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PASTOR RUSSELL

Ithaca, N. Y., March 16.—Pastor Russell is here, and in view of this being the seat of Cornell University he took as a text the words of the philosopher: "Wisdom from Above the noblest science, the best instruction." It must be said, however, that the Pastor used various Scriptures, any one of which might have served for a text.

Once the colleges of the world represented, not merely secular education, but the faith, the hope, the religious sentiment of their founders, who were generally religious people. A great change has taken place. Today colleges are ashamed to acknowledge any religious affiliations; and although they stand for moral principles of a high order and represent a form of godliness, nevertheless they are hot-beds of infidelity—of belief in the Bible as the Divinely-inspired Revelation.

This condition of things, the Pastor declared, is deplorable. In his opinion the great institutions of learning throughout the world, so well equipped for the inculcation of faith in God, are, as a matter of fact, doing more to overthrow faith than are all other influences combined. He declared it not strange under such circumstances that the cry of "graft" is going up in every civilized land.

The increase of knowledge, of late spread abroad among the masses of mankind, the Pastor believed to be accountable for the increase of vice, which is so great that if it were not for our inventions and police arrangements, this would be the most insecure time in the world's history. He explained that the undermining of faith in the Bible as the Word of God, and the inculcation of the Evolution theory, tend to destroy faith in a personal God, and in rewards and punishments from Him upon the just and upon the unjust. One of the most peculiar things to him was that the very wealthy men of the world have richly endowed its leading colleges, thereby destroying faith and unintentionally leading mankind to social revolution, and more, to the precipice of anarchy.

**Sympathy For Higher Critics.**

Nothing in the Pastor's words indicated condemnation; but on the contrary, he manifested a deep sympathy for those who are entangled in the snare of Occultism and Evolution. He had once been entangled himself, he said. He had gotten free in time, thank God! Had his experience gone so far as to lead him to doubt the existence of the Supreme Creator, he believed that he would have been as irrevocably lost in Evolution as are many of the noble specimens of our race who are in college chairs.

The Pastor knew well that the primary difficulty is that they cannot believe the Bible to be the inspired Record. So also he had once rejected it, because he thought it to be in harmony with the creeds of the Dark Ages whose absurdities are more and more apparent to all intelligent, thinking people. Now, the Pastor pronounced himself a most firm believer in the inspiration of the Bible. He had a reason for the faith within him, which he also explained. He said:

One of the surprising things my Bible study revealed was that the Bible supports the teachings of none of the sects, none of the creeds; and that none of the creeds and sects care for or use all of the Bible. Each has made selections of doctrines from the Word of God. Each uses these in its own defense, and each finds in the Bible other teachings supported by other texts, which do not fit in with its own creed. Evidently none of the different sects manufactured the Bible. Had the Calvinists made it up, they would have left out all the texts which teach Divine Free Grace. Had the Methodists—the Methodists, etc.—made up the Bible, they would have put in more Free Grace texts and would have left out those which mention Election.

Had the Catholics made the Bible, they would have added something to teach the immaculate conception of the Virgin Mary, and to prove that she should now be prayed to and worshiped. They would have put in something about indulgences, high mass, low mass, holy water, holy candles, etc. They would have had it mention St. Peter as the first Pope. They would have had it support their theory of Apostolic Succession—that all the bishops are holy apostles, as well as the original Twelve. They would have put in, as would most Protestants, a number of texts telling about the doctrine of the Trinity.

Both Catholics and Protestants would have left out the texts which tell that

the dead are asleep, and that their awakening is to come in the resurrection morning. Indeed, they would have omitted everything respecting the resurrection; for it is one of the most difficult matters to explain—how there can be a resurrection of the dead, when they teach that nobody is dead, and that those who seem to die really become more alive than when they were living. Evidently the old Book, which now I prize so highly, was not made by man. The intellectuals already are discarding it, and the religious, finding that they cannot defend their creeds from its pages, are at last discrediting the Word of God!

My hope and prayer and effort are on behalf of the thinking Christian people of today. I would have them see that this wonderful Book, while out of accord with the creeds of Christendom, and the world, is fully in harmony with itself. I would have them see that the great Plan of salvation which the Bible sets forth towers far above all the efforts of puny men, as represented in the creeds of Christendom. I would have them see the glorious fulness of the Bible Message; that its length and breadth and height and depth could not have come from any other quarter than from Above. I would have them see that this "Wisdom from Above" is the noblest science and the best instruction.

Great men of the past have perceived that the Bible has been identified with the best there has ever been of human progress. Many have been their expressions respecting it as the Torch of Liberty and Civilization. But these dear men did not see the real beauty of the Bible, because they did not understand its real Message, for God's due time for the full understanding of that Message is only now here. And now Bible students have advantages in Bible study such as never before were possessed. And now, in God's time, His Word is shining as a light upon the pathway, with a brilliancy that is grand.

**Learning's True Value and Cost.**

Learning, along all the various lines of present day instruction, is surely valuable. Chemistry has done and is doing much for the world; so are electricity and other applied sciences. I congratulate your city upon having in its midst one of these institutions of learning. I remind you, however, that the truths of science which apply to our every-day life, while very important to our human progress, are not alone sufficient for us.

In other words, in God's order, all humanity are so created as to have mental cravings, appetites and powers which none of the applied sciences however useful, will satisfy. The human mind must reason, must reflect, must have a theory respecting whence we come and whither we go, and the object of our present existence. These questions, formerly the more prominent ones, have been cast into the shade in recent times.

I understand that in many classes such philosophizing is tabooed. At very most, the searcher for knowledge along these lines is referred to Plato and Socrates, and their immature deductions. No one, seemingly, thinks of attempting to progress in mental philosophy beyond these giants of the past. And yet the Evolution theory tells us that living nearly three thousand years ago, those men must have been much nearer to the monkey state than we are today. Besides all this, those men had none of the Wisdom which comes from Above—claimed none of it.

The Pastor sought to impress the purity of beginning Bible study afresh, ignoring the creeds of the Dark Ages and permitting the old Book to explain itself—one passage throwing light upon another. He pointed out, however, that the Bible specifically declares that none except the consecrated, the saintly, can have the Holy Spirit; and that not without it can the Bible be fully and clearly understood. His exhortation implied, therefore, he said, that all who desire to have the Wisdom and instruction from Above should first of all recognize a supreme personal Creator, a God of Justice, Wisdom, Love and Power. To Him they should consecrate their hearts, their lives. Then they should take up the study of His Word, desirous of knowing His will that they might do it in every particular.

**Graduation Day is Upon Us.**

Graduation day is here. The examinations are on. The intellectual are being called upon to answer. What shall it profit a man if he gain all material knowledge and miss the Wisdom that cometh from Above? Unless the Pastor is greatly mistaken, the next few years will show that much of the learning that has been given has not only not been helpful, but really has been injurious. The Pope of Rome is quite right in his declaration that the education which ignores a God and the Divine Purpose in Revelation cannot bring blessing.

If the next few years shall show an increase in the spirit of discontent in the same ratio as the last ten years behind us, it will be a most unhappy world. And that unhappiness will be traceable largely to our colleges. They have exalted material knowledge and applied sciences until the world is hungry for their application, and restless, expecting social, political and financial miracles, and chafing if these be not quickly produced.

The Pastor believed that the difficulty has been that the most important element of human nature has been left untaught—the highest organs of the human brain, appertaining to religion, justice, mercy, equity, reverence for God. What college can claim that it has sent forth its students properly cultured along these lines? And if not so trained surely they are in an unbalanced condition, because

the education of the heart and the religious proclivities of the human mind has been seriously neglected. Would that I could impise here in this college city a revival of Bible study, of reverence for God and holy things, but not a reverence for superstition; said the Pastor.

**"All Taught of God."**

Speaking of the blessings of the Messianic period—the thousand years of Christ's reign—the Scriptures declare that the people shall all be taught of God. Messiah and the Church in glory will be the teachers of the world of mankind. In the Scriptures this double function of the Church is set forth in the promise that the Church shall be kings and priests of God and Christ and shall reign with Him a thousand years.—Revelation 20:6.

A Kingdom they shall have, with full authority to rule the world, for the good and uplifting of the subjects—mankind. As priests they will not merely be dignitaries and commanders, but sympathetic instructors of the people. The double office finds its fulfillment in Jesus, the Head of the Church, and proportionately in all the members of His Body. The whole is described as the Melchizedek Priesthood. Melchizedek was a priest upon his throne—a reigning priest, a type of Messiah, the antitypical Priesthood.

The success of that institution is abundantly affirmed by the Bible. The knowledge of God shall fill the whole earth, until none will need to say to his neighbor, Know thou the Lord; for all shall know Me from the least of them to the greatest, saith the Lord. (Isaiah 11:9; Jeremiah 31:34.) With that knowledge will come the responsibility—their trial for life everlasting or death everlasting; for eternal Paradise or eternal destruction. Meantime they will no longer walk by faith, but by sight; for the things promised will then have come. Then mankind shall see out of the obscurity, and realize the truthfulness of God's promises, when in process of accomplishment.

**Some Taught of God Now.**

The Bible tells us that some are taught of God in advance of the world—a special class, under private tuition, as it were. These are called a Little Flock. We are distinctly told that they are constituted chiefly of the poor—not many great, not many wise, not many rich, not many learned are pupils in this class, receiving this special instruction. In order to enter this class for special, advanced instruction in the Wisdom from Above, two particular matters are requisite: (1) The pupils must be introduced, recommended, and all their course guaranteed by One who stands as their Advocate—Jesus. (2) They must make a complete surrender of themselves to God, promising that as they learn the Wisdom from Above they will use it in harmony with the Divine will.

This class, beginning with the Apostles, has been in process of development for nearly nineteen centuries and is almost completed, we believe. Whoever would still join this class should make haste to be enrolled—to have his name written in the Lamb's Book of Life.—Revelation 3:5; 21:27.

This might be termed a special normal school; for the graduates of this School are to be the instructors of the world of mankind in the next Age—the Royal Priesthood. But in addition to the privilege they will have in giving the world "The Wisdom from Above, the noblest science and best instruction," they will receive qualification for that work by change of nature. "Flesh and blood cannot inherit the Kingdom of God"; hence these must all be changed by the power of the First Resurrection. Their change is represented by the Apostle when he says, speaking of the First Resurrection class, "It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power; it is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body."—1 Corinthians 15:43, 44.

**Our High Calling.**

The great honor to be conferred upon the Church—namely, joint-heirship with the Redeemer in His Kingdom and glory—is the Bible's explanation of the Church's special trials. To test our loyalty, our love, our zeal for God and for righteousness, the way to glory now is permitted to be a narrow one. The lessons which the Church must learn are to be learned under circumstances of greater difficulty than the world will experience in its trial. The world will be required to prove obedience merely by abstaining from everything that is wrong, sinful, contrary to God's will. The Church is required to do all that and more—to sacrifice earthly interests—everything—in the service of God and His cause.

This is the same lesson Jesus, the Master Himself, learned. As we read, "Yet learned He obedience by the things which He suffered; and being made perfect He became the Author of eternal salvation to all those who obey Him"—to all followers in His footsteps, whom He graciously assists by the way and encourages with His promises and providences.—Hebrews 2:10; 5:8, 9.

The Bible shows us that at the end of this Age some of the Church will pass beyond the veil to glory, honor and immortality—in the first rank—more than mere conquerors. These are styled the Bride, Messiah's joint-heirs. There will be another and larger class of overcomers, faithful and loyal, but will not be of the Bride class. They will indeed reach the spirit plane, but will not be of the Bride class. They are pictured as servants, the maidens who follow the Bride into the presence of the King. (Psalm 45:14.) Let us choose the better part, that in the examination tests we may have first honors, and hear the Master's "Well done, good and faithful servants; enter into the joys of your Lord."

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