indescribable torture for all except the elect few—repudiating because not Scriptural the only ameliorating feature—the purgatorial theory.

Their eyes blinded by the errors of fourteen centuries of no Bible study—the errors of human theories and doctrines of demons—can we wonder that the enlightenment of the past three centuries has come very slowly? Even when we were getting free from the errors, Satan, our wily foe, entrapped our forefathers into the making of creeds, and thus hindered further progress out of the darkness into the light, for which we all cry out,

**"Lead, kindly Light, Amid the Encircling Gloom!"**

The seducing spirits mentioned by St. Paul are surely none other than the fallen angels, of whom Satan is the chief, or "prince of devils." As St. Paul suggests, there is a similarity between the deception of the Church and the original deception of Mother Eve. Eve was beguiled into believing that God's threat, "Dying, thou shalt die," could not be true. The serpent declared, "Ye shall not surely die." Thus deceived by the serpent's lie, Mother Eve was ensnared and led her husband and our race into death.

And now note the parallel. The seducing spirits, the fallen angels, have sought to perpetuate in the Church the very same falsehood which misled Mother Eve. And they have succeeded. By visions, dreams, tipping tables, trance mediums, clairaudient powers, mesmeric powers, hypnotic powers, they have deceived the Christian Church, even as they had previously deceived the heathen, into thinking that the dead are really alive. Upon that foundation they have built the doctrine of the tortures of Hell and Purgatory, and subsequently, doctrines of masses and prayers for the deliverance of the dead from Purgatory, and doctrines respecting God's having fore-ordained and predestinated all except the Elect to eternal anguish.

**The Pastor's Thanksgiving.**

On Thursday last, when my heart went out to God in special thanksgiving for all the mercies of life, I gave Him special thanks that gradually the eyes of my understanding are opening, enabling me to see Him in the glorious light of His great, loving Plan of Salvation for the church and for the world. My thanks for all temporal mercies and blessings were dwarfed as the anthem of my soul went up, and I repeated the text of today, "Holy, holy, holy, Lord of Hosts!"

Ah! It is a blessed thought that God has already made provision that Messiah's Kingdom shall be established; that Satan shall be bound and shall deceive men no more; and that, instead of the darkness of ignorance and superstition, the glorious light of God's goodness shall shine forth, causing the earth to be filled with His praise!

With great patience God has permitted His plans and His character to be misrepresented and traduced. Yet we can see a wisdom in this; for eventually, when all the blind eyes shall be opened and all the deaf ears shall be unstopped, when all the delusions of the past—the hobgoblins of seducing spirits and the doctrines of devils—shall have gone, the Lord's precious character and loving provision for our fallen race will stand forth in glorious radiance.

**Whom to Know is Life.**

The Savior declares, "This is life eternal, that they might know Thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom Thou hast sent." (John 17:3.) Evidently He meant by this that whoever would have an intimate acquaintance with God must be received again into God's family; that those who do not come back into God's family will never know Him in the true sense of the word—be able to appreciate the glories of His grand character—His Justice, His Wisdom, His Power and His Love. Such knowledge is imparted only to those brought into the family and made partakers of God's Spirit.

In the present time only a very few of our fallen race are able to take the steps which lead to this intense, deep knowledge of Jehovah. The great mass of mankind are blinded by ignorance, superstition and the weaknesses of their fallen nature. But God is not content that merely the elect Church shall have this knowledge of Him and this opportunity for everlasting life. His glorious purposes encompass the world of mankind. His Divine arrangement is two-fold: first, that "all the blind eyes shall be opened and all the deaf ears shall be unstopped"; second, that "the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all flesh shall see it together," and that "the knowledge of God's glory shall fill the whole earth, as the waters cover the great deep."

**A Grand Hallelujah Chorus.**

We may be sure that when the true enlightenment shall reach humanity the real character of the Heavenly Father will be manifested, and there will be a hallelujah chorus on earth which will rival the Heavenly acclaim of "Glory to God in the Highest." It is not for us to say that all, or even the

majority of the human family, enlightened and set free from the bondage to Sin and Death, will become the willing servants of God, righteousness and Truth. We cannot judge from our own experiences. We must remember that God recognizes human free agency, the will; and that He seeketh only such to worship Him as worship Him in spirit and in truth.

The Scriptures make clear that only those who shall learn to love righteousness and to hate iniquity, evil—in the present time as members of the elect Church, or in the future Age as restored humanity—only such will be judged worthy of life by the Great Judge. Any sympathy with sin, after having known of its bitter fruits, and after having been recovered from the curse, will be a crime—an evidence of failure to learn the great lessons of seven thousand years—lessons of the exceeding sinfulness of sin—lessons of God's Justice in punishing sin—lessons in God's Mercy in providing forgiveness for our sins and release from them and from their penalty—lessons in the humility of our Redeemer—lessons in the cost of recovery from Sin and Death.

Whoever, after all these lessons, would still be sympathetic with sin, would, according to the Bible, be unworthy of everlasting life. For the Scriptures assure us that death is the penalty for sin, that the soul that sinneth must die, and that the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord, which will be given only to those whose enough and loyal enough to use it in accord with the great Creator's regulations and laws, framed for the benefit of His creatures and for the glory of His name.

**"Have Patience, Brethren."**

Those whose eyes of understanding are gradually opening to see the real glory of Jehovah's character as reflected in His great Plan of the Ages may well have patience with others who see not as yet. The fact that our own eyes were so long in opening, the fact that we were as honest and sincere before as we are now, should lead us to assume that the same conditions apply to our brethren, professed people of God, everywhere. Moreover, we are not to be judges one of another. Proclaiming the Truth in us, as nearly as possible the Bible words, we are to be content to deliver our Message and to leave to the Lord the results.

It is ours to point out the horrible confusion into which the Lord's people got during the Dark Ages, and which justified the Lord in calling the nominal church Babylon. It is ours to point out the Message of the Lord, saying, "Babylon is fallen, is fallen [from Divine favor]: Come out of her, My people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues." Whoever sees that the entire nominal church system of all denominations is the Babylon referred to by the Lord has the responsibility of the Lord's Message without any urging on our part.

Whoever sees the blasphemy of the Holy Name sees that misrepresentation of the Divine Plan, making the world drunk with the wine of false doctrine, has been among the crimes of Babylon, and should wish forthwith to come out of her, to shure no longer in her misrepresentation, however much blended with forms of holiness.

Whoever, after seeing the real character of Babylon and the horrible work which Satan has deluded her into doing, still has sympathy with her and with her work and with her blasphemous and distortions of the Truth—such persons deserve to share in the confusion that is shortly to come to Babylon when she shall fall as a great milestone into the sea.

"Light is sown for the righteous; Truth for the upright in heart." Those who do not receive the Truth as meat in due season have reason to fear that they do not belong to the class described by the Prophet as the righteous and the upright in heart. Honesty seems to be a quality which the Lord holds in very high esteem. The dishonest in word or conduct or in their thoughts are an abomination to Him, and should not expect to receive special favor or light or knowledge.

We may well imagine that the entire Millennial Age will be one grand Thanksgiving Day, in which the numbers who will praise God will be continually increasing as more and more they are awakened from the tomb. As their eyes shall see and their ears shall hear of the grace and love of God, every tongue will confess, while every knee will bow, not only to Jesus the Redeemer, but to the true God, Jehovah, who formed the Plan which the Millennium will execute.

**Praise to God in Heaven and Earth.**

The Master gives assurance that ultimately there will be no place where curses and blasphemy will be heard—no place where rebels against God and His goodness will remain. All such willful, intelligent sinners will finally be destroyed in the Second Death. Then will come the grand anthem of the Universe: "Every creature in Heaven, and in earth, heard I saying, Praise, glory, honor, dominion and might be unto Him who sitteth upon the Throne, and unto the Lamb, forever."

That will be the glorious Day mentioned by our Master in His prayer, "Thy Kingdom come: Thy will be done on earth, as it is done in Heaven." And because God's will shall be as completely done on earth as in Heaven, therefore sin, sorrow, sickness, pain and death will no longer be conditions on earth, even as they are not conditions in Heaven. There will be fulfilled the Master's words, that there shall be no more dying, crying, sighing for all the former things shall have passed away. He that sits upon the Throne shall have made all things new, and thus in His Messianic Kingdom God will have wiped away all tears from off all faces.