

The Plattsmouth Journal

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THOUGHT FOR TODAY.

The habit of viewing things cheerfully and thinking about life happily may be made to grow up in us like any other habit.— S. Smiles.

Still, if the corn and wheat crops triumph, what the summer has in store for the Federal league will make little difference to most of our teeming population.

The democratic city primaries are to be held in each of the five wards on Saturday evening, March 21. Ward committeemen should get ready for these meetings.

It is probable, however, that the government will get its Alaskan railway built in time to deliver your share of the peoples' coal before the beginning of another hard winter.

Andrew Carnegie, the celebrated peace-maker and armor plate manufacturer, lately announced that times are getting better, although he isn't in a position to know much about the rigors of a hard winter.

The news from London indicates that Great Britain may change her mind about the participation in the Panama exposition. The reasonable assurance that the United States will keep inviolate her treaty may have had something to do with it.

The matrimonial lectures of a deaf mute married couple must be interesting. Since both talk with their hands it is necessarily a hardship for the wife to have to strike a match to get in the last word.

While many men have been arrested and brought to trial for murders alleged to have been committed thirty or more years before the arrest, has anybody ever been convicted after such a lapse of time?

Referring to the world over, it doesn't take much of a mystery to baffle the police. Still, every one knows how to run a police department, just as every one knows how to conduct a newspaper or a church.

Men scorn openly to be interested in women's small talk and harmless gossip. But it is frequently noticed that husbands will read a book in the "back" parlor for an entire evening without turning a page when a number of women are swapping news and views in the "front" parlor.

Omaha Bee: Put it down that there is nothing vicious or dangerous about a well conducted pool hall any more than there is about a well conducted theater or picture show. It all depends on the kind of place kept, on the kind of folks who patronize it and on the kind of proprietor who runs it.

If the pictured face of Villa's Mexican wife, which is going the rounds of the newspapers, is a true likeness of the one he is forced to sit opposite at meals, much clemency should be extended to him for his Villa-nous disposition.

Why are so many newspapers for government ownership of telephones, telegraph and railroads? The government doesn't advertise a thing, especially in the smaller papers.

France has invented an inflammable part that will enable aeroplanes to burn buildings. But any capable English suffragette can do that and keep both feet on the ground.

The voters will not be compelled to wait much longer to know right where Governor Morehead stands as to running for re-election for governor or will be a candidate for congress. We are satisfied that he will stand for the democratic nomination, but some people won't be satisfied until the governor says so himself.

There is a certain tendency on the part of the public to criticize the railroads because of the charges they make, but there are but few people consider the great expense the railroad has in maintaining traffic. When there is a wreck, which is liable to happen at any time, thousands of dollars' worth of property is necessarily destroyed and if there are any fatalities occur the railroad companies are face to face with the payment of heavy damages in addition to the loss on their own rolling stock and tracks.

More school room is a matter that interests every parent in this city. The school rooms have all been over-crowded during the winter months, and the only way to remedy the condition is to build another building. And this means that the bonds will have to be voted to provide money to do the work. There will be some who will oppose a bond issue, but no man who has children attending our public schools or those who have children who have graduated from our High school should oppose the providing of larger quarters, and we do not believe they will.

The parcel post has given the express companies such a terrible jolt that the companies are now fighting against any further extension of the service. One man declares that if this thing goes on they will be sending bales of hay and barrels of sugar through the postoffice. Well, we once knew a member of congress who franked a cow from Washington to his farm in the west, and it was a common thing for congressmen to send their washing home to save laundry. It was franked both ways. The express companies have made enormous sums, and until old Tom Platt fell under the malign influence of Mrs. Janeways the companies had fat picking, without any competition. But the wheel turns, and sometimes the worm does the same. The only thing that saves the express companies now is that senders are obliged to go to the postoffice building with their packages. The express companies call for them. When parcel post packages can be sent from sub-station then the express companies will feel the iron entering their souls. For a long time the country has demanded this reform, and were beaten by the corporations, but at last the measure was put through, and the result of it is that under the fierce competition the express companies are now advertising lower rates and better service.

GOVERNOR MOREHEAD.

Omaha World-Herald: The Lincoln Star, at a time when candidates for governor are presenting themselves with attractive programs, pays deserved tribute to Governor Morehead for the record of fulfillment he has made with respect to the program on which he was elected. Governor Morehead, it says, has kept constantly in view his pledge to promote economical, honest and efficient government, has kept steadily on the job, and has secured results.

This is commendation that the present governor has earned. He has proved to be what it was hoped and promised he would be, a "good business executive." He has lopped off useless expenses, simplified and consolidated the machinery of government so far as was possible under existing law, stopped petty graft, promoted and demanded efficiency, and kept his skirts clean of improper influence, whether political or otherwise. He has adhered strictly to his promise not to use his office to build up a political machine for his own aggrandizement. While he has made mistakes, as all men in important positions must, he has been level-headed, conscientious and scrupulous in the performance of his duty. And he has shown a refreshing degree of independence and courage, as when, in spite of the most powerful influence, he appointed Harley Moorhead election commissioner of Douglas county.

The American people are very quick to find fault with and criticize a public official who does not give satisfaction—frequently, too, when he is doing his best. They are not always so quick to commend faithful and efficient service as it should be commended. Yet one is nearly if not quite as important as the other. John H. Morehead, the present democratic governor of Nebraska, is entitled to an appreciative word from all Nebraskans who realize, and appreciate the fact that he has performed and is performing his duties with dignity, courage and efficiency.

Rev. F. C. Atwood is the pastor of the First Presbyterian church in Brookfield, Mo. Miss Harriet C. Meyers is the daughter of the editor of the Brookfield newspaper, known as the Linn County Budget. He attacked the minister, alleging that the man of God had kissed his daughter. Therefore he demanded \$5,000 damages. Mr. Atwood freely confessed that he had kissed Miss Meyers, but only on the side of the head above the ear. He did this because the young lady asked him to feel of her arm, which he took as a sort of a challenge, which he accepted. The jury returned a verdict for the man of God, holding that when a pretty woman invites the attentions of a member of the other sex he is no man at all if he doesn't respond, and this is the conclusion that most of the members of his congregation hold as one of those fundamental facts on which rest the authority of the church.

If our schools are crowded to the extent that is reported, every sensible voter knows that something must be done to secure more room. A new building will have to be erected, rooms rented somewhere down town or some of the smaller scholars will have to remain at home. More room is inevitable, and it will have to be provided one way or another. It is simply a question of a very few years when a new building will have to be erected, and why not now?

A marriage certificate should be looked upon as a peace treaty. But some men seem to consider it a license to raise hell and abuse their wives.

Some of the slouchy effects in styles for women's skirts these days reminds one forcibly of Abe Martin's knee-bagging trousers.

Hysteria may not be successful in working reforms, as former President Taft declares, but it is a fact that efforts to work reforms sometimes leads to hysteria.

That was an awful hard jolt that Victor Rosewater got in the vote on the new charter last Tuesday. Vicky isn't so much in Omaha any more. What will his next scheme be?

The women bouncers in London are no more effective than the policewomen of Chicago in dealing with militant members of their sex. They are a great failure in Chicago.

According to the juries, grand and petit, who have heard the testimony, there has been some decidedly rotten blackmailing and attempts at blackmailing and shyster law practice at Omaha.

There are ancient ruins still to be excavated, and the scientists will be disappointed if they do not discover in some of them the original automobile and the remains of a primitive telephone line between the Roman and Trojan forums.

The Journal would like to hear from some of the largest taxpayers in reference to the school bonds. They are the people who are most interested, and whom the shoe pinches the hardest. Write us your opinion in regard to the matter for publication.

There is no fuss and feathers about President Wilson. He is going right ahead, paying very little attention to republican criticism, doing what he thinks is right, and receives the praise of a great majority of the people of the country.

Republicans are criticizing the administration's Mexican policy bitterly. But what would they have us do? The only way to protect the interests of Americans and other foreigners in that country of rebellion, bandits and cut-throats, is to send an army into the country. That would mean war, the sacrifice of thousands of valuable lives and the spending of more money than the value of all Americans own in that land.

The postmastership at Lincoln is still hanging fire, but it promises to be decided in a short time. That old war horse in the democratic party, Frank Brown, who carried the capital city twice for mayor, and has been a worker in the democratic party all his life, is a candidate for the position, and we are betting marbles to chalk that he won't get it. The party workers don't get anything. It is the fellows who stand off and views the battle that get the promotions.

Chris Grunther don't seem to be getting the collectorship very fast, notwithstanding the endorsement of Senator Hitchcock. The powers at Washington are simply playing horse with one another and nearly every move they have so far made has injured the democratic party. We think Chris Grunther deserves the position, and if one faction is not going to stand for the appointment to office of a member of the other faction, then who will be to blame for a split in the party? If some fellows are simply in the democratic party for office then the sooner they step down and out the better. It should be borne in mind that Champ Clark carried Nebraska, and if an applicant for office is blacklisted because he supported the speaker for president, then there is bound to be a day of reckoning.

EARTH TO BECOME MAN'S PARADISE

How This Will Be Done Is the Gospel Message.

THE WORLD'S REGENERATION

The Earthly Paradise—Lost Through Disobedience—Redeemed at Calvary. Messiah's Great Work—The Restoration of Paradise—"The Story of the Cross"—Importance of Character-Development—Its Effect on the Future Life—The Heavenly Paradise. Who May Attain It—How—The Alternative of Paradise, the Second Death, Everlasting Destruction.



PASTOR RUSSELL

March 15.—Pastor Russell today depicted the beauties of Paradise, so well presented in his free PHOTO-DRAMA. His text was, "I will make the place of My feet glorious." (Isaiah 60:13.) He said:

Paradise is another name for the Garden of Eden, the abode of bliss. It was lost through the sin of our first parents, but the gracious promise of our great Creator is that this condition of earthly bliss shall be re-established—not merely in a little corner of the earth, but that the whole earth shall become the Paradise of God. Heaven is God's Throne and the earth is His footstool, and He assures us, "I will make the place of My feet glorious."—"In due time." How this will be done is the Gospel Message.

The Divine Promise to Father Abraham, that all the families of the earth shall be blessed through his Seed, includes the thought of man's full restoration to Divine favor—as before he sinned and fell, before Paradise was lost, before man came under the curse, or sentence, of death. The Jews hoped that Messiah would come and constitute their nation the earthly Kingdom of God and re-establish Paradise with Palestine as its center. They expected that under His wise ministrations, using their nation as His instruments, the Divine Law would extend to all and, by bringing all people into harmony with God, would gradually bring all back to the Paradise state.

The Garden of the Lord.

It was in full harmony with this that the dying thief asked the Lord to remember him when He should come into His Kingdom—the Kingdom whose dominion would establish righteousness in the earth, and thus convert the world, under Divine favor, into the Paradise of God. Our Lord's answer was that verily, truly, his request should be granted—the thief would yet be with Him in Paradise. Paradise has not yet been established; for God's Kingdom has not yet come to earth; it delays until a certain work for the Church shall be accomplished.

It is not the Divine purpose to make of the nation of Israel God's Kingdom in the highest sense of the word, though it will be actively identified with the Heavenly Kingdom as its earthly representative. God is selecting during this Gospel Age a new nation, Spiritual Israel, from every nation, people, kindred, tongue. At our Lord's First Advent and subsequently, He gathered from Israel such as were saintly and ready for the Kingdom; since then He has been taking out from other nations enough to complete the foreordained number of the elect Church. These will constitute the Kingdom *per se*, and it cannot be set up or established in power until this election, or selection, shall have been completed and the Elect "changed" or glorified on the spiritual plane, by the power of the First Resurrection.

Paradise, or the Garden of the Lord, not only represents that earthly condition which will be restored for the benefit and blessing of the natural man—as the reward for his obedience to the rules of Immanuel's Kingdom during the Millennial Age—but it also applies to the glorious and Heavenly position which God has in reservation for the Church. Thus we read in the Book of Revelation that God has promised to the overcomers of the Church, "To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the Tree of Life, which is in the midst of the Paradise of God."

The World's Regeneration.

This is a grandly beautiful and symbolic message and promise, assuring us of the happiness and Heavenly bliss in eternal-life conditions of all who are faithful followers of Christ in the present Age—walking in His footsteps in the Narrow Way. The Book of Revelation pictures the history of this Gospel Age down into the Millennial Age and shows us Paradise re-established, the River of Life is pictured as flowing from under the Throne. On either bank of its crystal waters of Truth and Grace grow the Trees of Life, after the manner of Eden of old.

The future state will all be Paradise. The completeness of blessedness will first be manifested in the Church on the spiritual plane; and secondly, it will be manifested in the Ancient Worthies on the earthly plane—Abra-

ham, Isaac, Jacob and all the holy Prophets perfected, the earthly representatives of the Heavenly Kingdom. Gradually the Paradisaic condition shall fill the whole earth. The wilderness shall blossom as the rose, the solitary places shall be glad, and streams shall break forth in the deserts, as we read in Isaiah 35.

The morally lame shall learn to walk in the paths of righteousness. Yea, they shall leap for joy as they come to a knowledge of the grace and goodness of God. The world's eyes of understanding shall be opened and their deaf ears shall be unstopped, that they may see and hear the Goodness, the Mercy, the Justice and the Love of our God. "The willing and obedient shall eat the good of the land," but evil doers shall be cut off in the Second Death. Gradually the boundaries will be spread abroad until they will include the whole earth. Gradually the number enjoying Paradise will increase until, in the end of the Millennium, the entire race of Adam shall experience the privilege of God's Love and Mercy through Christ.

St. Paul, like St. John the Revelator, saw the glorious things of the future Age, which he was not permitted to explain to us, because the due time had not yet come. Neither was St. John the Revelator permitted to reveal fully the particulars of the Paradise condition. He could merely give us a few symbolical hints or suggestions respecting the glories of Paradise restored.

Redemption Through Christ.

We have already noticed that Paradise was lost through disobedience to the Heavenly command. Life, Eden bliss, Divine favor and fellowship, were all lost to Adam and to us, his children, under the death sentence. There was no hope for any of us more than for the brute beast; for while the latter was born to die, man, created with possibilities of life eternal, was sentenced to the loss of all. Indeed, under the demoralizing influences of sin and death, we find many of the human family more degraded than the brute creation and apparently less worthy of Divine favor. But God, rich in Mercy in the great Love wherewith He loves us, has provided for mankind a recovery from sin and death, while He has made no provision for the future life of the brute creation.

God's provision for man's recovery from the sentence of death is the story of the "Cross of Christ." Because a man had sinned, the Redeemer must be a Man. Because the penalty was human death, a Perfect Man must die for the sinner's release from the death sentence, to uplift the willing out of sin and death conditions—up, up, up to fellowship with God and eternal life. Because the race of Adam inherited naturally his mental, moral, and physical defects, therefore none of his posterity was worthy of eternal life. But in the Divine arrangement, as Adam involved all of his children and their Paradise home in the wreck of sin and death, so a redemption has been effected through Christ.

The great work of Messiah will, therefore, be the restoration of the world to all that was lost in Eden and redeemed at Calvary. The work of Restitution, St. Peter tells us, has been spoken of "by the mouth of all God's holy Prophets since the world began" and will be accomplished by Messiah at His Second Coming (Acts 3:21). But the Divine Plan changes not. Sin is still abhorrent to God and will always be so, and the Divine sentence is that no sinner shall have eternal life. Hence the offer of Divine grace is merely to all who may have a heart-desire for Divine assistance, resurrection, restoration, uplifting out of sin and death conditions to perfect conditions. These things will be accomplished only in those who are willing and obedient. Only such "shall eat the good of the land"—the fruits of Paradise.—Isaiah 1:18-20; Acts 3:23.

Furthermore, it is the Divine arrangement for mankind, and a just one, that every good and noble deed in the present life works a measure of character-development which will be assisted in the future life, enabling the faithful the sooner to mount up to full perfection of earthly life. Correspondingly, every wilful sin, every violation of conscience and principle, works a defilement and impairment of manhood, which likewise will have its effect upon the future life in the difficulty of rising out of degradation to the heights of human perfection. Divine approval and everlasting life. If all mankind could appreciate these facts, what an influence it would have in restraining and governing self and in developing self control and true manhood!—Galatians 6:7.

The Divine Program.

Does some one inquire why He who redeemed Adam, his Eden home, and all his race, and who proposes a restoration of all, has not begun this Restitution work during the eighteen hundred years since the sacrifice of His Divine Program is being carried out. The Lord is gathering the elect Church from Israel and all the nations to be Messiah's assistants in His Kingdom and in the gracious work of uplift—resurrection—restitution. This elect Church-class, first selected, is in the Scriptures called "First-fruits unto God of His creatures." (James 1:18; Revelation 14:4). The world of restored humanity will be the after-fruits.

The Scriptures exhort such as in the present time are blessed with the hearing ear, to give heed to the special invitation to the Elect. They exhort such as have the eye of faith to aspire to the crown of glory and joint-ship with Christ that is now being tendered to a very select class. "He that hath an ear, let him hear." He

that hath an eye, let him see. So many of us as have been blessed of the Lord with the ear of faith, the eye of faith, let us rejoice in the blessed opportunity. Let us seek indeed to make our calling and election sure in this Heavenly estate of glory, honor, immortality and joint-ship with our Lord, the King of kings and Lord of lords!

Christ's Atonement.

Both the thieves crucified with our Lord lost their right to the original Eden, or Paradise, of God through Father Adam's disobedience, as did we all. Both those thieves were born in sin, shapen in iniquity and in sin did their mothers conceive them, as with us all. Both thieves were redeemed by the precious blood of Christ, as were we all; for Jesus "by the grace of God tasted death for every man"; "He is the Propitiation for our sins [the Church's sins]; and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world."—Hebrews 2:9; 1 John 2:2.

Thus, as we have seen, the Redeemer has made provision for both of those thieves, as well as for all of us—all of Adam's race—to be recovered from the sin and death conditions of the fall, and restored to Paradise. The Church, called during this Gospel Age, may reach the spiritual Paradise, or highest condition of holiness and happiness. The two thieves and the remainder of mankind will have their opportunity during the Millennium. Their opportunity will be for a return to earthly life, perfection and happiness, and to an earthly Eden—world-wide. How much grander a work will thus result from our Lord's death than we had previously supposed!

Let none suppose, however, that those two thieves will enter Paradise on the same footing. While both were guilty of robbery, they were evidently dissimilar in the condition of their hearts. The one was hardened, as evidenced by the fact that he could speak so rudely to the Redeemer, whose face bespoke gentleness, purity and innocence of crime. "If Thou be the Christ, save Thyself and us!" (Luke 23:39.) Such cruelty implied a deep degradation of mind—implied that he was sin-hardened.

And yet we must remember that others of the multitude standing by used similarly cruel language. We must remember, too, that there are many thieves who are not caught; and that there are many, perhaps as morally wrong, as evilly intentioned, who, for fear of the consequences, never committed the wrongs. We can even suppose that some of the Scribes and Pharisees and Doctors of Divinity of those days were in God's sight much worse than the impatient thief—murderers at heart and in deed. Yet of the latter St. Peter declared, "I wot, brethren, that through ignorance ye did it, as did also your rulers," when you crucified the Lord of Glory. "Repent ye therefore and be converted."—Acts 3:17-19.

An Earthly Paradise.

Ignorance, superstition and inherited depravity all bore down upon the impatient thief to a degree which we are not capable of properly estimating. The Lord will judge him—both thieves—all mankind. The penitent thief will unquestionably have a twofold blessing: first, he will be blessed for his penitent attitude of mind; second, he will be blessed for his faithfulness in expressing that penitence and in showing mercy to our Lord in His distress. Our Lord declared that even a cup of cold water given to the least of His disciples shall have its reward. Surely it will be in harmony, then, that the penitent thief will have a reward for his defense of the Master.

That reward will consist, first of all, in the blessing of his own heart through the action therein of the merciful sentiment. A reward will come to him in proportion to the exigencies of the occasion and the greatness of the One whom he loved. If the one who favors a righteous man will receive a righteous man's reward, and the one who favors a prophet will receive a prophet's reward, surely the one who favored the Redeemer will receive a special reward, such as the Redeemer might be expected to grant.

The penitent thief manifested not only sympathy, but honesty. He said to the other, who rallied at the Lord, "Dost thou not fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation? And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward for our deeds; but this man hath done nothing amiss." (Luke 23:40, 41.) It is entirely in keeping with the general teachings of the Lord's Word that the honest-hearted and the merciful shall have special blessings. Those blessings cannot reach them in the grave, and it is not always that just returns reach the deserving in the present life. Virtue is not always its own reward.

Our Lord declares the truth on the subject, assuring us that such shall be "recompensed at the resurrection of the just." That is to say, when the just, the justified, the Church, shall have been awakened in the First Resurrection, and when the Heavenly Kingdom shall have been established amongst men, and the general awakening of the world from the sleep of death shall gradually follow, then every good and every evil deed, every good and every evil act, will be recompensed—in Paradise.

Let us be glad and rejoice that the Divine arrangement is a Paradise—an earthly Paradise, possible to every member of the race; and a Heavenly Paradise, possible to every member of the Spirit-begotten Church; and that the alternative of Paradise is not eternal torment, but everlasting destruction—the Second Death. Finally, every creature in Heaven and earth shall be heard saying, "Blessing, honor, glory and power be unto Him that sitteth upon the Throne, and to the Lamb forever and ever."