

BILLY SUNDAY UNIQUE; HIS VIRTUES AND FAULTS

Prelude to Pastor Russell's Stirring Sermon.

Kindly but pungent dissection of Billy's furor—False preaching abominable to God—God and man dishonored by false doctrines which preachers do not believe—instilling superstitious fears a crime—If the Bible does teach that eternal torture is the fate of all except the saints, it should be preached, yes, thundered, weekly, daily, hourly, if it does not so teach, the fact should be made known and the foul stain dishonoring to God's holy name removed.



PASTOR RUSSELL

February 21.—Pastor Russell spoke today from the text, "I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ." (Romans 1:16) Prior to his sermon he made some kindly but pungent remarks on "Billy" Sunday, "the most noted preacher of our day." The Pastor would not depart from his custom and the Bible rule, "Speak evil of no man." His remarks merely appertained to "Billy's" preaching of the Gospel.

"Billy" Sunday catches the public eye and ear by the novelty of his methods. Some go to hear him laudate the preachers on the platform behind him, and to watch their faces and see them smile as though it were a good joke when he tells them that their preaching has made the churches cold storage places with little storage, or when he likens them to the Scribes, Pharisees, hypocrites, of old, or when he tells them that they are leading their congregations straight down to Hell. These things told in the newspapers seem so astounding that people must see and hear for themselves.

"Billy's" Chair-smashing Proclivities. Others go to hear "Billy" because it is the "fad." Business men and electric and steam railway managers realize that thousands will come to town as they would to a circus. They bring pressure to bear upon the poor preachers; for "Billy" wisely insists that he will not come and save the citizens from Hell if there is any competition in the business—insists that all the churches close down. Under the pressure the preachers cannot help themselves and try to make the best of it, hoping that people will not take "Billy" seriously as respects their hypocrisy, etc., and assured that he will divide the spoils evenly amongst all the churches—not the financial spoils, but the souls for "cold storage" or to be let down to Hell.

Others attend to see "Billy's" acrobatic feats, jumping onto a table or smashing a chair; others because they have been invited to be of the large choir; others to say that they have heard "Billy" Sunday. The worldly stage is, "Nothing succeeds like success," and every time "Billy" succeeds he has more success.

Amongst "Billy's" virtues we should not forget the fearless way in which he attacks the social customs and sins which assail the family and the community, the fearless way in which he tells the preachers what he really thinks of them and what the masses of the public think of them, and the above-mentioned manner in which he bargains the result of his efforts for cold cash—the meeting of the expenses and the giving to himself of certain collections for himself and his troupe. If the Gospel must be sold, it is better to have it done in the open rather than in the name of the heathen, the collectors getting the most.

To the extent that "Billy" Sunday seeks to defend the Bible against the Higher Critics, to the extent that he really shows up the coldness, formalism, hypocrisy of the Church of Laodicea (Revelation 3:14-17), to the extent that he encourages righteousness of life and discourages drunkenness and lewdness, we can surely wish him Godspeed, and trust that some good is accomplished by him, in awakening the people to do some thinking for themselves along religious lines.

Some of "Billy's" Sunday's Faults. The Pastor said that if he reports that "Billy" prayed to God most irreverently, and addressed the Redeemer as "Old Pal," were true, then "Billy's" influence on the public would lead on in the direction in which the world is now rapidly moving anyway—toward irreverence. He hoped that "Billy" would become more reverent, and believes that this result would follow a better knowledge of God. He could scarcely reconcile with honesty "Billy's" attempt to tie up all the souls he saved in the churches which he denounced were cold storage plants leading down to Hell. He wished that "Billy" would reconcile these opposites.

the Laodicean Church, which the Bible styles Babylon, and declares that God spews out of His mouth. (Revelation 3:16) Next Sunday the Pastor will discuss the Second Coming of Christ, viewing that great event and Messiah's Kingdom from a somewhat different angle from Billy's.

The Pastor declared that it makes his blood boil with righteous indignation to find Billy's preaching a practical endorsement of the God-dishonoring theory that the great mass of humanity are to suffer eternal torment because they were born in sin, misshapen in iniquity (Psalm 51:5), and then failed to live uprightly lives. True, "Billy" does not explain Hell. Like most preachers he probably hides his true thought on this subject, while allowing the common people to think that he believes in a Hell of eternal tortures. The Pastor could not believe that Mr. Sunday or any other intelligent man of our day really believes this invention of the Dark Ages, which antedates the Bible as well as common sense.

Mr. Sunday and all other preachers who realize the fallacy of this great "doctrine of devils" (1 Timothy 4:1) owe it to the people who trust them and who make up their collections, to tell them the truth. More than this, they owe it to God that this foul stain upon the Divine character be denounced. They owe it to themselves as men to stand for and speak out the truth and to assist in opening the eyes of the poor, deluded world.

The Pastor hopes that Mr. Sunday will yet realize that no one can long maintain a moral standard higher than that which he attributes to his God. The injustice and persecution of centuries is largely attributable to the false doctrines which represent the Creator as a demon who unjustly and unlovingly created our race with the knowledge and intention that nine hundred and ninety-nine out of every thousand would endure an eternity of torture. Of this as a Gospel the Pastor has been ashamed for forty-four years. A better understanding of the Bible has led him since to preach

The Not-As-hamed Gospel of Christ. Beginning his discourse the Pastor said, "Everybody knows that the word Gospel signifies Good Tidings, as in the angel's Message at the birth of Jesus—'Behold, I bring you Good Tidings of great joy, which shall be unto all people.'" Who is responsible for the fact that this Message of Joy to all people has been almost completely around to mean bad tidings of great misery to all people—except to an elect handful? The fact is that no person deliberately plotted this turning of God's Word upside down. It is the work of the Devil, who gradually foisted it upon the Church as well as upon the heathen world, with the view to turning people away from God and the Bible.

St. Peter and St. Paul both predicted the falling away of the Church and the success of the doctrines of demons. "The god of this world [Satan] hath blinded the minds" of all unbelievers. If it were not for these delusions of Satan, the whole world might speedily be brought to know, to admire, to love, the true God. The Apostle continues, telling us why Satan blinds men—"lest the light of the knowledge of the glory of God" should shine into their hearts." Wherever the true knowledge of God shines into the human heart, it presents the Almighty in such glorious character as to demand the reverence of His creatures. Hence Satan's endeavor to blind men's minds through false doctrines which misrepresent the Almighty's character and Plan.

But while we Scripturally hold that Satan had chief responsibility in the matter, it is not for us to say that the clerics of the Dark Ages did not more or less connive at the error, trusting that it would make the people subservient to the clergy, through whom they might hope to escape future tortures. But leaving the past and its responsibilities, we may surely say that great and grave responsibility rests upon the preachers of today for their perpetration of this great deception—this fraud upon the people, slander upon the Almighty and opposition to the Truth. Of the degree of this wickedness only God is capable of judging correctly; but it is wicked to keep the people in darkness on the subject, and it is slanderous blasphemy against the Divine character.

There is no question that nearly all ministers privately confess that they do not believe these slanders, while publicly they continue to speak words which give the opposite thought. The time when such horrible assassination of the Divine reputation can prosper is surely short. Messiah's glorious Reign will make an end of all such lies; as it is written, "I will lay justice to the line, and righteousness to the plummet; and the hail shall sweep away the refuge of lies."—Isaiah 28:17.

God's gracious purposes for the world—that through Christ's Kingdom the blessing of Restitution (Acts 3:21), everlasting life as perfect human beings in a world-wide Paradise, has been made possible for all mankind through the Redeemer's sacrifice, and that as soon as the Church shall have been glorified, the blessing of the world will begin to be accomplished fully during Messiah's Reign of Righteousness. We leave for next Sunday the discussion of the beautiful teachings of the Bible vs. the teachings of Mr. Sunday, the Adventists and the creeds on this subject.

Only—"to Every One That Believeth." Only a comparatively small number of humanity have opportunity of believing during this Age. Messiah's Kingdom will give the whole world an opportunity of believing in Christ—not merely those living when Messiah's Kingdom will be set up, but as the Bible says, "All that are in their graves shall hear the voice of the Son of God and shall come forth" from the grave—not from Heaven, not from Purgatory, not from a Resurrection of Hell of eternal torture, but from the grave.

The Church will constitute the First Resurrection class; and having passed their trial successfully, they will have the reward of life everlasting on the Heavenly plane. The world to be awakened at that time will include the heathen, and all the millions of Christians who have never known what real Christianity is. They will all be brought to a knowledge of the Truth, that they may be tested, or judged, thereby and prove themselves either worthy or unworthy of everlasting life as human beings, in that world-wide Paradise.

So Jesus declares of them, "They that have done evil" that have not been approved of God—"shall come forth unto a Resurrection of Judgment"—trial, testing—with a view to seeing how they will respond to those judgments, enlightenments, etc., that the willing and obedient at the close of Christ's Reign may be received into all the liberties properly appertaining to God's children. (Romans 8:21) The wrong thought in the mind of the translators of our Common Version Bible has misled them occasionally into giving poor translations. See John 5:29, Revised Version.

The Not-As-hamed Gospel Briefly Stated.

All God's work is perfect. (Deuteronomy 32:4) Man originally was perfect, in the Creator's likeness. Disobedience brought upon man not a penalty of eternal torment, but a death penalty—"Dying, thou shalt die." "The wages of sin is death." For six thousand years the world has been undergoing this sentence. Cut off by sin from fellowship with God, man has degraded himself. Satan has conspired to this ruin of sin and death by deceiving mankind, fostering errors, misrepresenting God, etc.

God has the situation fully in hand. He purposed to permit both angels and men to see one great illustration of the effect of sin, leading on to disease and death, mental, moral and physical. Meantime the Creator has gracious purposes for man. Their experiences with sin and death will not be fruitless. They will have opportunity of learning valuable lessons, profitable for eternity. The first trial as to their worthiness of eternal life or of everlasting death was through one man; and his disobedience settled the matter for the race—the death sentence was the penalty.

As a basis for man's recovery, the God of God died for man's sin—not to get mankind out of eternal torment nor to keep them from going to eternal torment or to Purgatory, but to save them from extinction, "that whosoever believeth on Him might not perish." (John 3:16) Their recovery from sin and death is Scripturally styled the resurrection of the dead. Thus the Church of true believers are represented as "risen with Christ" to "walk in newness of life," and are promised an actual resurrection—the First, the Chief Resurrection.

Next comes the world's resurrection. The Truth will be made known to them. Instead of being confused and hampered with superstition, lies, doctrines of devils, the true light of the knowledge of the glory of God will shine upon them. Gradually the willing and obedient of the world will rise—mentally, morally and physically—to perfection; whereas the Church, which is to get a new nature, spirit nature, will be perfected by an instantaneous resurrection.

This is the Gospel which St. Paul preached—that the dead sleep in Hades, Sleep, the Bible Hell, the tomb, awaiting the establishment of Messiah's Kingdom which will bring glorious blessings. St. Paul declared that if there be no resurrection of the dead, all faith is vain, all preaching is vain, all hope of forgiveness of sins is vain. We might as well eat and drink, and consider that when we die we perish. But, he declares, there is to be such a resurrection; and the fact that Jesus died and rose again is God's guarantee to all believers that all who sleep in Jesus shall be brought from the dead by and through Him and His power.

"There's a wideness in God's mercy Like the wideness of the sea." Of this Gospel I am not ashamed. Of every other gospel that I have ever heard I would be ashamed—ashamed if I had been its inventor, ashamed to endorse it, ashamed of the God who would have such a gospel. But the true Gospel, shining out of the Bible and enlightening man's hearts for the world, is a Message of Grace, Justice, Wisdom and Love. Let us lay hold upon it. Let us love and serve it and the only living and true God, the God of the Bible, not the God of the creeds; and let us show forth the praises of Him who has called us out of darkness into His marvelous light.

LOOKING AFTER HIS INTEREST IN THE WESTERN PART OF THE STATE

This morning Judge W. H. Newell departed for Marquette, where he goes to look after the interests of his ranch, near that place. Some years since he, with the late C. H. Parmelee, purchased the ranch then at a very moderate figure, and for the past, almost score of years, have had Mr. D. E. Sievers conducting the affairs there, which have been very successful. During the time added years have come to Mr. Sievers, the manager of the place, and the growing to manhood of his sons has, with their seeking interests elsewhere, left him so that he is not able to conduct the affairs of the place as he would like. The ranch, which has been owned by W. H. Newell and S. H. Atwood, has been divided and they go there today to arrange for the conducting of the place in the future. The place, which was purchased for a nominal sum years ago, is now one of much value.

IN HONOR OF THE FATHER OF OUR COUNTRY, NEXT WEDNESDAY EVENING

The Loyal Sons will give a Washington evening at the Woodman hall on Wednesday, to which they invite those who may be interested in the theme of the "Father of His Country." There will be discussions of the character of Washington from a number of different standpoints. Oliver C. Hudson will treat the subject from the standpoint of Washington as a boy, his early life, the moulding of the character which in after life made him the foremost character in the new country. Following Clarence Stenner will treat the subject from the view of him as a Christian. Dr. G. R. Davis will discuss "Washington as a Statesman," while Clarence E. Whitaker will deal with him as a soldier, and M. S. Briggs will view the subject as a citizen.

There will be a discussion following, the question being, "Resolved, That those who manufacture firearms, ammunition and munitions of war, have met with greater success than the medical fraternity, who deal with the treatment of diseases, and the surgical appliances, and these things which save rather than destroy life. An invitation to this evening, which is free, is extended to the members of the High school, both girls and boys. The evening's entertainment will commence at 8 o'clock. To all the young people" classes of all the Sunday schools is also extended an invitation.

Scarlet Fever Cases Improving.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. James Higley, where five members of the family have been suffering with scarlet fever, and where the quarantine ban has been over them since Christmas, will be lifted within a few days. The five members of the family who have been afflicted with the disease are all recovering rapidly and will soon be released. Almost two months under quarantine is plenty long, thank you, so says Mr. Higley.

Has Used Chamberlain's Cough Remedy for 20 Years.

"Chamberlain's Cough Remedy has been in my household for the past twenty years. I began giving it to my children when they were small. As a quick relief for croup, whooping cough, and ordinary colds, it has no equal. Being free from opium and other harmful drugs, I never felt afraid to give it to the children. I have recommended it to a large number of friends and neighbors, who have used it and speak highly of it," writes Mrs. Mary Minke, Shortsville, N. Y. Obtainable everywhere.

Improving Slowly.

Ed Rynott, who has been confined to his home since Christmas day suffering with heart trouble, has been improving slowly and will soon be able to take up some sort of light work. As stated before in the Journal, Mr. Rynott will not attempt to resume his position as traveling salesman, but will engage in some business at home, when his health will permit.

Mr. A. M. Holmes Very Low. The many friends of Mr. A. M. Holmes, who is lying low with a stroke of paralysis at the home of his daughter, Mrs. C. A. Rawls, is reported as being not in any way improved, with no hopes of improvement. Mr. Holmes is a man whom everybody who knows loves, and he, with all his friends and relatives, have the sympathy of all the citizens in their trouble.

Public Sale!

The undersigned will offer at Public Sale at the Dovey section, three miles east of Cedar Creek, on

- WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, the following described property: 15 Head of Horses and Mules. One black mare, 10 years old, weight 1,080. One bay horse, 7 years old, weight 1,160. One chestnut sorrel, 8 years old, weight 1,000. One gray mare, 10 years old, weight 1,500. One black mare, 8 years old, weight 1,460. One black mare, 7 years old, weight 1,560. One gray mare, 3 years old, weight 1,320. One bay mare, 3 years old, weight 1,340. One sorrel horse, 3 years old, weight 1,150. One bay horse, 3 years old, weight 1,500. One spring colt, weight 720. One sorrel horse, 2 years old, weight 1,250. One sorrel mule, 7 years old, weight 1,250. One gray mule, 6 years old, weight 1,250. One black mule, 6 years old, weight 800. 13 cows; 11 calves; 2 3-year-old heifers. 70 head of shoats; 1 sow with pigs.

- Farming Implements. Eight sets of work harness. One set single harness. One set double buggy harness. Four sets fly buggies. One saddle. About fifteen tons haled prairie hay. About five tons alfalfa hay. One tank heater. Three hay racks. Three binders. One corn binder. One steel elevator. Three corn planters. One hay sweep. Two 1-horse corn drills. One corn harvester. One Endgate seeder. One Janesville disc. Two steel corn boxes. One blacksmith outfit. Three log chains. Two hand corn shellers. Six wagons. One iron wheel wagon. Two bob sleds. One 1-horse wheat drill. Four walking plows. Two walking listers. Five riding listers. One two-row lister. Two sulky plows. Two Deere gang plows. Two riding cultivators. Five walking cultivators. Two Deere two-row cultivators. Two stalk cutters. Three mowers. Two hay rakes. Two 3-section harrows. One 2-section harrow. And many other articles not listed.

Lunch Served on the Ground at Noon.

Sale Will Commence at 10 Sharp. TERMS:—All sums of \$10 and under cash in hand; on sums over \$10 a credit of one year will be given, purchaser giving note with approved security, bearing 8 per cent interest from date. No property removed until terms of sale are complied with.

- G. E. DOVEY O. C. DOVEY H. N. DOVEY H. W. BAUGHMAN W. R. YOUNG, Auctioneer F. E. SCHLATER, Clerk.

A VISITOR WHO SPEAKS IN VERY GLORIOUS TERMS OF OLD PLATTSMOUTH

Fred Crough of Conrad, Iowa, who has been visiting in this city for the past few days at the home of Charles McDaniel, he being a brother of Mrs. McDaniel, departed this morning for Marshalltown, Iowa, where he will shortly engage in farming. In speaking of Plattsmouth, Mr. Cough advanced the idea that we have one of the best and cleanest cities in the west, as well as one in which the business interests are well represented and one awake to the interests of its citizens.

FOR SALE.—S. C. White Leghorn Cockerels. Inquire of Fred H. Range, Route 1, Plattsmouth. 2-15-2twkly

Mrs. Herald Williams and daughter, Stella, departed this morning for their home at Falls City, where they will visit with Mrs. Williams' parents for a week. They went by the way of Omaha and Lincoln.

Concrete Work Guaranteed!

We could not do that if we were not sure every time we do a piece of concrete work that it is done right.

We Know How

or we would not take a chance on rebuilding our work. We know how to mix concrete and how to put it in, and every job we handle is there to stay.

Silo, Water Tank, Water Storage

Tank, Walls

—all built by us under an absolute guarantee to be of first-class material and workmanship and we stand back of it.

Come in and See Us

if you are thinking of building anything this year. We have a number of new ideas about building that will interest you.

Just south of Postoffice on Fifth Street.

Concrete Construction Co., Plattsmouth, Nebraska

THIRTY-TWO LEADING EDUCATORS TO ATTEND A BIG MEETING IN CINCINNATI

Thirty-two leading educators of the state will attend the annual meeting of the Department of Superintendents of the N. E. A. in Cincinnati next week. The Nebraska party will make every effort to have the next meeting of the organization come to Nebraska. Omaha will act as host if the invitation is accepted. More than fifteen hundred superintendents of school of cities attend the meeting, and coming to Omaha, they would be afforded an opportunity to learn something of the wonderful resources of Nebraska and Iowa.

In the Nebraska party will be: Superintendents F. M. Hunter of Lincoln, J. A. Beveridge of Council Bluffs, A. H. Waterhouse of Fremont, C. M. Barr of Hastings, R. J. Barr of Grand Island, J. A. Doremus of Auburn, A. E. Fisher of Aurora, N. M. Graham of South Omaha, E. U. Graft of Omaha, Cyrus Williams of Curtis; Presidents D. W. Hays of Peru Normal, U. S. Conn of Wayne Normal, George S. Dick of Kearney, Joseph Sparks of Chadron Normal, Messrs. Fordyce, Luckey and Reed of the University, V. G. Mays of Lincoln, C. E. Reed of Omaha, George Towne of Lincoln, A. O. Thomas, state superintendent of public instruction, F. S. Perdue of Lincoln, Miss Ruth Pyrtle of Lincoln, Etta Smith of Omaha, Mary Foster of Lincoln, and Hanna Johnson of Albion, Neb. The Nebraska party will leave Sunday in a special car.

George Edgerton Improving.

George Edgerton, who has been very sick, suffering with pneumonia, at the Hotel Riley, for the past few days, is reported some better today. Saturday evening his condition was reported much more serious, but he is now gaining ground. The many friends trust that he may continue to improve.

For Sale.

Four or five tons of good timothy and prairie hay, in the stack on the Gorder farm. W. H. Sutton. 2-7-4td-1twkly

A SMALLER BODY OF LEGISLATORS BETTER FOR THE PEOPLE AND THE STATE

The expected has happened again. The new school code, compiled at some expense to the state and considerable sacrifice of time on the part of disinterested school men, has been thrown into the legislative rubbish heap with but little more than a cursory look at it. The school commission was created by the last legislature, the members of which were convinced, after they had been asked to pass upon a number of amendments to the school laws, that the only intelligent way to go about improving the code was to refer the matter to a commission of experts who would have time and who could bring to bear a greater intelligence upon the problems involved. Whether the code proposed is an embodiment of wisdom and progress we do not know; but it is certain that it is an improvement upon the existing school code. The legislators, however, will have none of it. Either it is too big a task for them to tackle or they have an idea that they are just as well informed upon the needs of the school as the experts. It doesn't matter which; into the waste basket goes the proposed code. This happens in the government right along. State officers make recommendations to the governors as to reforms in their departments, and they go into the discard. The governor tells the legislature, from the depths of his experience, what ought to be done to secure better results, and nobody pays any attention to his recommendations. These conditions will never be remedied until we secure a smaller body of legislators sitting either at frequent intervals or for a longer period, with full time to investigate, learn and legislate.—Lincoln News.

EVERYBODY

Cordially Invited —to the—

Basket Supper

which is to follow a Big Minstrel Entertainment

—at the—

STULL SCHOOL HOUSE, District No. 28,

Saturday Evening, February 27th

—at 7:30 Sharp—

ROSE J. PROHASKA.