

**DEVIL WORSHIP**

**The Pessimism of Jesus—Who are the Optimists—A Great Book—A Sermon**  
by Rev. Herbert S. Bigelow

Cincinnati, O., Dec. 6.—“Optimistic Pessimists.” At the Vine Street Congregational church, today, the pastor, Herbert S. Bigelow, borrowed a title from a new book and chose for a text the parable of the mustard seed.

Mr. Bigelow said in part: “Optimistic Pessimism,” is the title of one of the chapters of a book of great merit which has just come from the press. The title of this book is “Ethics of Democracy” and its author is Louis F. Post, the editor of the Chicago Public. I have long regarded Mr. Post as a writer on politico-economic subjects without a peer among American journalists. His book is a treasure.

**OPTIMISTIC PESSIMISM.**

In this chapter on Optimistic Pessimists, Mr. Post objects to the habit of regarding all fault-finders as pessimists, and all applause-makers as optimists. Much that is called pessimism is a protest against evil. Much that is called optimism is “devil-worship.” The function of these “happy-go-lucky, lotus-eating” optimists, says the author, seems always to have been to sing about accomplished progress while good-naturedly obstructing further progress.

It is only the men who have great love for the world and a profound faith in the power of truth who will throw themselves into the unequal contest against the forces of unrighteousness. These men who are optimistic enough to oppose evil are often derided as pessimists by those “spurious and frivolous” optimists who do nothing but applaud, and, as the author says, whose applause is always ex post facto.

**ANTI-MONOPOLY AGITATORS.**

The people who dignify their mental and spiritual indolence by the name optimism, and who denounce as pessimists those who condemn evil, “seldom reflect that it is those they call grumblers and fault-finders the people who ‘rail,’ as they would put it, at community evils—the anti-monarchy Sam Adamases and Patrick Henrys, the anti-slavery Garrison and Beechers, the anti-monopoly agitators of our own time—who compel the world to move onward and upward.”

**WAS JESUS A PESSIMIST?**

There is no character in history which furnishes a better example than the Nazarene of this optimistic pessimism of which Mr. Post has written. An arraignment of the respectable, pious and ruling elements of society, such as we find recorded in the 23d chapter of Matthew, must have seemed to the Pharisee class viciously pessimistic. Yet, who of the world’s teachers has had so great faith in the divinity of human nature and the omnipotence of love and the supremacy of truth? Was he a pessimist? If so, he was an optimistic pessimist, one of the most hopeful antagonists of evil that the world has seen.

The parable of the mustard seed reveals to us the philosophy from which Jesus drew his abounding optimism.

Truth was to him like unto a grain of mustard seed, “which, indeed, is less than all seeds; but when it is grown, it is greater than the herbs, and becometh a tree, so that the birds of heaven come and lodge in the branches thereof.”

Jesus spoke this parable to men who had become imbued with the truth he taught. But they were humble men. They were only a handful against the world, and they were altogether without honor in their time.

“Yes,” said Jesus, “it may seem to you to be a forlorn hope. You despair because you compare your feebleness with the world’s strength. If that were the contest, there would be no hope. You forget the all-important factor, namely, the vitality of the truth.”

**TRUTH A THING THAT GROWS.**

Truth is not a burden that must be upheld by the hands of men. It is a seed that you put in the ground. It is a thing that grows. A man might as well try to manufacture an oak from an acorn as to overcome by his own might the power that is arrayed against the truth. But he can sow the seed. And it is as vain for men to contend against the growing truth as it would be for them to try to put the oak back into the acorn.

For those who keep their religion tucked away in a snug little church; for those to whom Christianity is a creed and not a deed, a dream and not a battle, this parable will have little significance.

But this parable is pregnant with hope for those who find their religious endeavor in service for humanity.

**OPEN CANNON MOUTHS.**

The men who have sided with the truth which the power of their day has frowned upon and before which

ignorance has trembled; the men who, in advance of their fellows, have stood on the skirmish line, looking with blood-bespattered faces into open cannon mouths; the men who, with hope deferred, have waited for prejudices to melt and passions to subside; the men who have tolled on in patience, while year after year the fickle multitude has been thrown into paroxysms of joy over the defeat of that truth which was its only salvation; the men who have made war upon the hoary customs and legal crimes by which the race has been held in bondage; these are the men who must find comfort in the parable. For the parable declares to them that they are not alone; that the truth they plant is sending its roots into the ground even while its misguided foes dance upon what they take to be its grave; that the same power which brings the oak out of the acorn is working in silence and working mightily for the triumph of the just cause.

**THE GOOD TIME COMING.**

The true optimist is the man who fights the wrong with good heart because he knows he is but contending for the recognition of eternal laws, and because with the eye of faith, he can see the future grandeur of his humble truth. What inspires him is the assurance of the good time coming when the thoughts of down-trodden men will soar on high, and the heavens resound with the mighty shouts of the sons of God, rejoicing in their new-found freedom.

**FREE TO EVERYONE**

**Read and Learn How You May Procure It**

The question of why one man succeeds and another fails, is a problem that has puzzled philosophers for centuries. One man attains riches and position, while his neighbor who started with seemingly the same, and better opportunities, exists in poverty and obscurity. No man can win success who is suffering from an irritating and nerve racking disease and the man who has the qualities of success within him, would be quick to recognize this fact and seize the best remedy to eradicate the trouble.

A person afflicted with a serious case of hemorrhoids or piles is handicapped in the race for power and advancement. It is impossible to concentrate the mental energies when this dreadful trouble is sapping the vital forces. To show how easily this success destroying trouble can be overcome, we publish the following letter from a prominent Indiana man:

“When I received the former letter and booklet on ‘Piles, their nature, cause and cure,’ I was in a critical condition. Ulcers to the number of seven had formed on the inside of the rectum culminating in a large tumor on the outside resembling fistula. I suffered the most excruciating pain, could get no rest day or night. After reading the booklet I sent to my druggist, but he happened to be out of Pyramid Pile Cure just at that time. However, I obtained a part of a box from my brother-in-law and began their use. Five pyramids completely cured me. I procured a box later, but have had no occasion to use them. I have been waiting to see that the cure was permanent, before writing you of its success. I believe Pyramid Pile Cure to be the greatest and best pile cure on the market, and ask you to please accept of my grateful thanks for this invaluable remedy. I take great pleasure in recommending its use to any sufferer along this line. You may use my name if you wish for reference to any one afflicted with this disease.” J. O. Littell, Arthur, Ind.

You can obtain a free sample of this wonderful remedy, also the booklet described above by writing your name and address plainly on a postal card and mailing it to the Pyramid Drug Co., Marshall, Mich.

**APPROACHING HOLIDAYS**

**Bring To Mind the Relation of the Members of Families To Each Other in the**

**RADIANCE OF AFFECTIONS**

**And During the Holidays We Must Remember the Importance of Providing for the Dependent.**

Christmas is the gift giving holiday. The tenderness of parents and children, of wives and husbands, of brothers and sisters, and of friends for friends has its concrete setting in the tokens exchanged. The poor are also remembered in the holiday time and

**A Special Christmas Catalogue.**

20 pages of useful, enduring Xmas gifts, with prices delivered, freight prepaid to your town.

**Leather Rockers, Chafing Dishes, Dressing Tables, Office Desks, Music Cabinets.**

Write for it Today. Free on Request.

**Rudge & Guenzel Co.**  
Lincoln, Neb.

the dependent receive more than ordinary consideration. These days remind us that the happiness of those dependent upon us is more or less within our own control, and hence the

**BANKERS RESERVE LIFE**

would suggest to the readers of this journal that no more sensible holiday provision can be arranged for than a twenty-payment gold bond life policy for wife or children, or both. It is the safest possible form of investment. Its value is fixed and no avaricious creditor can deprive the loved ones of its benefits in the event of a sudden call from the activities of earth. As a protection for the wife and little ones it is incomparably superior to a mortgage or real estate, because it is cash when matured. As an investment it is a constantly growing asset, with a cash surrender or loan value easily determined and immediately available.

**B. H. ROBISON, PRESIDENT,**

of this young, vigorous and reliable home company, invites fathers and mothers to inquire into the merits of this special form of policy. He invites unmarried men to consider it as an investment. It is no trouble to answer inquiries. It is a pleasure to inform those who seek to know something about the most desirable policy contract ever offered western people by a western company. Home office, McCague building, Omaha.

**Pumping Made Easy**

The Ideal Pump Equalizer, sold by the Pump Equalizer Co., of Waseca, Minn., can be applied to any pump in a very few minutes and will make the hardest working pump work easy. It weighs a little over three pounds, is fully warranted. This is a golden opportunity for honest agents. See their ad. in another column.

Some of Nebraska’s eminent “radecemera” are out of the state and dare not come back for fear of being indicted and some of them can’t come back because they have been indicted.

**A Stock That Is All Gifts.**

In considering the matter of holiday presents we wish to remind you that nearly every item in our jewelry department is of a gift character. No matter whom you seek a present for or what you wish to pay you are certain to receive a score of ideas on the subject by inspecting our present stock.

**Candy, Cigars, Dressing Cases, Pocket Books, Brushes, Etc.,**

are among the best gifts that can ever be selected. In some of these lines there are a hundred separate items to pick from. Call when you can and see the display.

**We Give Green Trading Stamps Everything Sold at Cut Prices**

**RIGGS, The Drug Cutter**

1211 O St., Lincoln, Neb.

**Richard Baxter**

A tale of New England life, time about 1830, is the title of a new novel just issued. This is written by our old friend, the Hon. Edward F. Jones, of Binghamton, ex-lieutenant governor of New York, but better known to our readers as “Jones He Pays the Freight.” This is one of the most entertaining books of the day, and will carry old Yankees back home in their memory. It is brim full of sentiment, humor and pathos. Real characters, not caricatures. We predict for it a wider sale than any novel for many years. It is published by the Grafton Press, New York, 12 mo., 350 pages, 16 illustrations, finely bound, \$1.50. All booksellers, or postpaid by mail.

Patronize our advertisers.