

The Plattsmouth Journal

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ARE YOU ONE?

What is a grouch? He is the most miserable of all mortals. He is worse off than a man with eczema, tetter, ringworm, itch, scabbies and rabies. He is sour on the world and sour on himself because the world does not respond to his beck and bid. He sees things in his dreams. Every man is his enemy and he snaps and snarls at everything like a blind rattlesnake in August. He is so assume that people pity rather than censure him. He will abuse people who never harmed him in the world. If people pay no attention to him he becomes as irritable as a baby wanting the nursing bottle. To relieve his disturbed feeling he frequently goes into a back alley and kicks himself and then goes home and rubs liniment on himself. He then chuckles and declares that he had a kick coming and got it from himself instead of some one he previously defamed. Of all the miserable mortals on earth the grouch is the most miserable. In his waking hours he is thinking how to demean people and in his sleeping hours he is dreaming the same thing, just as the whole world loves a lover, so the whole world hates a miserable grouch.

All fears that the June bride-crop will be short have already been dissipated.

It is a mistake to become so lame working in the garden that you can't dance the tango.

Pastures were never greener or fresher. But will that fact have any effect on the price of milk?

Secretary Bryan announces he will be on the chautauqua circuit again this summer. He is being very much criticized for this, but we find no good ground for objection.

It is said that Ringlings will go out of business because there are no boys in the family. Go ahead with the circus. The audience will borrow boys enough to make a showing.

Richard Harding Davis writes that the day the American flag is withdrawn from Vera Cruz, "Anarchy will follow." Follow the flag? Perhaps "censure" would have been a better word.

The mediators seem to be considering everything except the only matter which caused the sending of the marines to Vera Cruz. When does Huerta aim to fire those twenty-one guns?

It is said the two men who paid \$25,000 for the Manhattan Nationalist are deaf and dumb and blind. They used to be post-masters, and probably bought the newspaper so they can write long editorials.

Even though only a minority stockholder in the Colorado Iron and Fuel company, Mr. Rockefeller might be able to argue the majority over to his side if he used all his powers of persuasion. The possibility makes the attempt a duty.

It is estimated that the Roman Coliseum accommodated 80,000 spectators and that the Vespasian amphitheater had room for 87,000. Now, St. Louis comes to the front with a boast of the largest place in the world where the crowd can hear as well as see.

While the earthquake shock at Colon did not effect the canal locks, it made many Americans tremble for the \$100,000,000 investment.

Senator Root says that former Charge O'Shaughnessy is the best mixer he ever knew. Even with that fact in view, Huerta insisted on taking his straight.

John L. Kennedy and State Auditor Howard will contest for the republican nomination for congress in the Second district, with chances about even.

The thief who returned a microscope he had stolen from the Washington university, felt conscience stricken after he got a larger view of things.

A Michigan man who selected his wife from a matrimonial catalogue has deserted her. Which shows that the females are as undesirable as the mail order houses.

The man with the courage of his convictions may not be quite so universally popular as the wishy-washy fellow, but he is far more dependable and the friendship he forms are the lasting ones.

The republicans of Missouri, in their recent convention at St. Louis, invited the moosers to come back into the fold. But their attitude toward the latter was anything but cordial. It is not because they love the mooser so intensely that they invited them to come in, but because they could be helped by their votes.

If Governor Morehead will keep his own counsel in the management of his campaign he will fare better in the end. There are generally to many advisers who have not yet completed their apprenticeship. The governor has more friends in Nebraska than any other one man, but we would caution him to beware of "false friendship." And there are many of such critics in the democratic party.

John T. Anderson, a limotype operator on the World-Herald at Omaha, died very suddenly at his home in Council Bluffs Wednesday evening of heart disease. He was 56 years old, and a veteran at the printing business. "Jack," as we knew him in days gone by, worked for Colonel Bates of the Journal thirty-five years ago at Shelbyville, Illinois, when linotypes were unknown, and was at that time a fine compositor. We visited him a number of times at the World-Herald office since we have been a resident of Plattsmouth, and it was always with a happy greeting. Peace to his ashes!

It has become a custom of that man Hubner, of the Nebraska City News, to try to regulate the utterances of the Journal. We would again advise the editor of the News to attend more strictly to his own affairs, and perhaps he would not find so much time to pay to our business. There is a democratic ring at Lincoln, and no one knows it better than Hubner, but he dare not express himself because of some favors coming through the ring in regard to the Nebraska City postoffice, and Hubner has been the chief fegleman of that ring in Nebraska City on that account.

"Foundations of Confidence."

The Springfield Republican calls attention to "one very important cause of the unsatisfactory business condition which cannot be hidden by any amount of denunciation of politics and demagoguism." It is a cause which Colonel Roosevelt did not mention when he heaped blame on the democratic administration at Washington. It is a cause seldom if ever alluded to by politicians and business men who charge "hostile" and "threatening" legislation with the responsibility for business distress.

"Corporate finance and corporate management in this country," says the Republican, bluntly, "are directly responsible for very much of the public distrust and lack of confidence which make a forward movement in American business so hesitant at this time." And the Republican summons as a convincing witness the "Railway Age Gazette," a very conservative publication that no one could accuse of unfriendliness to the large financial and corporate interests. The Gazette speaks out in meeting in this candid fashion:

"The New Haven is not the only railway that has been Mellenized, and such revelations as have been made regarding the financial management of some roads are enough to shake public confidence in railroad management in this country. The situation is worse than that. They are enough to shake the foundations of the confidence of the people of this and of other countries in the financial management of all kinds of business concerns in America, for the men directly or indirectly responsible for the mismanagement of railroads are as largely interested and as potent in manufacturing, mining and other industries as they are in the railroad business."

The great danger is that the disclosures regarding the conduct of the Mellens, the Yoakums and the rest of their ilk, will cause the passage of more radical legislation than the conditions justify. If excessively drastic legislation shall be passed, we trust that there will be no hypocritical wailing from Wall street about ignorant public hostility toward railways and about the public being misled by demagogues. The buccaners in Wall street and the fools and cowards in Wall street, who let the buccaners work their wills, are the chief authors of such legislation. It is a toss-up whether the demagogues or the highbinders of finance are doing the more to bring all the details of business under the regulation of public officials. Eugene V. Debs, Morris Hillquit and Upton Sinclair think that they are the real leaders of the socialist movement in this country. They take themselves too seriously. The real leaders of socialism in this country are such men as Charles S. Mellen, B. F. Yoakum and the directors of the New Haven, Frisco and other roads, who are too crooked, cowardly, indolent or incapable to perform the duties of their positions.

"If people are looking for bottom causes of present business conditions," remarks the Republican, "they should not overlook elements of that character."

Who can gainsay it? Who can wonder if those hundreds of thousands of people who save their money and are anxious to invest it safely and profitably are timorous when they read about the "buccaneer" management of large corporation properties? Perhaps, if the truth were known, they are even more afraid of dishonest managers who plunder the corporations than they are of the "radical" lawmakers who want to take steps to insure their honest management.—World-Herald.

"Old Sol" is getting right down to business, and his warm rays are getting somewhat oppressive.

Every person's friend is a friend to a certain extent only. Therefore, to be safe, treat every friend of today as though he may be your enemy tomorrow, and you will hit it nine times out of ten.

Fully half of the millions of patents of which models are stowed in the patent office are worthless, a fact it is well to bear in mind when an enthusiastic reformer is pushing some panacea.

The veteran negro watchman at Washington's tomb not only causes all visitors to remove their hats, but he cries so beautifully when he talks of the Father of His Country that they usually give him a quarter apiece.

Sam McKelvie will not be a candidate for governor this year. The poor fellow has tried every crook and turn in the road, and gets no consolation from any source. You can get in the running two years hence, Sam.

Not much interest is taken in the speeches made by Vice President Marshall, but the public will listen intently when the time shall come for him to pronounce the doxology on the present session of the United States senate.

Will Theodore Roosevelt be the presidential candidate of the reorganized republican party in 1916? This is a question that is being quietly discussed at Washington among regular republican leaders with a view of feeling out the sentiment, and it is stated that the suggestion is meeting with more approval than might have been expected so soon after the terrific campaign of 1912.

There are but few men in Nebraska that take as much interest in state matters as ex-Congressman Pollard of Nehawka, this county. Mr. Pollard not only is greatly interested in fruit growing, but he is constantly looking after many other matters of interest to the farmers in general. A few men like Earnest Pollard would be a great help to Nebraska. There are, perhaps, many just as good men in our great state, but they do not seem to take the same interest in the affairs of the state at large.

Ross Hammond has evidently forgotten that he changed his mind when he was a candidate for the United States senate eight years ago and withdrew from the race. Now he says, in his paper, the Fremont Tribune, in speaking of Governor Morehead, that "the only trouble is the governor repeated it upon every stump two years ago." The only difference between the governor and Ross is that the latter said it in his paper eight years ago and the governor said it two years ago. If folks feel like changing their minds they'd just as well do so in two as in eight years. Everyone changes his mind at some stage of the game, and forget it. "What is sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander," and don't you forget it.

From the present outlook there seems to be no question as to the re-nomination of Governor Morehead. And that Harry Sackett, the progressive candidate, and Ross Hammond, the republican candidate, will both be nominated. That would naturally mean Mr. Morehead's election. With Sackett and Hammond dividing what was formerly the republican strength, nothing can change the situation, although there is plenty of time to make many changes, and a possibility of "mediation" in both progressive and republican camps. Governor Morehead's excellent administration is a big feather in his cap, and he would get a large vote from the republicans—men who believe in supporting an official who has been careful and fearless in performing his duties as governor. There is no question as to the governor making many new friends since his election two years ago.

A SURE FOUNDATION THE WORD OF GOD

The Bible the Most Wonderful Book in the World.

BASIS OF CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Many Losing Faith in the Bible as the Word of God—Cause of This Great "Falling Away"—The Light of Today in Conflict With the Darkness of the Past—Difference Between Faith and Credulity—Basis of Confidence in the Bible—Proofs of Its Inspiration. Proofs That It Is Not Man-Made—A Firm Foundation For Full Assurance.



PASTOR RUSSELL

June 7.—The Photo-Drama of Creation, which is being exhibited throughout the United States, is awakening a new interest in the Bible. Many who have seen the Photo-Drama have expressed their satisfaction with its beautiful presentation of the prominent features of Scripture and with its clear explanation of some points which long have puzzled critical people. Whoever sees it thereby obtains a grasp upon the Bible as a whole. The public are certainly grateful to Pastor Russell, through whose instrumentality this wonderful work of art is being exhibited free.

Today the Pastor's text was, "Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of Truth."—2 Timothy 2:15.

We are all sadly aware that not many of the people of God have the full assurance of faith mentioned in the Scriptures, the speaker said. Indeed, we must admit that the great majority are losing, not only their faith, but also the foundation of faith. For years the great colleges of Christendom have been undermining faith by undermining belief in the Bible. While they do not make an attack upon faith itself, while they still admit that faith may have its place as a grand quality of character, and that the Scriptures instruct for faith, yet they proceed to do the very same kind of work that Robert Ingersoll and Thomas Paine tried to accomplish—to undermine confidence in the Bible as the Word of God. That confidence is the very basis of all faith.

After we have lost our confidence, what have we left for a foundation of belief? We have merely what is called Higher Criticism and Evolution; and this means that after a little process of reasoning along these lines many would conclude that the Bible is merely a collection of choice pieces of ancient Jewish literature, written by men who really knew less than do we.

The Pastor then demonstrated that those who reject the Bible as the Word of God have no other foundation for whatever faith they may possess than the guess of this or that man, or of themselves. He pointed out the well-known fact that all men are more or less imperfect in judgment; and that if men were to picture God there would be as many different styles of God as there are different persons.

The speaker illustrated his point by calling attention to the numerous creeds formulated during the Dark Ages and to the different kinds of Gods those different creeds have pictured. The noblest minds of that time were deceived into worshipping the worst kind of images that could be made. He declared that while the heathen nations were making their ugly idols out of wood, stone, clay or metal, the nations of Christendom were picturing whatever descriptions of God the like of which could not be moulded out of clay or fashioned out of anything else. He was not finding fault with our forefathers, but with the real instigator of the credal misrepresentations of the Almighty. As St. Paul declares, "The god of this world hath blinded the minds of them that believe not, lest the light of the glorious Gospel of Christ should shine unto them."

The Cause of the Falling Away.

Then the Pastor showed that the eyes of many Christians are not wide open for the same reason that St. Paul gave the Corinthian Church. The god of this world has fastened the bandages so tightly that it is with difficulty that any get the eyes of their understanding open. Again, St. Paul foretells that in the end of this Age "many shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of demons." The Pastor declared that we have come to the time when many are denying it—good people, intelligent people, ministers of the Gospel in the various pulpits, professors, theologians, college presidents—confessing that they have lost the basis of their faith.

We are not to suppose for even a moment that these people who are falling away from the faith are wicked. On the contrary, they are well-intentioned—many of them fine people. But they have gotten under a delusion. In the light of the New Dispensation the delusions of the past are coming up constantly for criticism. Indeed, so constant is the conflict between the light of the

Gospel and the darkness of the creeds that people "see stars," so to speak, and are so astonished that they do not know what to think.

Next the Pastor demonstrated that the great difficulty with people who are losing their confidence in the Bible as the Word of God is that they are not familiar with its contents. Many are still holding to the Scriptures in a blind way, hoping against hope that they may not lose their faith. They lose the very small amount of faith which they possess. If only such knew it, they never really have had a well established faith.

Faith Versus Credulity.

The Pastor proceeded to point out the difference between true faith and that which is often misnamed faith, but which in reality is credulity. The faith commended in the Scriptures is that which relates to things which God has promised. Our forefathers, he declared, had too much confidence in men. They swallowed the creeds of the Dark Ages; and the more absurd the proposition, the more faith they thought they had. They should have asked, "Where has God declared such things?" He maintains that we should accept by faith only what the Lord has assured us of in His Word.

We have made a great mistake as to what faith really is, he thinks. Faith must have a basis, and that basis must have some intelligent presentation. To believe in the Bible as the Word of God merely because our parents did so is not faith at all; heathen peoples do just as well as that—they believe as their parents did, without investigation. But to have faith in the Bible we must have proof that it is of God; and to have that evidence we must understand the Word.

The Pastor holds that most people are so perplexed that they do not know what to believe. And yet, he declared, at this very time when Higher Criticism is undermining the foundation of all faith, and when many listless people are afraid to think along Scriptural lines, Bible students are finding the Word of God to be the most wonderful Book in all the world! God's Plan for human salvation was never so well understood as just now, in the midst of all the turmoil in the denominations, in the great institutions of learning and in the world.

Proofs That the Bible is Inspired.

The Pastor then discussed some of the so-called findings of Higher Criticism—that Moses did not write the Pentateuch, nor Isaiah the greater part of the prophecy which bears his name, etc. These critics, he declared, are trying to prove something by the outside of the Bible. Their so-called findings he believes to be a matter of mere guesswork, although, as some of them are very bright men, they put up a strong argument in some things. They will undertake to prove that Jesus was mistaken when He declared that Isaiah the Prophet said thus and so; that St. Paul was also mistaken when he quoted from the Prophet Isaiah and said, "Thus saith the Prophet Isaiah; that Isaiah did not write the book which bears his name—or if he did, that it was fulfilled before the Christian era, notwithstanding Jesus' assertion to the contrary.

The Pastor, like all reasoning Christian people, relies upon the internal evidence of the Bible that it is the Word of God. That internal evidence cannot be doubted. The Old Testament prophecies and the teachings of the Lord and the Apostles so interlock and depend one upon the other that no human being could possibly have thought out the great Plan (divine founal. All the way from Genesis to Revelation the parts so co-ordinate and fit together that one great, harmonious plan—the Ages is the result. Another strong proof of the inspiration of the Bible is furnished in present-day conditions, which were foretold by the Prophets thousands of years ago.

Bible Not Man-Made.

Then the speaker considered some of the objections to the Bible usually brought forward by infidels. He showed that it is a weak argument indeed which credits priests and knaves with writing the Sacred Book. If Catholics had made the Bible, they would naturally have put into it many things which are not there; for instance, they would have told about the Mass, about Purgatory, hell-fire and eternal torment, of which there is nothing said; they would also have intimated that we should use beads and images in worship; they would have had something about the immaculate conception of the Virgin, and about St. Peter's being the first pope, etc.

If, on the other hand, Presbyterians had written the Bible, they would have put in a great deal about Hell, about Election-making infants, etc. Methodists would have left out all about Election-making one's calling and election sure, the Very Elect, etc.—for they do not know what to do with those texts. Our Calvinistic friends would have left out the texts about free grace; for these do not fit with their ideas of election. All these denominations would have inserted something in regard to "the trinity"; for they all hold that this doctrine is the very essence of faith, although it is not mentioned even once in the Bible! The Pastor's conclusion is that clearly the denominations did not make the Bible.

From its own standpoint, the speaker continued, the Bible is very simple and fully explains itself. He did not wish to be misunderstood as "making fun" to the denominations; for he realizes that these devout people mean well, but he believes that the whole world is greatly injured by the false conceptions of God's character handed down from the Dark Ages, and that many people are going after sin today who would, if they had a right knowledge

of God, be following after righteousness. Many men have been led to drinking and all sorts of debauchery and sin merely by reason of not seeing the real God; for if any one see Him, he is sure to love Him. Mankind are so made that worship is natural.

Notwithstanding the six thousand years of falling, there is in every man's brain, unless he be an idiot, the quality of reverence, which impels him to desire to worship his Creator. But, according to St. Paul's argument in his letter to the Romans, although man was created perfect, there came a time in the history of the fallen race when men were unwilling longer to retain God in their minds; and then the Almighty gave them over to reprobate minds, to do improper things, and to sink lower and lower in degradation. Then it was that the "doctrines of demons" were inculcated into the human mind, so as to keep men in ignorance, darkness and superstition. The god of this world blinds the minds of those who believe not—blinds them by these various false doctrines which once God's people believed.

The Pastor then gave the two views of the Almighty which once obtained in the thoughts of many Christians. One side of our minds, as it were, pictured God as the great representative of Satanic energy, bent upon destroying nearly all the creatures whom He had brought into the world. The other side, somehow, imagined Him as kind, loving and merciful. But we did not know how to balance these two sides. Fortunately for us, however, we got the devilish side subordinated, and thought of God as loving, and by going to Him daily in prayer we tried to forget the devilish part. The whole world has been more or less in this condition.

But, thank God! said the Pastor, we are in the time when the path of the just is shining more and more unto the perfect Day. That Day is now so near that we can almost see its dawn. In a little while the Church of Christ will have been fully gathered—out of every people, nation, kindred and tongue, out of all denominations.

Full Assurance of Faith.

The Pastor then explained how the consecrated people of God may have full assurance of faith. In His Word God tells us that by nature we were children of wrath even as others; that Christ tasted death for the whole world, and that by and by He will give human life, restitution life, to all who will receive it; but that meantime the call is for those who will separate themselves from the world and be "a peculiar people, zealous of good works"—of everything that is God's will—and ready to lay down their lives in doing that will. Those who know that such is the teaching of Scripture have a good basis for faith. Those who have taken the steps of repentance for salvation, of consecrating themselves to God, now have by faith all those graces of character reckoned to them which the world will actually receive during the thousand years of the Reign of Christ. To the consecrated the Father has fulfilled His promise by giving them a measure of His Holy Spirit.

Let us not should misapprehend his meaning, the Pastor explained that the Holy Spirit is not now manifested in the same way that it was in the early Church. At that time it was manifested in a miraculous way—with outward evidences, such as tongues, miracles of healing, etc., attesting that those who received these gifts were acceptable to God as members of His Church and had been begotten of the Holy Spirit. But after the Church had been established, there was no further need of such manifestations. Throughout the remainder of the Gospel Age the Holy Spirit has manifested itself only by the fruits of righteousness—meekness, gentleness, patience, brotherly kindness—love. When the miraculous gifts ceased, these fruits and graces of the Spirit continued.

The Pastor concluded with an exhortation that the people of God see to it that they daily grow in grace and in knowledge, becoming more and more like the Lord Jesus in character. Our Lord said that every tree is known by its fruits. Are we bearing good fruit? he asked. Are we having more and more fellowship with God and with our Lord Jesus? Are we getting into deeper and broader sympathy with all of the Household of Faith? Are we coming more and more into sympathy with the poor work in its fallen condition, and with every good effort to help them up out of such conditions? If so, then we have evidence not only that we have believed in the right Book and in the true God, but that we are the children of God and heirs—joint-heirs with Jesus Christ our Lord.

We shall be tested as to our willingness to suffer with our Lord. This does not mean suffering for wrong-doing; for St. Peter reminds us that a Christian who suffers as a busybody in other men's affairs is not suffering for Christ's sake. Perhaps one-half of the suffering in the world and in the Church results from busybodying. But the people of God are not to suffer as evil-doers. They may be misrepresented as evil-doers, but such suffering is not for evil-doing, even if they be so blamed. But "if any man suffer, let him suffer as a Christian." The speaker reminded his hearers that Jesus Himself was accused of being an evildoer, a blasphemer, an injurious person; and so were the Apostles—all their persecutions were on that score. But what the Apostle Peter says is that if you suffer let it be for something right that you have done, in harmony with your covenant with God, in harmony with God's Word and will. Those who suffer as Christians should rejoice therefore, for the Spirit of God and of glory rests on all such, and they may have full assurance of faith.