

# The Plattsmouth Journal

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### BLUE LAWS.

Some merchants in Iowa are complaining that the Sunday "Blue Laws" of that state are hurting the small towns, because the people there, finding no amusement permitted and having their time heavy on their hands, are enticed to larger cities where life is more exciting.

Without any reference further to the Sunday "Blue Laws" we see in that tendency, or reported tendency, a warning to the retail merchants of those small towns. It is up to the business men of such towns to make life interesting, or, if you don't believe in putting it that strong, if it at least good business for them to do so.

All over the middle west the tendency is growing to do something of that sort on the part of the merchants and other business men. You remember that many towns in your neighborhood, probably your own town, last year, had a market day, a booster day, a celebration, a county fair, a poultry show, an old home week, or something of the sort. Probably you have many of them, to say nothing of numerous hand concerts, etc.

As we have said before, there are a thousand people looking for amusement where there are ten looking for education, and the thousand probably have a great deal more money to spend than the ten. It may suit you individually to have a nice, quiet town, especially on Sundays, where everyone goes to church, goes home for dinner, and spends the rest of the day reading and resting, but there may be a good many of your customers who want some amusement. If it isn't right to have it Sundays at least, have the right kind on other days.

The retail merchants of any town or city have a right and a good business right, as well as obligation, to take a decided interest in the amusements and entertainments their town affords. All work and no play still makes Jack the same dull boy it always did, until Jack gets "wise" and is off to the entertainment and the excitement of the big city. If you want Jack to stay in town, to establish his family there and buy his goods of you, you will have to make your town at least interesting for him.

This is merely a suggestion for your consideration when planning the year's work for your Commercial club, or other similar organizations.—Omaha Trade Exhibit.

Commercial clubs, like all other organizations, can benefit the city only as the members take an interest and attend all the stated meetings when it is possible, and where the meetings are held at night it is always possible unless in cases of sickness. If Plattsmouth business men will take such interest in the city as they ought to the good that our Commercial club can and will do will prove amazing. It is the duty of every business man to attend the meetings regularly. There is always something beneficial you can suggest.

The court has declared that Lieutenant Governor S. R. McKelvie cannot make the race for governor. Poor fellow! That decision will completely break his heart. He did want to make that race, oh, so bad!

Mr. Metcalfe don't seem to care where they send him, so long as he can hold on to the \$14,000 salary. He is even willing to come back to his beloved Nebraska.

The country is promptly adjusting itself to the operation of the new currency law and the tariff, and men of big business seem willing to meet the government half way in the effort to better the condition of the masses.

The Mexican federals don't like us a little bit, but they preferred rushing over to the American side to backing up against Villa's adobe wall. About twenty thousand are now being fed by the United States down on the border, at an expense of five or six thousand dollars a day, and Uncle Sam pays the freight.

Colonel George W. Goethals has accepted the governorship of the canal zone. He accepts the position tendered him by President Wilson unconditionally, and not for any specific time, apparently disposing of the report that he would serve for a year and then become New York's police commissioner.

There is a vast difference in men who hold public positions, either elective or appointive. Some take right a hold and help push along everything that is calculated to benefit the town in which he makes his home. While others will do nothing of the kind while nursing the public beat. Which of these is the best citizen? This is an easy matter to decide.

Cole Blease, governor of South Carolina, has prepared his annual message to the legislature. Cole is unusually strenuous. He wants negroes, Chinamen and Japanese barred from the public schools. He suggests that base ball and foot ball are nuisances and they should not be encouraged in any educational institution, and he is particularly severe on smoking in restaurants and hotels. The practice of filling a dining room full of smoke is an evidence in his mind of degeneracy, and we are not sure but that Cole is right. It is another of those affectations which we have adopted from Europe.

What should the government do? Since its last mail-carrying contracts were made with the railroads, parcel post has been adopted and the railroads have been obliged to carry a greater tonnage than was anticipated when the contracts were entered into. Railroad companies claim they have been heavy losers. Were conditions reversed and the railroads had been the gainers some statesman, seeking an opportunity to make hay, would have got up in congress or in Missouri, demanded an investigation, started a lot of litigation and the courts would "sting" the railroads. Now that the railroads are the victims will they be given the same square deal that the people would have demanded?

It is explained that the Chicago surgeon's device is not to tell when one is hungry, but when one really needs food. But every owner of one would deem it as unreliable as a woman's watch and the repair bill would be entirely too heavy.

### JAPAN SORELY AFFLICTED.

Japan is sorely afflicted. This is our opportunity to strike. Burdened already to the very limit of endurance by the cost of the Russo-Japanese war, crop failures have left millions of her people at the point of starvation, says the Chicago Public. And now is added the horrors of volcanic eruptions, earthquakes and tidal waves. Seldom does such an opportunity come to a nation to overcome its opponent. This is our chance to render Japan forever harmless. One bold stroke now, and our Pacific coast will be as safe from Japanese invasion as the state of Colorado. This is the psychological moment. We may never again have such an opportunity. But it is not with dreadnoughts or super-dreadnoughts that the blow must be struck. It is not by any form of force that the Japanese are to be overwhelmed. Physical blow will provoke physical blow in return. Were we to over-awe Japan today with a great armada, she would assume yet greater burdens, she would starve yet other millions of her people to retaliate. But by sending her shipments of food instead of shipments of guns and armed men, we shall by one blow disarm her. The cost of a single battleship spent for food to save these starving men, women and children will do more to render our coast safe from attack than all the dreadnoughts we could launch. The price of one battleship expended in succoring these unfortunate people will save the building of twenty battleships in the future. Will our congress rise to the occasion? Never has a nation had a better opportunity to show its real worth.

To those who are watching Mexico it may be interesting to know that sixty-six years ago, February 2, the war between that country and the United States ended. From a fighting standpoint the war was a joke. Mexican soldiers were armed either with spears or antiquated guns and had less reputation for bravery than they have today. In an open engagement numbers seldom counted. One navy American soldier was equal to four or more Mexicans. The United States had no real excuse for going to war. The reason given was to help out Texas, which had proved perfectly capable of taking care of herself. Securing a lot of territory of the southwest was the real object of the United States had in view. But that war gave experience to a number of young officers who became noted generals in the civil war. On the Union side were Grant, Sherman, Thomas, Meade, Rosencrans, Hooker and Halleck. On the Confederate side were Lee, Albert Sidney Johnson, Jos. E. Johnson, "Stonewall" Jackson, Longstreet and others.

Pittsburg, Kansas, certainly possesses one of the meanest men on the face of the earth, if all reports are true. There may be others whose religious views are along similar lines. His name is Winsley, and he is a preacher. He seems to be the sort of a Christian who hanged witches in old Salem, but coming in later years, he takes it out on his own family. The offense that brings him into prominence and the police court is the beating of a 3-year-old child because it was reluctant about praying. Which seems to indicate that he is a helva Christian, to put it as mildly as one may. He who said, "Suffer little children to come unto Me," was willing to take them as they came, and the mere man who thinks he is superior to that standard is entitled to more than the police court can give him. Even savages are cruel only toward their enemies, and the evidence indicates this Pittsburg father has made a mistake; he has mistaken an ingrown growth for religion.

The February number of Will Maupin's Midwest is filled with interesting matter, and a man who takes so much interest in Nebraska and its affairs in general, is one who should be encouraged in his efforts in advertising the state—at least by all who believe in the grand commonwealth, subscribing for one or more copies of the Midwest. There are no abler writers in the state than Bill Maupin, and his attention in the direction of Nebraska and her resources cannot be duplicated, unless by himself. Good luck to Bill Maupin and his Midwest!

Harry Spencer will not be hanged for the murder of Mrs. Mildred Allison-Rexroat. The supreme court has granted a writ of supercedas on the ground that there might have been a mistake made in his trial. Talk about the glorious uncertainties of the law. Juries do their duties, but courts engage in all sorts of flub-dub.

The popular chord struck by the president the other day in his message to congress was his recommendation that individuals found responsible for violations of the anti-trust laws be made punishable personally by fine and imprisonment. That is the proper way, and President Wilson has the backbone to stand up for what he says.

Senator Gore, the blind senator from Oklahoma, has been sued by a woman who alleges that he grabbed and hugged her. The Journal man begs leave to remark that a woman who can't dodge a blind man should never leave her own fireside.

The Journal is not hankering for a newspaper fight, but have usually managed to look out for ourselves, and have always endeavored to attend strictly to our own business and would suggest to that man Hubner of the Nebraska City News that he do the same. He seems to be meddling in our affairs considerably of late because we choose to speak our sentiments on certain matters. We have been a democrat all our life and expect to die a democrat, and in the future will take the same privileges that he has taken in the past—supported men for office who are deserving and not otherwise, even after they are nominated. When a man whom we have assisted time and again to a position of trust proves false to us we assert our right to pay him in the same coin he has paid us. Our right to do that is none of Mr. Hubner's affairs, and when he allows himself to meddle he assumes the position of a jackanapes of the worst order. Men sometimes succeed in attending strictly to their own business, but never by butting in where they are not personally concerned, and we desire to assure our dear friend that we have never stepped from the democratic ranks.

Since the International Bible Students Association, of which Pastor Russell is President, successfully launched its world-wide program, in introducing motion pictures—scientific, philosophic, historic, Bible—in The Temple in New York City three weeks ago, where crowds are the daily order, it has had a series of remarkable successes.

The Cincinnati public gave the Photo-Drama a hearty welcome, both afternoon and evening, on the 28th, in its celebrated Music Hall, where the Drama continues to run twice daily; St. Louis' greeting in the afternoon and evening of the 23rd, in the Victoria Theatre, was no less warm, and capacity crowds witnessed both productions in the L. B. S. A. Temple at Cleveland on the 25th and since.

In presenting the Photo-Drama here this afternoon Pastor Russell stated that the motive of the enterprise is purely philanthropic; that the movement is supported by voluntary contributions only, and that the world-wide campaign will progress as rapidly as the Lord's providences will permit. This is not a solicitation, he said. We never solicit! We merely state the facts and thus give opportunity to all to co-operate as much or as little as they may desire.

In his sermon in the forenoon Pastor Russell discussed that feature of the Photo-Drama which relates to Christ's promise, "Behold, I make all things new." His text and discourse follow: "Behold, I make all things new." (Revelation 21:5) He said:

The Bible intimates that the seven days of the ordinary week are typical of seven great days, each a thousand years long. Thus St. Peter declares that a Day with the Lord is as a thousand years. At the beginning of man's week he was perfect, as represented in Father Adam; but disobedience to the Creator brought upon him the curse, "Tying, thou shalt die." Under that curse our race has been steadily going downward mentally, morally and physically to the tomb—the Bible Hall—Sheol, Hades.

Man Alone Cannot Conquer. Men have struggled against the curse, but to no avail. Today our race is assailed by more ailments and weaknesses, mental, moral and physical, than were ever known before. Our jails, penitentiaries, asylums, hospitals, all bear testimony to this fact. Even the morals of the world are appearing at as low a state as could well be imagined, after all our preaching, after all our manufacture of holiness, devils, and holes to frighten humanity and thus to drive them to church, to religion, to morality.

Is it not true that we should acknowledge our failure and cry to God for help as we perish as a race? Not only have we not converted the heathen world, but we find the civilized world retrograding, and statistics show us that crimes increase on every hand in spite of the preaching of eternal torture. Surely we may well say, "We have wrought no righteousness in the earth." "We have done those things which we ought not to have done and left undone those things which we ought to have done; and there is no health in us."

Man's Extremity Is God's Opportunity. While we were crying to the Almighty for His compassion and did we heed His Message. He assures us that He had help upon One mighty to save to the uttermost all who accept His aid. It is this Savior who eighteen centuries ago died for us, "the just for the unjust," to open up the way for our return to God's favor. During the Gospel Age He has been gathering out an elect Church, to be His associates and joint-heirs in a coming Kingdom. It is He who with His elect Bride, the Church, will reign for a thousand years. He will bind Satan that during this period he may deceive the people no more. (Revelation 20:3) He will use His great power as King of

## PASTOR RUSSELL'S CREATION DRAMA

### Gospel Campaign by Motion Pictures Has Good Headway. OPENED IN TOLEDO SUNDAY.

In Discourse Pastor Russell Points Out Man's Original Perfection—Reign of Sin and Death—A Sad Spectacle. Thousands of Millions Dead—Hundreds of Millions Dying Weak in Body, Weak Mentally, Morally, Physically—Human Power Has Failed to Arrest the Malady—Man's Only Hope is in God—Messiah God's Appointed Agent—To Redeem, to Regenerate, to Make New—Soon He Will Deliver the Groaning Creation—Nothing Shall Hinder—Blessings Will Be Outpoured.



Toledo, O., Feb. 1.—Pastor Russell presented his Photo-Drama to crowds at the American Theatre here today, afternoon and evening in Parts I, and II were exhibited. Part III, and IV, will be shown tomorrow. The exhibitions are given daily and free, and collections are conspicuous by their absence.

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things and Lord of lords to put down sin in its every form. Meantime, as the great antitypical Priest after the Order of Melchizedek, He will bless, instruct and uplift the people from their weakness, mental, moral and physical. Thus He will be making all things new—bringing all things to the perfection of the original Divine purpose.

"According to the Promise." The Savior's works at the First Advent—healing the sick, opening the blind eyes, casting out demons and awakening the sleeping dead—were merely typical illustrations of the greater work which He with His glorified Church will accomplish amongst men during the great antitypical Sabbath. Thus Jesus and His Church, as the antitypical Seed of Abraham, will fulfill the Divine Promise made to Abraham, saying, "In thy Seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed." St. Paul points us back to that same Promise, saying, "Which Seed is Christ; \* \* \* and if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's Seed, and heirs according to the Promise."—Galatians 3:16, 29.

Alas, many have taken the misrepresentations of God's character in the creeds of the Dark Ages too literally! The result is that many have gone to insane asylums. Others have been driven away from God to pleasure or to sin, in their endeavor to forget Him. Others have been made very unhappy as they thought of friends and neighbors, kind and good, who have made no profession of walking in Jesus' footsteps. Alas, that we should have so misunderstood our great Creator's character and Plan! Although we did it ignorantly, adding to the Word of God human traditions, we, nevertheless, have suffered for our carelessness and temerity.

Christendom's Great Mistake. Gradually Christendom fell into the great mistake of disregarding God's Word and believing Satan's lie, as the heathen do. God declared that the wages of sin would be death—the extinction of life. Satan contradicted this and falsified to Mother Eve, assuring her that there would be no death penalty. Satan and his fallen angels have insidiously sought to perpetuate his lie by telling us that when our friends appear to die they really become more alive than before. In accepting their testimony we have been doing what the Apostle cautioned us against—giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of demons.—1 Timothy 4:1.

Do Not Deceive—"The Wages of Sin is Death." The evil spirits have seduced Christendom, as they have seduced the entire heathen world—by giving feigned communications between the dead and the living. Satan and his demon host have full knowledge of all the affairs of humanity. It is an easy matter for them, therefore, to personate the dead, and through spirit mediums, witches and wizards, planchets, tipping tables, writing pencils, visions and dreams, to represent them as still alive.

The heathen indeed are excusable for falling into these seductive snares; for the heathen have no revelation from God and no warning against these evil spirits. But how shall we excuse ourselves, to whom God committed the Oracles of Truth, which clearly tell us that the dead know not anything, that there is neither wisdom nor knowledge nor device in Sheol, Hades, the tomb, whither all are going?

Do not the Scriptures tell us that these demons, not content with seducing us from the Truth and teaching us doctrines of devils which dishonor our Creator, go further than this and, wherever possible, possess poor humanity, dispossessing the human will and acting through the human body? Did not Jesus and the Apostles deal with such possessed persons, casting out demons? How strange, therefore, that we should have forgotten all these lessons and taken Satan for our instructor! How strange that we should believe the unreasonable lie and disbelieve the true testimony of God, that the wages of sin is death, and that the soul that sinneth it shall die!

Blind and Deaf We Were. Even when we had in our hands the Word of the Lord we made it of none effect by believing Satan's lie. When we read in the Scriptures that the wicked shall perish, that all the wicked will God destroy, we were hoodwinked by the seducing spirits into interpreting perish and destroy to mean everlasting life in torment. It is a wonder that a Christian hope could be held at all under such an avalanche of error! Those who triumphed down through the Ages, we may be sure, were upheld by the precious promises of God's Word, which negated their fears and led them often to say, Alas, we do not understand it; but we trust the Lord, that He will do right.

Now, as the dawning light of the New Dispensation increases, we perceive more clearly where our mistake was. Bible students the world over are beginning a fresh study of God's Word in its own light, and are receiving the oil of joy instead of the spirit of heaviness. Now they see the Resurrection Hope, and perceive that it is based upon the fact that Christ died for all; that the First Resurrection will be for the saintly few who have followed the Master's footsteps; that it will be a higher than human nature—to the Divine nature; and that these glorified ones will be sharers in Messiah's Kingdom, which is to bless the world. Now they see that the world's blessing also will be a resurrection, not to human perfection—a lifting up, not only from the sleep of the tomb, but also from all the weaknesses and imperfections of the flesh, back to the perfection lost in Eden and redeemed at Calvary. Thus our great Redeemer assures us that He will make all things new.

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"The Restoration of All Things." The Master's declaration that He would ultimately make all things new is the equivalent of the message given us by St. Peter. He declared that "times of refreshing shall come," the opposite of the curse. He declared that then would come "Times [or years] of Restoration of all the things which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy Prophets since the world began." Other Scriptures show us that those Times, or years, of Restoration will be one thousand. In other words, they will cover the entire Seventh Day—Acts 3:19-23.

Making all things new again is merely restoring all things to their original, perfect condition. This is the Restoration of all things which God has spoken by the Prophets. This is the lifting up, the resurrection, of the dead world. Adam fell from his perfection in the image of God. His restoration, His making new again, will include not only the awakening from the tomb, but the ridding out of all the weaknesses and imperfections which accompanied his dying, back to what he was at the beginning, a perfect man in God's image—"very good!"

Door Open to All of Adam's Seed. Had Adam remained perfect, his children would have been born perfect. All our imperfections, then, are part of the curse which has come upon us through heredity. To speak of the wiping away of the curse is merely another way of telling of restoration, renewing, resurrection. This work will begin with the establishment of Messiah's Kingdom, and will give each member of Adam's race the fullest opportunity of resurrection, restitution, renewing.

The basis for this favor was the ransom-price which Jesus paid for Adam and his race when He died, "the Just for the unjust," to bring us back to God. The penalty which Jesus paid for us was not eternal torment, but the death penalty—and likewise the recovery, or salvation, or saving, will not be from a hell of torture, but from the tomb—the Bible Hall. Without God's interference on our behalf Adam and all his race would ultimately have perished, as do brute beasts. God's Remedy has been Christ's sacrifice, to make satisfaction for our sins, to be followed by Christ's Kingdom—the Kingdom's uplifting influences to save the willing and obedient from sin and death.

New Heavens and New Earth. In the symbolic language of the Bible the heavens are sometimes used to represent the spiritual powers—the church; and the earth to represent civil and social organization. The Bible represents that the present heavens and earth are out of accord with the Divine purposes, and are to pass away with a great commotion.

We understand this to mean that in the end of this Age the nominal church systems and all the ecclesiastical powers of the world will fall into confusion, disruption, and pass away. Speedily will follow similar conditions in the social and political earth. It also will pass away with great commotion, confusion. This destruction is symbolically called fire. But the Lord has promised a new heavens and a new earth—established along better lines and principles—in full accord with the Divine will. In this, we read, righteousness will dwell.—2 Peter 3:7, 12, 13.

The new heavens will not be the church nominal. It will consist of Christ and the elect Church, gathered out of all the nations and denominations—saints. It will be the very ideal of righteousness, the Divine ideal, and will be given the control of mankind for a thousand years. Gradually during those thousand years a new earth will develop—activity will be organized under new conditions—in harmony with the regulations of Messiah's Kingdom. This is another picture of how our Redeemer as the glorious King will make all things new.

The Grandeur of the New. God through the Prophet declares, "Be ye glad and rejoice in that which I create." "For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind." (Isaiah 65:17, 18) So far superior in every way will be the New Dispensation that none will even think of making a comparison or calling to mind the things of the present time—except by way of remembering the lessons, experiences, etc., learned under the present sad conditions of the groaning creation.

The new creation will be gradual, not sudden. The entire thousand years of Messiah's Kingdom will be necessary for the perfecting of the fallen race, the establishment of God's will on earth on the same absolute plan that now dominates in Heaven. As there is neither crying, sighing, nor dying in Heaven, because there is neither sin nor death penalty there, so it will be on earth. There will be no crying, sighing or dying and no sin here, because sin, with all its dire effects, will be thoroughly purged away by the Messianic Kingdom, in its uplifting work of a thousand years. All the willfully wicked will be destroyed.—Psalm 145:20; 2 Peter 2:12.

The glories of the perfect condition are beautifully represented to us in the words of our Savior, when He tells us that after all of the human family shall have been brought out of sin, to perfection, ignorance and superstition, back to full perfection, and all the disobedient destroyed in the Second Death, then every creature in Heaven and on earth shall be heard saying, "Praise and honor and dominion and might be unto Him that sitteth upon the Throne and unto the Lamb forever."