

KEPT BACK BY FRAUD

Political Economy Discussed From The Biblical Standpoint

Behold the hire of the laborers who have reaped down your fields, which is of you kept back by fraud; and the cries of them which have reaped are entered into the ears of the Lord of Saboth.—James, V. 4.

Many persons, especially among those who follow the sacred calling of preaching, object to the discussion of problems of industrial economy for fear of verging too near the domain of politics.

The same brethren, who do not hesitate a moment to bring before their people the moral side of other questions less vital to the interests of the American people, questions that approach as near the domain of politics as does the question discussed in my text, are loath to be heard as champions of the great moral questions of industry that underlie not only our prosperity as a nation, but our freedom as individuals as well.

The so-called minister of Christ, who for any reason, permits himself to become so hedged in and hampered by the power that seeks now to dominate both church and state and to reduce to worse than Egyptian bondage the men and women whose labors and sacrifices in the past have alone made our name glorious, deserves that his name should go down to posterity with that of a Judas; for is not a betrayal of the people a betrayal of Jesus also?

For me there is no more legitimate subject for a pulpit discourse than the labor question. If any one imagines this to be a new theme he is mistaken. It was discussed by those great moulders of thought who lived in the patriarchal age; and also by Jesus and by the men who were His representatives after His personal work was finished.

The Apostle speaks directly to the rich, and intimates most freely that that class was guilty of fraud in the distribution of the productive wealth of that day; that they had taken advantage of those engaged in industrial pursuits and had appropriated from the produce of their labor a share so large as to constitute almost the entire wage of the toiler.

The language of the text is therefore pertinent to the present economic conditions. Behold the hire—the wages of those who have reaped the fields, who have dug in the mines, who have toiled at forge or case or bench.

When I go back over the history of our country and reckon up our wealth at the birth of this great nation, I find that the only wealth of which we could boast was that of an honored name. We had demonstrated our right, by a successful war with one of the great nations, to be called the land of the free and home of the brave.

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grandest dream ever pictured us. From where did all this wealth, grandeur, and greatness spring? It is the product of labor applied to land. It has been dug by the hand of toil from the earth which belongs alike to all.

But, if we are the most prosperous nation on earth, might we not reasonably expect the class that has brought us the prosperity to possess at least a modicum of it themselves? "Behold the hire of the laborers." Where is it? Who has it? Have you, fellow-laborer, received a just reward for your toil?

"I go to eastern cities and look upon the palaces of the millionaire, upon the finely-carpeted floor, magnificent library, and upon his grand piano, whose notes almost rival angel voices. I visit the country homes of these lords of wealth, whence they annually retire to concoct schemes for further plunder.

The Apostle says to the rich that this "hire" is taken from the laborers fraudulently. Let us see how it is in our case. Statistics show that an equal distribution of the wealth of this nation would give about \$5,000 to each family, but that the actual present distribution gives to ten per cent of the people more than seventy-five per cent of the wealth.

So, by injustice, by fraud, by legalized thieving, the channels of the distribution of wealth have been diverted from their legitimate course, and the "hire of the laborer" cries in vain for justice.

Man may forget; God never forgets. And though some will pass away without seeing the travail of their souls, in a land redeemed and purified from the blight of human slavery, there must come a time "when the poor shall be exalted."

WICHITA, Kan., Nov. 26.—Sheriff Tom McGee of Hemphill county, in the Panhandle of Texas, was shot and mortally wounded last night by three outlaws, who held up the agent of the Santa depot at Canadian City and were proceeding to rob it when McGee, who is a brave man, arrived upon the scene.

LEAVENWORTH, Kan., Nov. 26.—The cold storage house of Ryan & Richardson to-day shipped to England, through a New York house, a carload of selected Jonathan apples for the consumption of royalty.

SPOKANE, Wash., Nov. 26.—The Brown national bank closed its doors yesterday and went into solvency. The failure was not a surprise, as it was known to be cramped for funds.

ELDORADO SPRINGS, Mo., Nov. 26.—The home of James Tennis and wife, living seven miles east of here, was visited last night by a mob of masked men and the two were severely whipped. Bad blood had existed in the neighborhood in which Tennis lived caused by a law suit.

ST. PETERSBURG, Nov. 26.—Advices from Kahokand (Perghana) Asiatic Russia, say that Turkistan cotton is threatened by the low prices of American cotton and that the arbitrage committee has petitioned the government to raise the duties on American cotton.

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CONTEMPT PROCEEDINGS.

Mr. Harper of Oklahoma, Editor, Lawyer and Judge, Arraigned. PERRY, Ok., Nov. 26.—Another chapter was added yesterday to the Scott-Brown-Burke-McMasters contempt cases of Oklahoma City in the district court here.

ST. PETERSBURG, Nov. 26.—The marriage contract of the czar and Princess Alix was signed yesterday by M. de Giers, the minister of foreign affairs, and by Count Vorontsook-Dachskoff, the minister of the imperial court.

SOUTH McALESTER, Ind. Ter., Nov. 26.—The district court at Panola adjourned yesterday. All of the murder cases, twenty-six in number, were continued until the May term.

ROCKPORT, Mo., Nov. 26.—Miss Mary L. Townsend, form rivy of Central City, Neb., who is now running a store here, was arrested yesterday for attempted arson.

DENVER, Col., Nov. 26.—The county commissioners have decided to go in a body on a tour of investigation through the eastern part of this (Arapahoe) county and try to induce the helpless settlers, who are constant objects of public charity, to give up their homes in the desert and remove to other portions of the state where lands can be irrigated.

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AYER'S PILLS Received Highest Awards AT THE WORLD'S FAIR

Dangerous \$20 Counterfeit. WASHINGTON, Nov. 27.—Chief Hazen of the secret service has received from Newark, N. J., one of the most dangerous counterfeits seen in a long time.

North Carolina's First Catholic Judge. RALEIGH, N. C., Nov. 26.—For the first time in the history of North Carolina a Roman Catholic has been selected as judge of the state superior court, in the person of W. S. O'B. Robinson, the Republican-Populist nominee for the Raleigh district.

Whipped for orso Stealing. SOUTH McALESTER, Ind. Ter., Nov. 26.—The district court at Panola adjourned yesterday. All of the murder cases, twenty-six in number, were continued until the May term.

A Young Woman Convicted of Arson. ROCKPORT, Mo., Nov. 26.—Miss Mary L. Townsend, form rivy of Central City, Neb., who is now running a store here, was arrested yesterday for attempted arson.

On to St. Louis. For the meeting of the Trans-Mississippi Congress, to be held in St. Louis, Nov. 26th to 29th, the Union Pacific System, the Overland Route, will make a rate of one fare for the round trip, plus \$2.00, from all points in Nebraska.

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