

The Evening Journal

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THE EVENING JOURNAL PUBLISHING COMPANY. Fourth and Shipley Streets, Wilmington, Delaware. Business Office—Entrance, 102 West Fourth Street.

FRIDAY DEC. 4 1914,

RUSSELL, COOKE AND THE OPEN DOOR.

The Rev. George A. Cooke, pastor of Wesley M. E. Church in this city, possesses any predominant quality at all, it is deliberateness.

On November 3 he paid a visit to this office in an effort, by threats of a boycott, to induce us to bar from our columns the weekly Sunday school lesson exposition by "Pastor" Charles F. Russell, head of the Brooklyn and London tabernacles and also the world-leader of the International Bible Students' Association, which has tens of thousands of members in this country and abroad.

On November 4 we published an editorial, entitled "No Religious Discrimination," in which we announced our refusal to accede to the request of Mr. Cooke and declared an open-door policy with respect to all religionists who might desire to express their views on ecclesiastical matters. From that editorial we charitably omitted the boycott threats and also all reference to a visit Mr. Cooke had made to our office several months before, at which time he magnanimously suggested that he be substituted for "Pastor" Russell as our weekly exponent of the Sunday school Bible lesson.

And now, on December 3, or one month after the publication of that editorial, we receive the following letter from Mr. Cooke in attempted reply:

To the Editor of THE EVENING JOURNAL. Sir—Your editorial entitled, "No Religious Discrimination" was certainly interesting reading. You make out a good case for THE EVENING JOURNAL, as might be expected in a jug-handle argument. You make the Ministerial Union of this city look small. As a case of special pleading, it is easily entitled to the blue ribbon. The complaint of the Ministerial Union rests upon the fact that you do discriminate, and that, too, in favor of the doctrines of Charles F. Russell. He has the exclusive privilege of indoctrinating the public through the columns of THE EVENING JOURNAL. You may think that Russell is the fountainhead of all wisdom. The Christian ministers of this city do not agree with that pastor. We believe that his interpretations of Scripture are not only farcical and absurd, but positively dangerous to public morals. This is not a hasty judgment on the part of the ministers, but the calm, mature utterance of men who have given their lives to the study of these subjects. We have no ill-will toward Mr. Russell or his devoted followers, but desire in the kindest spirit to set the public right in an important matter. We passed our resolutions in good faith and submitted them to you as a matter of news. There was nothing slanderous in the resolutions as you could easily learn by consulting any lawyer who is familiar with the law of libel. It would show a broader and more liberal spirit, in my opinion, for you to publish the resolutions, and then discuss the issue on its merits.

Sincerely yours, GEORGE A. COOKE.

Wilmington, Del., Dec. 2, 1914. We are well pleased to receive that letter. We regret that a month of pastoral deliberation has not brought forth better argumentative fruit. The letter supplies to us an opportunity, however, to state certain facts, some of which are unknown to the public and to Mr. Cooke's associates in the Ministerial Union. For the purpose of arranging those facts in chronological order, it is necessary for us to hark back to the early part of this year.

One day Mr. Cooke came to our office. He suggested that we leave out the "Pastor" Russell exposition, which had been a feature of our religious page for years, and that we permit him to write the exposition each week. We declined on the ground that while many persons might not agree with the exposition by "Pastor" Russell, no doubt as many persons would not agree with an exposition by Mr. Cooke. A further reason for our declination to make this substitution, suggested with such ingenuously by Mr. Cooke, was that "Pastor" Russell, be he right or wrong, is a world-character, while Mr. Cooke is not. We informed Mr. Cooke that our columns were wide open to him and that we should be well pleased for him to send to us for publication any extracts from his sermons and addresses that he might think of interest to the public. The parting was amicable. A few days later we received from Mr. Cooke an article to which we cheerfully gave space in our paper. That ended his special contributions. It then became clear to us that what he really aimed at was not free opportunity to express in our paper his religious views, but to substitute his interpretation of the Scriptures for the Russell interpretation.

The next we saw of Mr. Cooke was when he called at our office on November 3 with resolutions, adopted by the Ministerial Union. In them "Pastor" Russell and the members of the International Bible Students' Association were criticized severely. They also contained a request that we bar "Pastor" Russell's exposition from our columns. In view of what previously had passed, it was not difficult to see back of those resolutions the fine Italian hand of Mr. Cooke. We declined to print the resolutions unless they were accompanied by an indemnifying bond. We also declined to have our religious page censored by Mr. Cooke, the Ministerial Union or anyone else. We announced our determination to keep the doors wide open to men and women of all shades of religious belief.

Mr. Cooke said the Russell exposition was doing great harm in that it was drawing members from the churches and leading them to join the International Bible Students' Association. Our reply to that was that all preachers, himself included, were trying to make converts to their way of religious thinking and that, if they failed to accomplish results along that line, they had little excuse for being in the pulpit. We then said to him: "Can you give us the name of any person, man, woman, or child, who, since you have been pastor of Wesley Church, has left that church as a result of the publication by us of the Russell Sunday school Bible lesson exposition?"

"No," he said, after several seconds of hesitation. "Then it cannot be so terribly harmful as you suggest, and you certainly have no cause for complaint," we replied.

We added that if we were to pursue any such exclusion-plain as was suggested by him and the resolutions we would have no assurance that, with "Pastor" Russell disposed of, the next censorious demand made by the Union would not be for the exclusion from our columns of the religious views of Bishop Kinsman, head of the Episcopal Diocese of Delaware; Bishop Monaghan, head of the Catholic Diocese of Wilmington, and the heads of the various Jewish and other congregations in our community.

"And in the last analysis, by your process of rea-

soning, the only preachers in town who would have a right to lay their religious views before our readers would be the members of the Wilmington Ministerial Union," we said. "Nor is that really the last analysis because, as your Union is composed of preachers representing many denominations which are widely at variance on matters of religious teaching, what assurance have we that, after the views of all outside preachers have been censured out of our columns, the dominant representatives in the Union will not turn upon the weaker delegates therein and, by an internal application of this censorious policy, exclude the views of the minority representatives from the columns of our local newspapers?"

Mr. Cooke denied that any such results would attend a compliance with the demand of the Ministerial Union.

"Are you willing to accept the consequences of a refusal to do this thing?" Mr. Cooke finally inquired. "We are," was the reply.

"Even if informed that the preachers composing the Ministerial Union may advise the members of their congregations to cease reading THE EVENING JOURNAL?"

"Absolutely," we said. "The columns of this paper have been, are now and will continue to be open and free to all religionists. We do not fear that any such boycott will be attempted, or that it will be successful if attempted. Our faith in the fair-mindedness and liberality of this community impels us to say that and to adhere to it."

Mr. Cooke went away, chagrined and dissatisfied. Immediately after his departure the editorial, "No Religious Discrimination," was written for the next day's paper. Our faith in the fair-mindedness and liberality of the people of this city and elsewhere was fully justified. Before nightfall the edition of the paper of November 4 was sold out. Subsequently demands for copies of the editorial came from this city and outside with such insistence that it was necessary for us to reprint several hundred copies of that editorial page to supply the demand. There was nothing new or remarkable about the editorial. Its redeeming qualities were taken from the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States, which everlasting documents stand for religious liberty, free speech and a free press.

And now let us refer more specifically to Mr. Cooke's letter, which is incorporated in the body of this editorial. It pleases us to know that he found "No Religious Discrimination" interesting reading and that to his way of thinking it made out a good case for THE EVENING JOURNAL. We deny his assertion that we made the Ministerial Union "look small." It made itself look small by permitting Mr. Cooke to influence it to pursue such an un-American path as he, because of long-standing antipathy for "Pastor" Russell, blazed for it. It is flattering to note that Mr. Cooke says that, as a case of special pleading, the "No Religious Discrimination" editorial is "entitled to the blue ribbon." That phrase is red-blooded. It savors of the paddock, the tanbark and the county fair. It is pleasing that Mr. Cooke can become at times of the earth earthy and indulge in phrase that appeals to the lay mind.

But all that is beyond the point. We deny that we discriminate in favor of "Pastor" Russell. We affirm that we give, in the course of a year, ten times as much space to the news-views of members of the Ministerial Union as we give to the news-views of "Pastor" Russell and his followers. The columns of our paper constitute a conclusive refutation of Mr. Cooke's assertion that "Pastor" Russell has the exclusive privilege of indoctrinating the public through THE EVENING JOURNAL. We know that when Mr. Cooke makes such a charge he cannot represent the sentiment of the members of the Ministerial Union because there are no preachers in our city who use the columns of this paper more freely for the purpose of indoctrinating the public than do the members of that Union. In fact, one of the most prominent members of that body took the trouble to call us up, praise the "No Religious Discrimination" editorial and thank us for the expression of such broad-minded American views.

We do not think "Pastor" Russell is the fountainhead of all wisdom, as Mr. Cooke puts it, nor do we accept the doctrinal views of Mr. Cooke. Our position is simply that under our American system he has as much right to express his views through the columns of this paper as has Mr. Cooke or anyone associated with him in the censorious enterprise upon which he has embarked with so little thought of the vital American principle that it seeks to violate. We also would remind Mr. Cooke that the policy of stifling freedom of religious thought by repression, suppression and exclusion played out years ago and that it has no place in twentieth century religious or newspaper work.

That Mr. Cooke and certain of his associates regard the Russell interpretations of the Scriptures as farcical does not interest us. No doubt "Pastor" Russell and his associates think that Mr. Cooke's interpretations of the Scriptures are equally farcical and there may be many members of the Ministerial Union who think the same way, because they belong to other denominations and cannot be in accord with his doctrinal views. It is our function as a public newspaper to permit all of them to lay their views before an intelligent and discriminating public that it may make its own choice. No preacher who has faith in the convincing power of his own doctrine should be averse to becoming a party to such a policy.

Mr. Cooke says the Russell interpretations of the Scriptures are "positively dangerous to the public morals." We propose a test. We have here in our city an International Bible Students' Class. It is made up of men and women who have accepted the doctrines of "Pastor" Russell. We know only two members of that class. Notwithstanding our ignorance with respect to its personnel, we challenge Mr. Cooke to lay before us any proof that acceptance by those men and women of the Russell doctrine has made them immoral, unmoral or dangerous to the public. The field is wide open. We invite him to produce his proofs. He has made the declaration. It is his duty to substantiate it, not by glittering and evasive ecclesiastical platitudes, but by concrete and horrible example.

The question whether the resolutions which we refused to print are slanderous and libelous is one that we shall decide for ourselves, without the assistance of Mr. Cooke or anyone else who has no material interest in this newspaper property.

Mr. Cooke says it would show a broader and more liberal spirit, in his opinion, were we to publish the resolutions and then discuss the issue on its merits. We disagree with him. We think it would show a broader, a more liberal and a more American spirit were the Ministerial Union, which has permitted Mr. Cooke to place it in an untenable position, to recall those resolutions and expunge them and all reference to them from its minutes.

So far as that goes, however, we are unconcerned as to the course that may be pursued. With us the only point involved is that the open-door policy of our paper shall be reaffirmed and maintained, with equal opportunity for Jew or Gentile or Catholic or Protestant to lay his religious views before the public for acceptance or rejection. Under such a policy we rest content with the thought that the law of the survival of the fittest will surely prevail.

Why Should We Not Defend Ourselves?

(From the New York Tribune).

The National Security League is the expression of a growing conviction of the country over. That conviction abates not one jot from our national resolve for peace, from our national aversion to militarism and all its works. It postulates our national duty to labor for disarmament and an international agreement establishing a world peace, if such a plan can be devised by the mind of man. But it insists, in the meantime, upon a little plain common sense and precaution. It insists that we shall not now cast aside all weapons merely because we hope some day to make their use impossible.

The great war has had two effects upon our minds. It has increased immeasurably our horror of war, our realization of its destructiveness, our dread of its arrival. It has also brought sharply before us the inescapable fact that, as the world is organized today, war is a possibility which every nation, however peaceable, however well intentioned, must face. The chance may be near or remote. In the case of our own country, with its fortunate isolation, its democratic and anti-militarist spirit, it will for peace, we are surely justified in rating the chance a small one. But the chance exists, and it is folly to blink the fact. There are those who prefer to shut their eyes to the possibility. "The Evening Post" yesterday took Mr. George Haven Putnam to task for his obvious and reasonable suggestion of an invasion might come to this country. It scoffed at the idea and asserted the impossibility of any invasion in force of this country. There would be more persuasiveness in these assertions had not "The Evening Post" frequently in the past demonstrated with equal facility the impossibility of a great European war.

The point is, we think, not the precise degree of improbability attaching to war, but the utter calamity which it would bring to us if we

Returning to the Normal

(From the New York Sun).

Business is once more finding itself on firm ground. When the very foundations of finance and commerce rocked four months ago in the economic convulsion attending the outbreak of the war in Europe it was difficult to believe that a sure footing would be recovered in anything like the comparatively brief interval which has since elapsed. The banking and business community, however, kept its head despite the difficulty of keeping its feet, and as a result almost normal conditions have been restored.

New York City is always the centre of any financial disturbance that visits the United States. Here the country's primary markets for money, securities and foreign exchange are maintained and here the country's commercial balances are ultimately settled. Testimony of the country's return to the normal is in no respect more convincing than in the announcement that the New York Clearing House banking institutions have retired all the loan certificates which began to issue in August to enable members to effect temporary arrangements of accounts among themselves without using reserve money.

Recourse to the issuance of clearing house certificates was an emergency measure of the first class sanctioned by experience in grave crises, and the promptness with which it was made undoubtedly helped to render the crisis last August less acute. On previous occasions in our financial history employment of measures of the sort was almost invariably too tardy and timid. On this occasion our bankers acted with resolution and celerity, and in consequence the

has but little influence.

There is a great need of more teamwork among our business men and financiers. Salisbury has reached the point in her development when it is vital to keep going ahead or the result will be that we will start going behind. During the past few years there has been much money expended by private concerns as well as by the city and county looking towards the development of our commerce and business and it would be a great pity if our people would allow these efforts to prove unavailing because of petty jealousies or a failure to work together for the common good.

During the past three years the property owners along the North fork of the Wicomico river have expended at least \$40,000 in building wharves and filling in their properties to provide ample wharfage for the city. The Salisbury Realty Company have in the same time expended \$100,000 in the improvement of their property in wharfing, dredging, opening streets and other improvements. The County Commissioners have also contracted for the expenditure of thousands of dollars in building bridges to open up commerce and we are now at the point where a little push, less jealousy and more teamwork, would put Salisbury on the road to the most prosperous year in her history during 1915.

FIRST BOW AND APPRECIATION.

The New Castle Journal makes its appearance this issue for the first time. Its policy is independent, politically. The aim of The New Castle

Journal is to be considered worthy of patronage bestowed, and to earn its place among the earnest workers for the development and welfare of New Castle.

New Castle has advantages that other Delaware cities do not possess. New Castle has a water front that permits greater anchorage facilities than any other city in Delaware. We of New Castle, know this, it is up to our citizens to force this fact among those, and not far distant, who are looking for just such facilities. The New Castle Journal thanks The Evening Journal, Wilmington Morning News, and The Every Evening, all of Wilmington, for their courtesy in advancing the publicity of the New Castle Journal, while the publisher was working on his first edition. We are not indifferent to the real merit thus accorded us by the courtesy of the Wilmington press.

The publisher of this paper wishes to express his sincere thanks to Mr. Clement B. Hallam, city editor of The Evening Journal, Mr. George Carter, managing editor of The Evening Journal, and to Mr. Clarence J. Pyle, business manager of The Evening Journal, and to their advertising manager, Mr. Otteni and Mr. Strickland, for courtesies extended and for their general good will in our success. During our stay with The Evening Journal, we learned to admire and highly esteem these gentlemen. To be able to earn and hold their friendly regard we consider our honor. We also express our thanks to the office force of The Evening Journal.



In Our New Gift Section

For your convenience in doing your Christmas shopping, we have set aside a large section of our first floor, to be known as THE GIFT DEPARTMENT.

Each line of gifts is attractively displayed so that you may select the article desired without the trouble of visiting other sections and floors.

If you are at a loss as to what to give, a visit to this gift department will surely suggest something that is not only unique and artistic, but one that combines beauty with service, and after all, it is the useful gift that is appreciated.

Staple and novelty furniture of every description is here in a very large assortment from which to choose, and in addition, you have the advantage of our very liberal payment plan to aid you in making someone happy this Christmas.

STORE OPEN TUESDAY AND SATURDAY NIGHTS.

Est. of Edw. H. Brennan, 219-221 Market St.

To Put the Merry in Christmas

At the same time save your money; you can give a most suitable gift lasting for an entire year by buying a magazine subscription. A pretty gift card will be sent free with each order. Be sure to order your Christmas gift subscriptions where they will do the most good. I am trying to get 25 subscriptions this month to the Ladies' Home Journal, Saturday Evening Post or Country Gentleman, each \$1.50. Phone 4754A.

L. W. PRETTYMAN 709 W. Eighth Street Wilmington, Del. UNABLE TO TAKE A DRINK OF WATER WITHOUT THE AID OF ANOTHER.



Government Injustice

(From the Washington Post).

How is it possible for the United States government to expect a high standard of business ethics from private or semipublic corporations when the government itself engages in a policy which is palpably unjust?

Under the system of weighing the mails and readjusting railway mail pay only at four-year intervals, every railroad is required to carry the increase in the mail tonnage for four years without compensation.

At the time the parcel post was established on January 1, 1913, no provision was made to pay for its transportation by the railroads. The railroads had to transport the entire volume of parcel post packages for six months without a penny of compensation. Such a practice, if engaged in by a big corporation toward a weaker one, would result in prosecution by the United States Government.

Nearly two years have now elapsed since the establishment of the parcel post, yet approximately half the parcel

Tots To Teens Shop

Everything for the child to six years. Dresses from 50c to \$5.00. Underwear, Rompers, Oliver Twist Suits. Sweaters, \$1.50 to \$3.00. Knit and Jersey Leggings. Caps, Bonnets and Hats. Coats, \$3.50 to \$18.00, from six months to 14 years. Mittens and Gloves. Dolls of all kinds and prices. See our special Dolls for \$1.00. Comfy Slippers, red and gray, 90c to \$1.25. Patent Leather Shoes with white kid tops for Tots.

WHITE BUCKSKIN SHOES. Infants \$2.00 to \$2.50 Childs \$3.00 to \$3.50 Misses \$4.00 Growing Girls \$5.00

Pyle Shoe Store 619 Market St. Wilmington

Spirit of the Delmarvia Press

A FORCEFUL MESSAGE. From the Newark Post. Free from class, creed or cant, the address given by Mr. Candee at the Community Meeting was an inspiration to all those who were present.

Those who were absent last evening missed a rare treat. After a busy day, and evening, for our neighbor citizen to come speak to us, was indeed a sacrifice. It was made with the grace of a man imbued with a "Civic Consciousness."

TEAM WORK FOR 1915. From the Salisbury News. Now is the time for the good people of Salisbury to get together and prepare for an aggressive campaign for 1915 to help along the development and progress of Salisbury. There is nothing which so aids the development of a city as good teamwork on the part of the business men and property owners. A few disgruntled and pessimistic citizens can do more damage than a host of easy going men, but when a city has good teamwork among its leading citizens and property owners, the pessimist

Read the EVENING JOURNAL