

PEOPLE'S PULPIT...



Sermon by CHARLES T. RUSSELL, Pastor Brooklyn Tabernacle.

THE NECESSITY FOR THE MILLENNIUM.

"Times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord; and he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you; whom the heavens must retain until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began."—Acts iii, 19-21.

Brooklyn, N. Y., April 3.—Pastor C. T. Russell of Brooklyn Tabernacle preached here twice today to splendid audiences. One of his discourses was entitled, "The Overthrow of Satan's Empire." The other, which we report, was on the necessity for the Millennium from the text above quoted. Pastor Russell said:—

Respecting two matters there can be no question:—

(1) That the early Church thoroughly believed in a Millennial Kingdom, hoped for it, prayed for it—"Thy Kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is done in heaven."

(2) It is equally certain that today the doctrine of the Millennium is taboos as "out of date"—out of harmony with the views of the Higher Critics and Evolutionists, who are filling practically all the chairs in our colleges and the majority of the pulpits of Christendom.

What has led to this radical change on the part of the religious wise men of all denominations? Have they taken a step in advance or are they departing from the path—from the teachings of the inspired Word of God? That they have left the Word of God, that they make light of it, that they profess far more wisdom and ability than the writers of the Bible and a higher intellectual inspiration than they, is indisputable. The question for us is, Will Christians in considerable numbers follow these leaders away from God, away from all Divine revelation? Will we put our trust in literary princes who claim the right to instruct the world, not by Divine appointment or authority, but by virtue of their large amount of self-esteem?

The present day concept of the Church of Christ is that God planted it amongst men as leaven in a batch of dough with the intent that it should propagate itself until the entire mass would be leavened. But the Bible apostolic concept of the Church's message is the very reverse of this—that it is planted in the world, not with a view to converting the world, but on the contrary to keep itself separate from the world and to draw to itself "As many as the Lord your God shall call" of the pure in heart—to sacrifice earthly interests for Divine interests, unto death, and later, by the First Resurrection, to enter into the heavenly glory of the Redeemer as his "Bride," his "Wife," his "Joint-Heir" in the Kingdom glory and the Kingdom work. And the work of that Kingdom is set forth to be the "blessing of all the families of the earth."

The two views are so radically opposite that none should confuse them in their minds. If one is right, the other is wrong. If one is Scriptural, the other is unscriptural. In the above from Dr. Brown admits that the Scriptural view entertained by the early Church contemplated the Church in suffering and in a temporary or tabernacle condition in the present life and promised a share with Christ in his reign in power and great glory, as God's Kingdom during the Millennium. The safe, the proper, the right course is to go back and take up afresh the doctrine of the Millennium—the doctrine that the faithful of the Church now being tried and tested will constitute the glorious Kingdom of God's dear Son after their change from earthly to spirit conditions in the "First Resurrection" (I Corinthians xv, 42-44).

The Laymen's Movement. God bless the Christian Endeavor and Epworth League and Students' Missionary League and the Laymen's Movement, all intent on "Storming the world for Jesus." We hear their witness that they have a zeal for God which we greatly admire and would encourage. But their goal is "not according to knowledge," and is therefore considerably misdirected. To any one of logical mind, who will reason from statistics, the thought of converting the world by singing a few enthusiastic hymns or holding a few enthusiastic meetings for the collection of money! money!! money!!! would be childish. We do not despise childishness. We have all had our share. But we all should say with the Apostle, "When I was a child, I spoke as a child and understood as a child; but when I became a man I put away childish things" (I Corinthians xiii, 11).

"Christian people have been fooling themselves long enough!" Yes, it is as absolutely irrational to think of converting the world, as it is unscriptural to believe that God ever gave us that impossible commission. The United States census reports show that there are twice as many heathen today as there were a century ago. The world heathen carries to many a very wrong impression. Many noble-hearted Christians have gone as missionaries to the heathen wholly unprepared for what they met—intelligent reasoning ability, etc. They found that the heathen were full of questions, logical questions, too, which they as Christians had never thought of, and which they were wholly unprepared to

answer. Comparatively few of the missionaries are able to hold their own in argument with intelligent people in India, China, and Japan. There is no danger of their converting those people. There is more danger of their losing their own faith in the Bible, because of their misapprehension of some of its teachings—respecting the mission of the Church, the hope of the Church and the hope of the world! Missionaries are thus handicapped! Full of commendable zeal they leave our shores to tell the heathen that their forefathers have gone to eternal torment and that they are going there, too, unless they accept Christ. It is a rude awakening to be asked where hell is? and why God should have condemned them and their forefathers to such a horrible eternity? and how this could be true and yet he be a God of pity, compassion, Love? The heathen ask, Why the different denominations—the different theories of the terms of salvation—by Water, by Election, by Free Grace, by Joining the Church, etc. The missionary, wholly unable to answer the adult native, gathers children about him, starts a school and does all he is able perhaps, to justify his presence in a foreign land—helping the sick and doing many other acts of kindness which are very commendable, whether from a religious or humanitarian standpoint.

Preach the Gospel to All Nations. Our Lord's instruction was that his people should preach the Gospel in all the world for a witness—not to convert all the world, but for a "witness" to all the world. The mission of the Gospel is to select the Kingdom class, a "little flock." The first opportunity to become members of this Royal Priesthood was offered to the Jews and, after the gathering of a remnant from them, and after their national rejection, the message was to go to the whole world irrespective of national lines, boundaries or language—anybody, everybody having the "hearing ear," was to be instructed respecting Christ and the opportunity of becoming his disciples by a full consecration of mind and body, time and talent, even unto death. Those were to be promised the reward of a share in the First Resurrection, to be members of the Royal Priesthood which, during the Millennial Kingdom of Messiah, will bless all the remaining families of mankind—all the non-elect.

We are not complaining about the failure to convert the heathen! We are not faulting the missionaries! We are taking the Bible stand that all of God's purposes are being accomplished; that God's Word is accomplishing "that whereto it was sent" (Isaiah lv, 11); that it was not sent to convert the world, but to gather an "elect" sample or "first-fruits" from all nations (Revelation xiv, 4). Let civilizing influences continue in heathendom, as well as in Christendom. But let all Christians, missionaries and others, know assuredly that their labor is not in vain if they are seeking for the Lord's jewels to the best of their ability. I am in touch continually with laborers in India and Africa and well know that the pure Gospel of Christ is not greatly affecting their teeming millions. But the Gospel of the Kingdom is seeking out, blessing, sanctifying, happyfying, encouraging some, here and there; some, who have ears of faith to hear, eyes of faith to see, and obedient hearts to obey the "call" to suffer with Christ and by and by to reign with him for the effectual blessing of all the families of the earth, by uplifting the willing out of their present conditions of sin and degradation and death.

The Millennium a Necessity. We have shown the value and necessity for the doctrine of the Millennium—that all Christians who would hold fast to their Bibles as a faith-anchor and who would make progress in their study of the Word and be co-laborers with God in the gathering of "the elect" need to see that the elect only are now called to be heirs of the Kingdom for which we pray, "Thy Kingdom come." They need to see that that Kingdom is God's provision for the future blessing of the non-elect. They need to see that the Bible does not teach, as many of them suppose, that the saints are called of God to sit in the heavenly balcony and look over at the non-elect in eternal anguish, and hear their cries.

Next let us note that the Millennium itself is an absolute necessity for the world, according to the statistics of the worldly-wise. Many college professors and D. D.'s are inclined to speak glibly of the Second Coming of Christ being far in the future—"fifty thousand years yet," say some. But evidently these learned gentlemen have not used their educational advantages in connection with such statements. Any school boy can figure up what the population of the earth would be one thousand years from now, taking the present population as per the census at sixteen hundred millions and the ratio of increase as shown by the census reports at 8 per cent in ten years. The total would show 3,375,325,000,000 population for the year 2900 A. D.—

more than 2,000 for each person now living. What would humanity do if the earth were crowded to that extent? Where would the necessary food, fuel and clothing be found? Computing all the tillable portion of the earth at twenty-five million square miles or sixteen billion acres would give but one acre for the support of two hundred and ten people, or less than five square yards each. At the close of a second such period, 3300 A. D., at the same rate, there would be ten persons for each square foot of standing-room. In other words they would stand fifteen deep on each other's heads. What shall we think of the wisdom that tells us that the Millennium is fifty thousand years off? The answer is found in Isaiah's prophecy (xxix, 14).

Are we asked how the Millennium if at once introduced would avert the difficulties of the first statement, two hundred and ten people for each acre of the habitable earth? We reply that the Scriptures clearly intimate that the rapid increase of our race is associated with man's fallen condition; as our Creator declared to mother Eve after her disobedience, "I will greatly multiply thy sorrows and thy conception" (Genesis iii, 16).

The Earth Shall Yield Her Increase. The Scriptures also intimate that with the return of humanity towards perfection the average increase will be less, and that eventually the human family will come to the condition where there will be neither marriage nor giving in marriage, and where sex conditions will be lost in a uniform standard of humanity embodying the qualities at present displayed in the two sexes. Further, God's promise for the Millennium is that under his blessing the earth will yield her increase and the waste places be reclaimed, springs breaking forth in deserts. Furthermore, recognizing the Divine power in connection with the matter we can readily see how vast continents can be raised in the Atlantic and in the Pacific Ocean. But aside from these miracles which properly enough could accompany the Millennial Kingdom of Christ, what can the world who ignore the Bible expect? In other words what shall they expect who claim that the present order of things is to continue, saying, "All things continue as they were from the beginning of the world?" (II Peter iii, 4).

Some may inquire, What about the resurrection of the millions who have died? We reply that the world has been only gradually working up to its present dense population. The people living in the world for the past six thousand years, according to what we believe are trustworthy evidences, would number altogether about twenty thousand millions. But more than twice that number could be buried in the State of Texas in separate graves and more than eight times that number could stand in a room in Texas, as a school-boy with his pencil could readily demonstrate.

But we need not look a thousand years ahead. The world will find itself in great trouble very shortly unless the Millennium be ushered in. Already there is a shortage of timber. What will be the condition of things one hundred years from now? Already our capitalists are buying up the coal deposits on speculation, realizing that its rapid consumption is making it more valuable every year. Already geologists are calculating the number of tons of coal not yet mined and telling us that with the present average of increase in the consumption of coal the entire supply of the world will be exhausted in less than two hundred years. What will be the price of coal as the vanishing point is neared? and how will mankind do without it, and without wood for fuel unless the Millennium come promptly with its miraculous provisions?—the taking of fuel from our atmosphere, and from water, by methods which will, no doubt, be simple, when mankind come to understand them fully, but which at present are so expensive as to be of little service.

Other scientific men have been studying the increase of insanity and telling us that progress in this direction is terrific. Some have estimated that in less than two hundred years the entire world, at the present rate, will be insane. How opportune it would be for the Millennial Kingdom of the great Life-Giver to be ushered in with its uplifting influences, mental, moral and physical!

Last but not least the combination of wisdom and selfishness in our day, known as Unions and Trusts, is so influential that prices in every commodity are rising. Yet the trusts are not quite ripe yet. Their managers have not fully learned their power. Gradually the upper and the nether millstones will apparently be drawn closer together, while necessity will force the masses through the hopper. How great would those "giants" become within another century or so, if the Millennium be not ushered in in the interim to "lift the poor and needy out of the dunghill"—using the scriptural figure of the work of the Kingdom (Psalm cxlii, 7).

My friends, let us stick to the Bible and its Millennial theory. So doing we will be guided by the wisdom from on high and enabled to pray with the spirit and the understanding also. "Thy Kingdom come; they will be done on earth as it is done in heaven," and to labor intelligently as co-workers with God! Let us prepare as pupils in the School of "Christ for the great work whereunto God has called us by the Gospel Message." "Even so, Come, Lord Jesus; Come quickly!" "Thy Kingdom come, and thy will be done on earth, even as in heaven."

STRAY

Topics Of Interest From Little Old New York

The City Is Engulfed By A Wave Of Reform

And Profanity Becomes An Experienced Luxury

A Yale Student And Brooklyn Girl Elope

Free System Of Baths To Be Established

New York, April 1.—For many years Gotham has been in ill repute throughout the country. By those who publicly spoke about the great metropolis on the Hudson and by those who wrote books or articles upon the subject, New York was always represented as a cesspool of iniquity, thoroughly corrupt religiously, morally, domestically, financially, politically and every other way. Once upon a time there may have been good reason for such an estimate, but conditions must have changed a great deal since then. Now the city has a reform mayor at the head of its government, who even frowns upon policemen who indulge in too vigorous exercises with their clubs and who was chosen at an election over which purity herself in the shape of a heroic sized statue on Times Square presided. From time to time there have been other evidences of ethical regeneration and reform in Gotham, but all of them were insignificant compared with the latest proof. One of the leaders of the select circles of society has actually started a Bible class for women and, according to trust worthy reports these meetings are patronized by about fifty of the most prominent society women of the city. The leader of the movement has engaged a minister to instruct the Bible class and, to make things pleasant he has tea served to the members of the class after meetings. If that does not convince the world that New York has been slandered, nothing will.

PRIZE FIGHT

In A Baptist Church Under Auspices Of Deacons

Atlanta Ga., April 1.—The Western Heights Baptist church, one of the largest of that denomination in Atlanta, has determined to seek popular favor by becoming a patron of the prize ring. Today the city was flooded with post cards sent out by Chairman Gore, chairman of the Board of Deacons, containing an invitation to attend a prize fight in church. The cards read: "April 4—Dear brother:—You are cordially invited to attend a prize fight at Western Heights Baptist church Monday at eight o'clock. Be sure to bring this card for admittance."

BLUFF

Of Stranger Was Not Called And He Got The Money

Dante, Va., April 1.—Armed with two pistols, and masked, a stranger broke up a poker game participated in by prominent coal men here last night. Laying his hat on the table, the invader said: "Gentlemen, all I want is your cash." Thanking them for their donation, he melted into the gloom with \$1,500. Officers are on his trail.

Mr. and Mrs. Barney Keys of Centerville are spending several days in Sparta, the guests of their daughter, Mrs. Clarence Ryan.

mitted her guilt and explained that she had used the crepe to make for herself automobile veils after the latest fashion. The fact that the woman is extremely poor and has not even a faint prospect of ever riding in an automobile, did not seem to disturb her or abate her insane craving for the useless finery.

The newspapers contained the interesting bit of news the other day that a certain famous Hungarian artist was now on his way to the United States and that the principal object of his visit to this country was to paint Mr. John D. Rockefeller, the great Oil King. The articles did not state what color the famous Hungarian intends to paint Mr. Rockefeller, but, in view of the pending Oil Trust investigation it has been suggested, that a nice thick coat of white would probably be most opportune just now.

A propos Mr. Rockefeller it may be interesting to learn that he has made his debut in a new role recently. He has tampered with Congress, with legislatures and public officials all over the country, has corrupted railroads and many other public institutions, has meddled with financial and industrial corporations and has made Wall Street dance to his music. Quite recently, however, he has tried himself in a new role, by espousing the cause of the village president of North Tarrytown, N. Y., who was candidate for re-election at the recent village election. The citizens did not wish to re-elect the village president, but Mr. Rockefeller wanted him re-elected for some reason or other and, of course, re-elected the man, by making the hundreds of Italian laborers employed on his estate cast their vote for his candidate. The citizens of North Tarrytown evidently did not know how futile it was to oppose Mr. Rockefeller when he has once set his mind upon a certain matter.

The city intends to establish a system of free baths, patterned after the free municipal baths maintained at Revere Beach by the City of Boston, in Coney Island. This should cause rejoicing among the many thousands who daily visit Coney during the bathing season to seek refreshment in the briny surf. The owners of the resorts along the Coney Island water front, who monopolized the greater part of the available bathing beach, charged such exorbitant prices for the use of the bath houses and bathing beaches that only wealthy persons could afford a dip. Fifty cents and even one dollar were considered reasonable charges by these highway robbers during the busy season. Adding to this the equally exorbitant fare of ten cents to and as much from Coney, brought the cost of a single surf bath to from 70 to \$1.00.

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that it is the intention of the Board of Commissioners of Knox County, Ohio, as soon as sufficient funds are available for such purposes, to rebuild the bridges of the county destroyed by the recent floods to-wit: The Balcom Bridge, College township; The Troutman Bridge, Harrison township; and the Joint Licking-Knox bridge, Milford township. All to be rebuilt on or near the old or former location. Any and all persons may appear before said Board at the office of said Board of Commissioners at the Court House in Mt. Vernon, Ohio, in person, by petition for, or remonstrance against such improvement, and be heard on any Monday prior to the letting of the contracts for said improvements.

TAYLOR'S BEST FLOUR

It's Good Very Good

We sell all kinds Feed

Sole Agents Purina Poultry Feeds

The best known feed for chicks or chickens

The Northwestern Elevator & Mill Co.

Mr. William Buckmaster of Sparta spent Thursday in Mt. Glead attending to some matters of business.

CASTORIA For Infants and Children, The Kind You Have Always Bought Bears the Signature of Dr. J.C. Hatcher In Use For Over Thirty Years CASTORIA

4 PER CENT Open Saturday evenings until 8 o'clock. The Guaranty Savings Bank & Trust Co. Mt. Vernon Ohio

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The best known feed for chicks or chickens

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A Few Years More and your daughter, now in her teens, will have charge of a home of her own. Every woman, in addition to her household capabilities, should have a certain amount of business knowledge. Having a bank account and paying all household expenses by check, is, in itself, an education in business methods. It brings one in contact with real business experience, and at the same time, affords the safest way of having ready money at hand. The Gambier Banking Co. GAMBIER, OHIO

Use Liquid Smoke For Smoking Meats It saves time and meat and besides there is no danger of losing your meat by fire. Pork packers claim that by the old method of smoking meat the loss from the heat was ten per cent and by the new method it is only three per cent. Liquid Smoke cost you -50c- for enough to smoke the hams, shoulders and sides of four ordinary sized hogs. Let us tell you more about it. Lorey's Drug Store 115 South Main St. Mt. Vernon

KNOX CO. TEACHERS' EXAMINATIONS 1909-1910 Meetings for the examination of teachers will be held at the CENTRAL SCHOOL Bldg. Mt. Veronn, Ohio, The first Saturday of every month Pupils' Examination The third Saturday of April and the second Saturday in May. Examination will commence at 8:00 o'clock, a. m. Address all communications to the Clerk of Board of Examiners. Organization of Board: C. M. BARBER, President, Mt. Vernon, O. W. W. BORDEN, V. Pres., Fredericktown, O. C. M. GRUBB, Clerk, Centerburg, O.

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