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IN THE SUNNY SOUTH

A Most Interesting and Instructive Letter on Christian Co-Operation

By George Howard Gibson, Founder of the "Christian Commonwealth" at Commonwealth, Georgia—Something of the Plan.

CHRISTIAN COMMON WEALTH COLONY, Jan., 24, 1897.
FRANK D. EAGER, Lincoln, Neb.

Dear Friend:—My impression of Dixie-land, after but five weeks life in Georgia, are of course likely to be modified more or less. However, at your request, I will give the INDEPENDENT readers a glimpse of the south as I now see it.

It is a country entirely unlike Nebraska. If we could combine the Nebraska soil and Georgia climate the results would be marvelous. The soil here is sandy, light, adapted to fruit-raising, garden products, cotton, sweet potatoes, etc. But it must be fertilized every year. The rainfall is about 53 inches annually. It is a timber country, hard pine being the principal growth. The surface is rolling. There are many springs, rivulets and large streams of pure water. Common lumber sells for \$6.50 per thousand. It is a country that does not feel the hand of the sugar trust, sugar cane being grown by the all farmers, and the syrup sells for 25 cents a gallon.

Our company from Nebraska arrived here December 17th. The grass was then green in the yard and the green leaves still hung on many of the trees. The thermometer since December 1st last, hanging on our porch, has registered at day-break no lower than 28 degrees above zero. It has ranged from this lowest point up to 60 degrees Fahrenheit. The coldest morning we have experienced was five-eighths of an inch thick. We are working on the land every day. Sowed a field of oats week before last. Planted 50 bushels of onions three weeks ago and set out an acre of strawberries the third week in December. We are also setting out 1200 fruit trees. We wear straw hats and the darkey children about here go barefooted the whole winter long.

We have found the people here very hospitable and kind. They are truly glad to welcome northern people who come to settle among them. The country still feels the blight of slavery, and the impoverishment caused by the great war. It needs an infusion of northern energy, industrial ideas and scientific methods to bring up the country to the grand possibilities that are in it. The land, chiefly worked by the negroes, has not been taken care of. They have allowed the fields to wash badly and have let blackberry bushes, plum brush and young pines upspring, to drive them out, until the plantations are cut up into a great many small patches of irregular shape which in plowing and cultivating waste much time. The cultivation practiced is very shallow and the farmers here are much surprised and interested to see us plow deep and pulverize with the disc harrow and other tools brought from the northwest.

The improvements, buildings, etc., are not to be compared with the farm improvements north. But I am inclined to think the people get more comfort out of life, do not work nearly so hard and are not burdened with anxiety.

The plows they use here are made of cast iron to be drawn by a mule, cow or horse. The cultivators are either single or double shovel.

Notwithstanding the much poorer soil this state has advantages over Nebraska. Besides low-priced land, timber and fuel, the climate allows the growth of food products in greater variety, cotton also, and the great iron regions of Alabama are near. We can be more independent of the railroads, and are nearer the principal cities of the country. The tide of emigration which has long flowed westward, must henceforth turn to the south until this sunny land shall have all its varied resources utilized.

As the readers of the INDEPENDENT are aware quite a group of Nebraska families led by the writer, last year organized what was called "The Christian Commonwealth." It seemed advisable for us to move south, where we could get cheaper land, and last March three of us, David H. Brown of Genoa, W. J. Eyston of Rising City and the writer—came south to see the country and meet Mr. John Chipman of Tallahassee, Florida, who with us was a believer in the common property and putting the law of love into daily practice. A final choice of this location, a thousand-acre plantation, thirteen miles east of Columbus, Georgia, was made and the land was purchased. A group of families led by Rev. Ralph Albertson and Professor W. C. Damon—previously co-operating at Andrews, N. C.—immediately moved here, near the last of November, and so were on the ground to welcome our Nebraska band. All who have come, professional men and all, are workers. Over thirty of us are living in the old plantation mansion, built "before the war." Others are living in negro quarters.

The knowledge of our movement to practice the precepts of Christ, to love one another and do his work, has attracted and is attracting people from all quarters. On the same day we arrived there came together here men from the far away and far separated states of Washington and Massachusetts. One family, Mr. and Mrs. Pease and their

two daughters, drove over the mountains from the Pacific coast, to enter the country or the community where Christ is to be king. And soon we expected the prophecy to be fulfilled. "Who are these who fly as a cloud, and as doves to their windows?" Many are the hearts that are weary, the lives that are overburdened and crushed with care. The world is full of misery, and the oppressed millions, intelligently or ignorantly, are crying out for deliverance from selfish power, that is, for God's kingdom to come, for Christ to be made king.

To all our Christian brethren in all the churches, and to all in the world who are sick of selfishness, we appeal. Come out of the selfish strife for gain, for place, for power; come out of the commercial Babylon, that ye be not partakers of her sins and that ye receive not her plagues; for her sins have reached unto heaven and God hath remembered her iniquities.

The world for Christ and for the "least of these, his brethren" we say. So, to add heart, to heart, hand to hand, mind to mind, acre to acre, knowledge to knowledge, and power to power, till all are made one for Him and His, we begin our labor. We consecrate, no longer invisibly and uncertainly, but actually, by deeding our lands and conveying our property to Christ; a Christian body, of which we are members, to hold the same, as his agents to do his work. We put ourselves and all we have under divine control, seeking first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, doubting not that, in such obedience, all things we need will be added unto us.

We shall make our labor the free expression and measurement of our love, what it ought to be, and thus exalt our work into worship, into fellowship, into a sacrament that will convey the divine life and love to one another, to all the brethren.

We plan to make the earth "like the garden of the Lord."

We plan to build houses worthy to be the habitations of the sons of God. We plan to build Christian factories, mills, machine shops, etc., that all who come to us may have permanent places to labor and produce all useful and beautiful things for human need.

We plan for the lifelong education of our children and ourselves, so that we may have perfect bodies, skillful hands, intellects furnished with the most advanced knowledge of the laws and forces of nature, discovery, and invention, and hearts to read the love, the wisdom, the harmony, the illimitable vastness, variety, and grandeur of God's unfolding works.

We plan for the visible kingdom of God on earth, for a holy land, to be redeemed by purchase, out of the hands of the selfish and given to the meek.

To this day "the son of man hath not where to lay his head," or place to welcome and make homes for the poor and oppressed. Therefore we hasten to convey to him an irrevocable surrender that which we have been calling ours, that Christ, our king, and his brethren, the least, and all; may live with us, and we with Him, forever.

During the eleventh and twelfth centuries all Europe was thrilled with a desire to rescue "the holy land" and the tomb of Christ from the hands of the Saracens, and hundreds of thousands of lives were sacrificed in the attempt. Yet that land of Palestine was not holy. Christ was not in it. His empty tomb alone was there. How much more heartily and enthusiastically should present Christendom respond to a call to unite hearts and hands and tools and lands, putting all in Christ's name, to make a veritable holy land where love is law where the Spirit of Christ shall be embodied, a land which shall be the refuge of the oppressed and tempted of all nations; a place whose gates "shall be open continually." It is this individually surrendered, united, growing, extending land that Isaiah describes: "Violence shall no more be heard in thy land, wasting nor destruction within thy borders, but thou shalt call thy walls salvation and thy gates Praise." "Thy people also shall be all righteous; they shall inherit the land forever, the branch of my planting, the work of my hands, that I may be glorified. A little one shall become a thousand, and a small one a strong nation. I, the Lord, will hasten it in his time."

We are not trusting to our own goodness, or assuming any righteousness of our own. But we have accepted the law of love, the standard of Christ, the teaching of the same spirit that led Christ and his disciples to have "all things common." It is the one way out of selfishness.

As a body we recognize: One God over all, our Father; one law of love, labor, outpouring; one perfect example of right living—Christ. But dead, divisive dogmas, intellectual opinions regarding infinite, incomprehensible, or unrevealed mysteries, we shall not require assent to. Intellectual differences, doubts and difficulties shall not disbar from membership any wishing to join us who are prepared to do the will of God. The one simple duty is to love and labor for one another. To be members one of another, and reveal Christ, or his Spirit, we must give up the treasure that divides us, we must subordinate the loves that separate us, we must unite our knowledge, our wisdom, our property, our labor, all our interests, and begin to serve one another under Christ's direction, each working for all, all caring for each.

We allowed the Nebraska organization known as the "Christian Commonwealth" to lapse and have reorganized under the name of "The Christian Commonwealth." We have no peculiar ideas, unless the above are peculiar. We consider the family sacred, and preserve it. We shall have no hard and fast rules of our own making, but recognize God as our law maker, Christ as our King.

Since locating our colony here, the Central of Georgia railroad, which runs through our plantation, has built us a side-track and located a station here known as "Commonwealth." Our post-

office, petitioned for, will be the same name. We shall soon have a saw-mill here, shipped from Michigan, and shall this season begin to build a town. As many of our people as prefer separate cottages shall have them. Others who would save labor and be more together will live in community houses.

We are not coming together for any selfish purpose as a community, but to increase our power to permanently serve and save those who are sick of selfishness. In organizing industry under Christ's leadership and control we shall socially incarnate the Divine spirit, and bring to all the good news of "gospel of the kingdom" actually come to earth, which all may join themselves unto.

Our postoffice for the present is Midland, Muscogee county, Georgia.
GEORGE HOWARD GIBSON,
Cor. Sec'y., C. C.

\$100 Reward, \$100.

The readers of this paper will be pleased to learn that there is at least one dreaded disease that science has been able to cure in all its stages and that is Catarrh. Hall's Catarrh Cure is the only positive cure known to the medical fraternity. Catarrh being a constitutional disease, requires a constitutional treatment. Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, acting directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system, thereby destroying the foundation of the disease, and giving the patient strength by building up the constitution and assisting nature in doing its work. The proprietors have so much faith in its curative powers, that they offer One Hundred Dollars for any case that it fails to cure. Send for list of Testimonials.

Address, F. J. CHENEY & Co., Toledo, O. Sold by druggists, 75c.

The Promised Good Times.

Failures for last week were 455 and for the week before 488, and yet Dun and Bradstreet say the outlook for the year is hopeful. They say that this year will correspond with the year 1879, when a partial revival from the '73 panic was enjoyed. They say the revival will come sooner this time, from the '93 panic, and that this is the year for it to come. They don't seem to remember that we had something to bring a revival in '79 and that we have nothing this year. Then the Bland-Allison silver law had just gone into effect and we were getting 4,000,000 silver dollars per month added to the volume of money. Now there is no silver being coined and the volume of money is being contracted all the time. Give us similar conditions and similar results will follow. But contrary conditions will make contrary results and there is no other way to figure it.—Iowa Tribune.

Maceo dead or alive cuts no figure. Your best and cheapest place to buy boots and stationery at wholesale or retail is at Leighton's, 1123 O street.—39

BIG CONFERENCE

Seventh Day Adventists Meet Next Week at College View.

And Over a Thousand Delegates From All Paris Are Expected to Be in Busy General Conference for a Month or More.

A general conference of Seventh Day Adventists will begin next Tuesday at College View. It is expected that there will be about 1000 delegates present from all parts of the United States, and the conference is expected to last for a month. The good people of College View have been preparing for some time past to care for as many of the delegates as possible, but it is not expected that they will be able to care for nearly all of the visitors, who will therefore be compelled to seek accommodations in the city. It has been suggested that a little pains on the part of the city in making the stay of these numerous visitors in this city as agreeable as possible to them may result in great good for the future of Union College and the city of Lincoln, and THE POST has been asked to suggest this matter to the mayor and council, and to citizens generally.

We wish to call the attention of our readers to the advertisement of Drs. Copeland and Sheppard as it appears on another page of this paper. When a firm presents, week after week, month after month and year after year undeniable evidence of the genuine worth of what they have done, as this firm has done in the columns of the secular and religious press, it is sufficient evidence to induce all of our readers to consider it carefully. These doctors have been practicing their specialty in Omaha for the past five years, and have met with the greatest success. The recommendations which appear in our advertising columns from time to time are the best evidences of their success which we can produce.

BIG JAUNT.

Report that the Nebraska Legislature Will be Invited to Come West.

There was a rumor current this afternoon, originating no one seemed to know where, that the Nebraska legislature will receive an invitation from the legislature of Nevada to visit Carson City on the 17th day of March, St. Patrick's day, to discuss the Trans-Mississippi exposition. It is significant that this is the date decided upon for the Corbett-Fitzsimons fight. The same rumor says that the legislature will also be invited to visit the legislatures of Colorado, Utah and Wyoming to confer concerning the exposition.

JOINT CONVENTIONS

County Chairmen of Silver Parties Asked to Call Them.

Secretary Edmisten of the Bimetallic Union Wants County Organizations Effected Before Spring Work Engrosses the Attention of the Farmers.

The following letter has been given to the press by J. H. Edmisten, secretary of the state bimetallic union:

To the Chairmen of the Respective Parties Favorable to Bimetalism in the Various Counties of Nebraska: It is the desire of the state bimetallic committee to assist all interested in organizing the bimetallic unions in the various counties in the state, and that its object may be more fully understood, the state committee will make the following recommendations for the benefit of all interested:

It is desired that a call be made in each county for the organization of the county bimetallic union in the manner outlined in the address issued by the committee recently.

The chairmen of the various political parties friendly to silver, are requested to join in such call, fixing an early date for a convention. When the convention has assembled, select one from each party as a county committee, the committee to effect an organization by selecting a chairman, secretary, treasurer and a county organizer from the number.

When there are women's clubs they are entitled to a member of the committee. I would call attention especially to the importance of prompt action in this matter, as the winter will soon be gone and the farmers will have little time then to devote to these meetings, and as a large per cent of them are interested in this organization. On receipt of a list of the names forming a county organization, shown to have been called in due form and properly organized, the state committee will issue a charter to the same and give further instructions. The state organizer and deputies are ready to assist any county or counties in getting properly organized, and those desiring such assistance will please write the state secretary, who will make necessary arrangements.

It is suggested that immediately after organizing the county bimetallic union that each voting precinct or township be organized in like manner, each reporting to the secretary the names and address of all officers, who will, on receiving such information, give further instructions. It is hoped that each person who is friendly to the free coinage of gold and silver at the ratio of 16 to 1 will unite with these organizations for the purpose of studying the money question and other problems of mutual interest. I desire to urge upon all friends in forming organizations that active, live workers be selected as officers and thereby add life to the movement.

Hoping to hear from all who are interested in the work outlined Yours for a thorough and perfect organization in each county. J. H. EDMISTEN, Secretary State Bimetallic Union.

SPEAKS OUT.

Senator-Elect, W. A. Harris of Kearney Defines His Position.

It is refreshing to find a public man who has the courage to speak out frankly concerning his stand on public questions. William A. Harris, the new senator from Kansas seems to be that sort of a man. Shortly after his election, in reply to a request to define his position, Senator Harris dictated the following:

"I want to see the government, according to the law of 1862, take possession of the Pacific roads. This is a matter of justice to the people and would prove a valuable object lesson in transportation affairs."

"I want to see the income tax made a permanent feature of governmental policy, whether it be by amendments to the constitution or some other method."

"I want to see silver restored to its former position as a full money metal without limitations. I will co-operate with every effort to bring this about by international agreement, but I am not in favor of making our action dependent upon such an agreement."

"I am in favor of tariff legislation which in conjunction with the income tax and internal revenue and other duties and provide ample revenues for all purposes of the government."

"There should never be a shadow of a doubt concerning the sufficiency of the government income."

"I shall strenuously oppose the retirement of the greenback and treasury notes in any form."

"I believe in a strong navy. I have seen by experience that opinion and esteem of foreign nations are largely dependent upon what they actually see of the power and strength of other governments. The sight of a first-class man-of-war in the harbor of the smaller powers occasionally protects our citizens abroad and tends to maintain that due deference to our importance which very often prevents more or less hostile action."

"This is the feature which even more than the possibilities of war make it desirable to have a strong navy as a preserver of the public peace."

our live cattle to be slaughtered within ten days at the port of entry under the pretext that they are diseased or can be infected and communicate disease to their cattle is a fraud and it works tremendous injury upon our cattle interests. If our cattle were permitted to go into the interior and rest and recover from the effects of the voyage it would improve their quality and relieve a glutted market at times and add \$15 to \$20 per head to their value. A very large and desirable trade in stock cattle, or what the English people call "store" cattle, would also spring up, and would be of great value, to us in maintaining a fair price to producers of such cattle here and would be of great value also to the breeders of England.

"I have personal knowledge of the desire on the part of many English and Scotch farmers, in fact I believe the greater part of them desire larger supplies of breeding cattle. They have attempted to get from Canada stock of this character and have wanted access to American supplies. In this way both sides would derive a benefit from the removal of the present restrictions."

"I have been for years an enthusiast on the subject of the Nicaragua canal. I have personal knowledge of the work to be done and regard it as the duty of our government to revive the Zavalala treaty which gave our government sovereign control over a strip of land twelve miles wide through the territory of Nicaragua and Costa Rica. This government should look upon this work as practically an extension of the mouth of the Mississippi river to the Pacific coast and it should no more be given into the hands of a private corporation than any part of the Mississippi river itself. I shall oppose any such measure as that now pending guaranteeing the bonds of a private corporation for that purpose."

"I feel especially desirous of seeing the telegraph system of the United States become a part of the postal service. This was urgently recommended by Cave Johnson, Postmaster General President Polk and has been frequently recommended by postmasters general since that time. It is in accord with the practice of every civilized power and has been justified beyond any controversy by practical results."

"As to the constitutional measures regulating the supreme court, election of senators and all measures that tend to remove the power from the people, I believe in the doctrines enunciated by Patrick Henry in the debates on the adoption of the constitution in Virginia. Time has proven the prophetic wisdom of that grand man of the people."

INSURANCE DEPARTMENT.

The insurance committee in the house seem determined that no mutual bill shall be passed that will hurt the farm mutual law now in force. It is to be hoped that that determination will stay with them.

The present farm law should remain as it is now. The supreme court has decided that it is constitutional.

There is a demand from nearly all companies that country churches, country parsonages and country school houses be put into the farm law. If that was done it would not affect the law in the least.

Another change is asked for that might invalidate the law, as a whole, and that is to allow a mutual company to take notes.

When any company takes notes of one member and cash from another, or one price from one man and another price from another and nothing from another, just then the company fails to be mutual.

If a company takes notes of some of the members and cash on others until the company has \$1,000 in notes and all the cash has been used to pay running expenses and a few losses. When a \$1,000 loss comes the company is compelled to make an assessment on the cash fellows as well as the note fellows. Here mutuality fails again because all the members are not on an equal with each other. Further, many notes never will be paid but as long as the note-giving member holds his policy, the company is liable to him for any loss he may sustain. Here mutuality fails again.

When a company pays its agents on the commission plan, i. e., the more the agent writes the more he gets, it fails to be mutual because of the inducement given for over insurance on the part of the agent who will find a willing victim who will in time sell his property to the best advantage at a price sometimes double its real worth, and further the members should know just where every cent goes but if the agent is paid on the commission plan, he will not truthfully tell how much fees he is getting. Again mutuality has a black eye. In other words no purely mutual company has any secret places for its funds to slip away. All members should be on an equality and should be able to find out just where all income of the company goes.

To Cut State Officers Salaries.

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo., Feb. 3.—Representative Hale of Phelps brought forward a bill reducing the salaries of all state officers to \$1,000 less than they now get. The salaries of clerks under the various state officers are reduced to \$1,600 and \$1,200.

Two School Teachers Arrested.

ST. JOSEPH, Mo., Feb. 3.—Henry A. Squires and John D. Cropp, two school teachers in the Southern part of Buchanan county, recently mixed up in a scandal, were arrested while trying to evade the law, near Weston, Platte county, and held for trial.

Drowned in the Marais des Cygnes.

OTTAWA, Kan., Feb. 3.—Scott Hunt, the 5-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. R. B. Hunt of this city, was drowned in the Marais des Cygnes here at noon yesterday while playing upon the ice.

EDGERTON REPLIES

Secretary Edgerton Writes Committee-man Washburn at Boston.

He Don't Think Any Change of Fighting Issues Necessary, But the Fight Should be Pushed on the Old Lines to Success in 1900.

About two weeks ago Geo. F. Washburn, of Boston, member of the people's party national committee, issued an appeal to the populists of the United States which was generally published all over the country. This appeal practically advised populists to abandon the silver issue and take up the two questions of government issue of paper money and government ownership of railroads. Recently J. A. Edgerton of Lincoln, secretary of the populist national committee, received the following communication from Mr. Washburn:

BOSTON, Mass., Jan. 21, 1897.
J. A. EDGERTON, Esq., Lincoln, Neb.—My Dear Mr. Edgerton: Enclosed I send you a copy of my appeal which I issued last week. The Boston Herald has requested me a symposium of letters from the leaders of our party giving their views on the proposed change to Independent party action, as well as changing the fighting issue to scientific money and government ownership of railroads. I would be pleased, therefore, if you would mail me a brief comment indicating your attitude in this matter, which I trust meets with your concurrence.

Fraternally yours,
G. F. WASHBURN.

Following is Edgerton's reply:
LINCOLN, Neb., Jan. 30, 1897.
HON. GEO. F. WASHBURN,
Boston, Mass.

My Dear Sir: The people's party has always contended for "scientific money;" it has always contended for the "government ownership of railroads." No "change of fighting issues" is necessary to bring these questions to the front, so far as populists are concerned.

It has always contended also for the free coinage of silver. It should not abandon this issue simply because another party has taken it up, but should rather support it the more zealously. It should welcome the assistance, and should vie with the newcomers as to who shall give the free-coinage issue the most united and effective support.

The people's party was the first to raise the free-silver standard. Must it abandon that standard simply because another party has come to its support? No. Right does not cease to be right because it gains new adherents. And to say that we shall not advocate a right principle simply because another party promises to share the credit for carrying it to success, seems to me to be playing the boy. That is too narrow and selfish a course for the people's party.

For the populists to abandon free silver now would be like an army leaving the field when one more charge would win the battle.

There can be no "change of the fighting issue" until this cause is won. The lines of the fight are already drawn. No question is ever settled until it is settled right. McKinley's election was secured by bribery, misrepresentation and outright fraud. It was not the deliberate verdict of the American people. That fight must be made over again, and next time it will be won. Next time it will be harder to misrepresent. Next time the majority will be so large that the tide cannot be turned by bribery. Next time the people will be so alert and determined that fraud will be well-nigh impossible.

It don't pay to swap horses while crossing a stream. The saw may be clumsy, but it is true.

You ask me, then: "What is to be the distinctive mission of the people's party?" This: To push the fight, as in the past, on all its principles; only with more vigor than ever before. For free silver; for a supplemental issue of paper money direct by the government; for the government ownership of railroads and telegraphs; for direct legislation. Let the work of education proceed on all these, abandoning nothing, changing no issue, but standing firmly on the platform made at Omaha and renewed at St. Louis.

I believe that, more and more, the reform sentiment of the country is turning to the populist platform in its entirety. I believe that, more and more, the people are concluding that these reforms must come together. I believe that, more and more, the toiling masses are turning to the people's party as the Moses to lead them to deliverance. Its manly and unselfish attitude in the last campaign has inspired confidence. The six and a half million of voters who espoused one of its principles are now studying its other principles. The attitude of the railroads in the last campaign has opened the eyes of the people to the transportation problem; and I believe, with the continued education that must go on through the coming three and a half years, that in 1900 the great reform army will go forward to success, advocating practically the entire people's party platform.

To sum up, I agree with you that the fight should be pushed, but not that the issue should be changed; and in place of abandoning one plank and taking the two which you propose, I would hold fast to all three; and in line with the admirable suggestion of Wharton Barker in the Philadelphia American, I would carry on the work of education for:

1. The free and unlimited coinage of silver at 16 to 1.
2. Supplemental issue of paper money direct by the government.
3. Government ownership of railroads and telegraphs.

Very truly yours,
J. A. EDGERTON.