

WORSHIP OF MONEY.

POWER OF SATAN OVER THE WORLD SHOWN IN LEGALIZED IDOLATRY.

Per Cent the Sacrifice Laid Upon the Altar of Our Mammon God - The Poor Have Been Plundered and Murdered by Civil Government.

Rev. D. Oglesby preached at a camp meeting that was being held at Sparta, Ills. He prefaced his sermon with these words:

I am 72 years old. In all these long years I have never asked the privilege of preaching at a camp meeting, quarterly meeting, district conference or any other special gathering until this time, although I have been a member of the southern Illinois conference 44 years. I said to the elder, I want to go to the district conference in Sparta if I live and keep my health, and I would like to preach there, inasmuch as that was the last charge I received from a bishop. I scarcely ever make apologies, but I thought it due to the elder and committee, for if the congregation are disappointed in their selecting an old supernaturated back number to preach when they had so many modern up to date divines to select from they must blame me and not the committee. Nevertheless I shall try to preach as if I were in sight of the judgment, for I am sure that it will be my funeral to most of you and yours to me.

Following is the concluding portion of the sermon:

Seeing the reward is so indescribably great, why is it so hard to persuade men to worship God? Why is it that Christianity has made such slow progress in the world?

"Oh," you will say to me, "you are an old fogey. You are a pessimist. The church has gone off and left you. Christianity is taking the world."

Come, my optimistic brother, let us look facts square in the face. I don't believe that truth ever did any injury in our world. Come, let us look arms and take a walk and survey the field (the field is the world) and see what has been accomplished and what is to do yet.

There are 1,400,000,000 people in the world and only 200,000,000 nominal Christians, and in order to make up the 200,000,000 nominal Christians we have to count all—men, women and children, the ones in the penitentiary and out, the inmates of brothels, saloons and gambling dens—all. Now, when we fan out the chaff to find the wheat it is an exceedingly liberal estimate to allow that there are 50,000,000 Christians in the world today.

Here we are at the sunset of the nineteenth century and only one in 28 or 30 of the human race made Christians.

What do you think of the outlook?

General Miles was sent by the president last year to inspect the armaments or military forces of Europe. When he returned, he said, "The millennium must be a long way off when swords will be made into plowshares and spears into pruning hooks, for all Europe is preparing for war as never before, building larger warships and more of them, raising larger armies, spending more money for war purposes than in any previous age."

All this preparation for war by so called Christian nations? What does it mean?

We have not been preaching war, have we? That it is right to butcher and murder each other? This doesn't look like peace on earth and good will to men, does it? Have we not good reason to cry out, "Lord, who hath believed our report and to whom hath the arm of the Lord been revealed?" It looks more like the arm of the devil was being revealed, doesn't it?

Surely there must be some obstruction across the track of Christianity! Surely the stream of salvation is dammed up. Some great obstacle has prevented mankind from worshipping God!

Now let us take the crowbar of truth and the pick and shovel of investigation and dig down and see what is the obstruction.

And before we begin this investigation I want to make a little digression.

There is a universal and strong prejudice against preaching politics. If a preacher says politics in the pulpit, he is ostracized and makes "himself of no reputation" in the church and out of it. It is a senseless, unscriptural, wicked prejudice, because politics is the science of civil government, and civil government is an ordinance of God, just as much as the church is.

Of course preachers should not preach party politics at all, but it is as much the duty of the preacher to preach against sin in civil government as anywhere else, for his Master has placed him a sentinel on the walls of Zion and commanded him to "lift up his voice like a trumpet and show the people their sins."

I have made this digression because we will find the great obstacle to the spread of Christianity or the worship of God is and always has been the attitude of the civil governments of earth. Ever since old satan inaugurated the first rebellion on earth it has been his constant business to keep men from worshipping God. For this purpose he is "walking to and fro in the earth and going up and down in it."

He knew that if he could get sin incorporated into civil law he would secure a great victory, because he knew that the great majority of mankind would never have any higher standard of morals than civil law. Then he knew that men would be law abiding, and if the law was bad his end was gained.

The next step was to get control of civil government. Then he could put all the sin into law that he wanted to. He made haste to do that. He took Christ up on a mountain and showed him all the kingdoms (governments) of the world, and said, "all these will I give thee if thou wilt fall down and worship me." He meant, these are

mine. Big liar as old satan is, he sometimes tells the truth. He owned the governments of the world then, and does yet, as we will find as we proceed in this investigation. Having got control of the governments of the world, of course he would use them to prevent men from worshipping God. The surest way to do this was to legalize idolatry. He knew that mankind would worship something—it was in his nature to worship. Satan didn't care what he worshipped so he didn't worship God. He might worship the sun, moon or heavenly host, or the river Ganges or Nile or he might whittle a god out of wood or chisel one out of stone; no matter so he didn't worship God, but he must not worship God on pain of death. Here we find the obstacle for which we are searching. It is the perversion of civil government.

Every martyr of the 50,000,000 who sealed their testimony with their blood was sentenced to death, to the stake or dungeon or to be devoured by wild beasts, by the same civil government and law that protected idolatry.

But you may have been thinking that idolatry is confined to heathen countries. You think perhaps that our country is a Christian country and our laws are Christian laws and that we have no system of idolatry. We will see.

We license the liquor traffic that costs \$1,000,000,000 a year, and sends multitudes to drunkards' graves, that crushes the hearts of mothers and blights the lives of children, that is the prolific source of three-fourths of the crimes committed in our country. Does that look like we were a Christian government?

Then, worse than that, our system of commerce is a huge system of idolatry, as is the case all over our boasted Christian civilization. Here is the proof: The first law God gave to man was the law of labor. "In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread." It is an important law. The existence of the human race depends on it. In the production of wealth this law is respected and honored. All wealth is produced by labor, and wage workers receive wages.

But when we enter the domain of commerce God's law of labor is set aside and ignored. The one who buys and sells and carries on commerce takes no account of his labor, if he does any labor. He works for per cent.

The stockholders of this Central railroad may live in Europe, may never have seen the road, but charges for freights and fares are adjusted so as to bring in a per cent to divide among them. If the per cent fails, then the wages of all who labor on the road are reduced or the charges for freights and fares are increased, thus making the men who labor support and enrich the idlers.

It is the same in all lines of traffic. It permeates every avenue of commerce so completely that all business is a system of gambling, getting without giving an equivalent or robbery. Per cent on money does it all. The dollar is god. Per cent is the sacrifice laid on the altar of our Mammon god. This system of idolatry must and will be destroyed. It is the last form of idolatry that will exist on the earth. It has conquered and captured both church and governments and has such a hold on the world that its destruction will convulse society as never before. Civil governments are to be converted, taken out of old satan's hands, and Christ is to rule.

We have been taught by our great theologians that the millennium would be a state of society in which all would be saints. That state of society will come during the millennial period, but the millennium will come long before that. The millennium is wholly political.

When civil governments are made to harmonize with the divine government and civil law is made to conform exactly with divine law, then the millennium will be here, then Christ will reign. Men are generally law abiding now. When civil law is in harmony with divine law, to obey the law will be to obey God. Then "righteousness will cover the earth as the waters cover the sea," because all will obey the law of God. As it is now and ever has been, to obey civil law was to serve the devil. The greatest crimes on earth are legal crimes.

It will not be so when civil laws are just and righteous.

God is just. His justice has delayed its coming long, but it will come. Civil governments have been perverted and instead of protecting the poor they have been used to plunder and oppress them.

The poor have been robbed, plundered and murdered by civil governments and law through all the ages. God, the great Father above, made the earth for his earthly family to have homes, but through all the ages they have been robbed of homes by wicked laws. Great cities have been built by the money taken from the poor who toiled their lives out, homeless, hungry and destitute. If justice demands the destruction of the stolen wealth, if restitution will not be voluntarily made to God's poor, and there is no probability of that being done, then the just retribution coming, must be "a time of tribulation such as never was since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be" (Matthew xxiv, 21). This saying of Christ has been applied wholly to the destruction of Jerusalem. Jerusalem rejected Christ and suffered great tribulation. Jerusalem is a type of the world. The world has rejected him and is now practicing idolatry, and its time of tribulation is at the door. The great battle of Armageddon is now begun, and the end will introduce to our world the millennium state.

Municipal Railways in England.

Suffield is to join the ranks of British towns operating their own street railway systems. At the meeting of the town council, March 3, it was unanimously voted that in 1901, when the present lease of the tracks to a corporation should expire, the city should operate the system.

Girls They Left Behind.

When Sergt. Wilhite, of the Emporia (Kas.) company, took his pen in hand to sign the muster-roll he was asked whether he was married or single. He replied, to the great astonishment of his comrades, that he was married. Investigation proved that he was secretly married to Miss Mattie Fowler, of Emporia, last January. Several volunteers have been united to the girls of their choice while in camp at Chickamauga. One of the most interesting of these events was the marriage of Private S. S. Clapper, of the Fifth Illinois, to Miss Rosa Brerworth, of Decatur. Miss Brerworth went to Chattanooga to visit her sweetheart and while she was there the regimental chaplain was called in and the knot tied. Herbert Steenberg, a Ripon college student, was married the day he went to the front with Company D. His bride was a fellow-student, Miss Clara Huntington. Two drummer boys of the Edisto rifles of South Carolina were married while their regiment was awaiting orders to move. An interesting interstate romance was revealed by the marriage of Curtis Stanley, of the First West Virginia volunteers at Camp Thomas. The bridegroom is a Pennsylvanian and his bride a pretty Virginia girl, who decided that she could not endure the separation and hurried to Chickamauga after her sweetheart. Col. Spillman gave away the bride and all his staff attended the wedding. At the marriage of Sergt. Menier, of the One Hundred and Fifty-ninth Indiana, to Miss Steinman, the regimental band played the wedding march.

A Wonderful Old Man.

When Sir Henry Irving produced the "Story of Waterloo" for the first time at Bristol, he was, of course, made up to represent the last stage of senile decrepitude. An old gentleman in a box was much interested in the performance, and kept on exclaiming in an undertone, "Well, I had no idea that he was as old as that." When the play was finished he said to his companions very solemnly: "Well, they talk about the queen and they talk about Gladstone as wonderful old people, but look at this man. Why, he must be older than any of them, and here he is going through the fatigue of acting nightly, traveling all over the country, and at the top of his profession. That is something like a Grand Old Man." No one liked to explain for fear of laughing, and it was left for Sir Henry's subsequent appearance in "The Bells" to remove the error.

Jules Verne's Romantic Marriage.

Jules Verne's marriage was quite a romance. He was at that time a quiet, shy young man, with an apparent dislike to feminine society. Being induced, much against his will, to serve as best man to a friend, he had a fit of forgetfulness on the very morning of the ceremony, and finally arrived at the house to find that the whole party had left for the church. There was no one remaining at home but the bride's sister, a young widow, who had been unwilling to intrude her weeds on the bridal group. Verne fell in love at first sight; two years later he married the lady, and he has since proved the kindest of stepfathers to her two daughters.

Georges Sand in Red Trousers.

In a recent issue of the Revue de Paris there is a letter of Balzac's, describing his visit to Georges Sand at her country chateau. "I found her," says the famous author of "Pere Goriot" and "Cousin Pons," "in her dressing gown, smoking a cigar, wearing red trousers and yellow slippers. She had a double chin, like a monk. And yet people sometimes talk as if this were the only age in which women were 'strong-minded,' and 'suited' themselves inwardly and outwardly like men!" Balzac further says that Georges Sand went to bed at 6 in the morning and got up at mid-day, often writing all night.

An American Grand Old Man.

Since the death of Gladstone, Senator Justin Smith Morrill, of Vermont, is the oldest living English-speaking statesman. There was about four months' difference in their ages, Gladstone having been born December 29, 1809, and Senator Morrill April 14, 1810. His length of service exceeds that of any American statesman. He was elected a representative to the Thirty-fourth congress and re-elected to the five succeeding congresses, and then transferred to the senate as a Union Republican in 1867, making his term of public service forty-three years.

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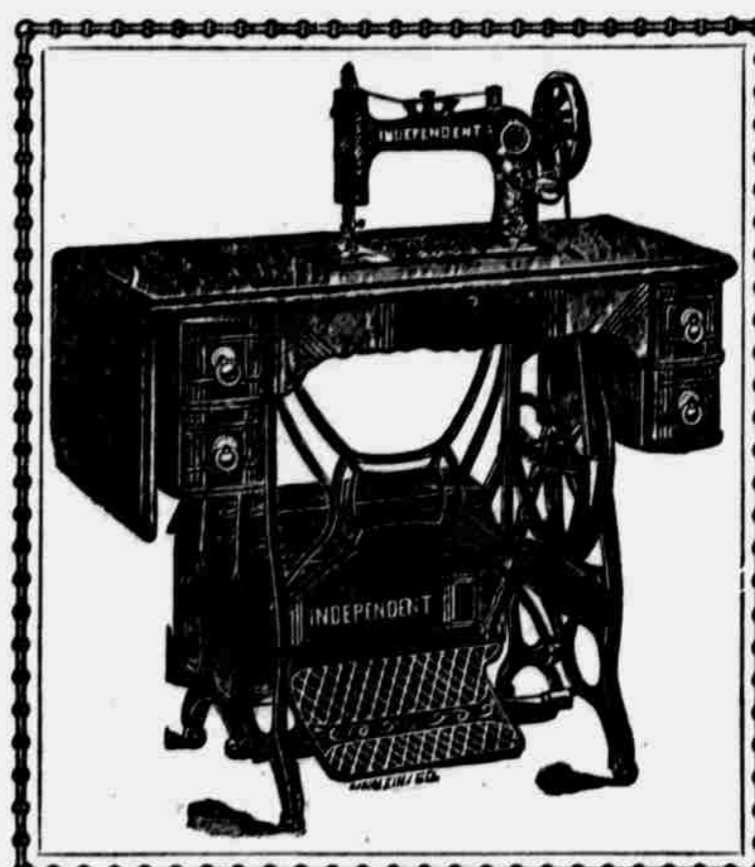
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