

PURPOSE OF THE CHURCH.

Its Past, Present and Future Considered.

Rev. T. J. Horner Discourses on Unitarianism in This City—He Then Resigns His Position.

At Pythian Hall, yesterday, Mr. Horner took for his text: "Now ye are the body of Christ."—1 Cor. xii, 27. "And the gates shall stand open continually; day and night shall they not be closed."

After tracing the evolutionary development of the church, showing that the first idea was a house for God to dwell in, then in addition to that a place to hold communion with him in, and lastly a haven of sure protection from the woes of hell, Mr. Horner said that during the past fifty years a new conception of the purpose of the church has been growing up, as different from those held in the past as day is different from night.

First, it is not a house of God, in the sense that it is a place for Him to dwell in, because God is omnipresent. Second, it is not a place to hold communion with him in, in the sense that it is the only place, because God is ready at all times and in all places to commune with the open soul.

Nor, third, is it the vestibule for the orthodox heaven, with membership in it anything to do with one's heaven or hell.

What, then, is the modern—perhaps I should say the Unitarian—idea of the church? It is an idea that appeals in no way to the selfish nature of man. The old idea that he who gives to the house of God will get his money back again some other way with interest (as I have heard it stated at evangelical dedications) is with us an idea too small to be entertained for a moment.

The church to-day, and by that I mean the most liberal interpretation of the church idea, is a voluntary association of men and women who are gathered together, not so much for what they can get from such association, but for what they by their united effort can give to the world of their own soul life, and by so doing make the world brighter, cleaner and better.

The idea that the church is God's house takes on a new meaning, not because he is to be found there only, but because man has set it aside to be used for an idea too small to be recognized that the unselfish promptings of his own soul life are in harmony with God's life, hence he dedicates the church to those purposes. The idea of the purpose of the church is not to get away from more soul life into the world. In so far as worship is an aid to that end, worship is still a part of the purpose of a church, and always will remain so to lift the human mind into the world into communion with the over soul.

In so far as the church is dedicated to God's purposes it is the vestibule of heaven, but the conception of heaven is changed to an attitude of mind and heart in harmony with God here and now. It ought certainly to be an aid to one's efforts in getting into a more harmonious attitude toward God to meet together with those who by common worship are striving to realize God in their own lives.

It ought to be a benefit to every selfish, rebellious heart to go where the spirit of Jesus looks out upon him from the eyes of those around, and where the feelings of sympathy and love are being sent abroad from soul to soul. The ice of his own nature should be melted by the genial warmth of such an atmosphere. Knowledge of what will aid the soul in its efforts to get into harmony with God should be the burden of the pulpit's ministrations.

In fact, the sole aim and purpose of the church is coming to be looked upon as an expression of the unselfish side of life. Naturally, those who join in its work are those whose lives have a surplus of generosity to spare for the world over and above the needs of their every-day existence. There is but one sense in which it can be said that this idea of the church can appeal to one's self-interest, and that is when one realizes that the unselfishness of others will aid him in becoming what he knows he is not. This is a kind of self-interest that can hardly be called selfishness.

Such people never complain when the sermon fits them closely. Knowing their own weaknesses they are thankful to be spurred on to greater activity from themselves and their own petty narrowness. This is the spirit of teachableness Jesus had in mind when he said, "Unless ye become as little children ye cannot enter into the kingdom of heaven." One thing sure—the kingdom of heaven will never come into the life of the man who squares himself in his pew with an expression which says, "I am here now, more or less."

The pleasure that one should find in a church should be of the nature of that which always follows an unselfish act. This is a higher kind of pleasure than that which one gets from going to church to be amused or entertained by the intellectual stimulus which his mind gets from the literary quality of the sermon. The purpose of the church, then, being the expression of the unselfish side of life, it follows that its building or house should be constructed with that end in view. For purposes of soul development in those who are undeveloped, it should appeal to every sense of the soul. It should appeal to one's loftiest ideals of beauty; art and music should find there their highest expression. It should command one's sense of reverence for things designed for a holy purpose. It should be the headquarters of philanthropy, where the wisest kinds of charity are practiced and taught.

Culture should flow from it like water from a fountain, and should be of all kinds that tend to bring out the highest qualities of the mind and heart should be continually going and coming through its portals. The library and the reading room naturally belong to it. The drama, as a means to moral and religious teachings, should not be lost sight of.

All questions of reform or of social or national interest should find there a free platform for discussion. In fact, the church of the future growing out of the tendency of the present, will be a lighthouse shedding its rays down through every avenue along which the soul of man must travel in pursuit of its inheritance as a child of God. He who would use it to advance his own selfish ends, aside from the good of all, is unworthy the name man, much less the title "Child of God." With this idea in view, believing that the time has come when it will no longer be of benefit to the cause of Unitarianism for me to remain in Sacramento, and having the success of the cause most at heart, I have sent a letter to the chairman of the society, certifying that it is my wish to have my ministry here close with the end of the present year in the hope that some other minister may be found to make the work which I leave off and carry it on to complete success.

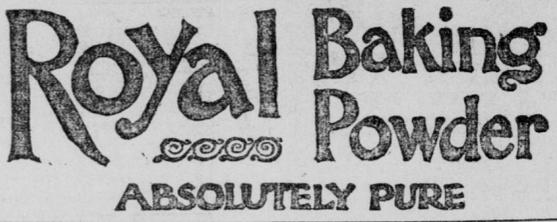
I believe it the duty of ever minister, just as soon as he sees that he has reached the limit of his usefulness in any charge, to resign it into other hands. With sincere regret I have come to that conclusion as to my work here, but the conclusion is deliberate, and I hope will not injure the society in the future.

The interest of the membership should be so unselfish and so impersonal that a change in the pulpit would in no way retard the movement. I shall always have the satisfaction of knowing that during my short ministry of one year both the membership and the local income of the society have been doubled.

With this knowledge, I feel justified in saying that there ought to be a grand future for the Unitarian Church in this city. If that future is not realized, it will not be for the want of liberal-minded people or for the want of the money that

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They are willing to give for such a cause. I base this judgment on the results of my personal efforts during the past year. The future of the society is now in your own hands. I will do everything that I can for you between now and January. But you must tell me what you want me to do. I shall not introduce any new suggestions without knowing that it is your wish.

SOCIAL AND PERSONAL.

D. B. Spagnoli of Jackson is at the Golden Eagle Hotel.

George W. Peltier and Mrs. Fred Cox returned yesterday from the World's Fair.

Mr. and Mrs. Crawford J. Cox will return to their home in Kern County to-day after a visit to relatives here.

J. J. Keegan, Secretary of the Harbor Commission, spent yesterday among his old friends here, accompanied by his wife.

W. F. Frisk, editor and publisher of the Grass Valley Union, was in the city last evening and goes to San Francisco this morning.

Ex-Mayor Eugene J. Gregory returned on Saturday evening from a trip to the World's Fair. He was accompanied by his mother, Mrs. M. E. Gregory, and his sister, Miss Millie Gregory.

Arrivals at the Golden Eagle Hotel yesterday: E. Carl Bank, Ione; George M. Fletcher and wife, New York; George Blochwick, Buffalo, N. Y.; F. J. Wagner, St. Louis; Mrs. Williams, Sacramento; Mr. and Mrs. Heath, Portland; Albert S. Brown and wife, Worcester; Mass.; D. B. Spagnoli, Jackson; J. J. Keegan and wife, San Francisco.

A most interesting and happily arranged birthday surprise was given to the members of the church and friends at the home of Rev. J. H. Reider, pastor of the Calvary Baptist Church of this city. The event was the occasion of the birthday anniversary of Mrs. Reider. About 100 members of the church and friends made their appearance as if by magic and took complete possession of their home. After locking the doors leading into the dining-room, kitchen and pantry, thus shutting out all save a few, the low proceeded to take matters into their own hands and arrange things to suit themselves. The pastor and his family had to submit. In fact, it would have been useless, without calling in a police officer, and then the usurpers would have very greatly outnumbered the police. But it was soon discovered that they did not mean to be criminal or destructive in their operations, so the pastor and his family, with their fear and trembling, allowed them to have their own way. While a part of the company were engaged in the dining-room and kitchen, the remainder were engaged in social converse in the parlors, to the sweet music, instrumental and vocal, furnished by the friends present. After the tumult in the dining-room and kitchen ceased, the pastor and his wife were invited to the dining-room, where, in a few well-chosen remarks by W. F. Barnes, on behalf of the company, Mrs. Reider was presented with an elegant and costly French china dinner set of 125 pieces. It was one of the finest that could be purchased in the city. They were then led to the kitchen, where, on behalf of the company, Leo Hays presented to Mrs. Reider a beautiful range of the latest style, furnished and in position. But not satisfied with these tokens of esteem, and in order that the pastor might have the strength to arise in the morning and build the fires, Mrs. W. F. Barnes, in a neat speech, presented him with a beautiful goblet (which holds just a quart) in which to place the rich Jersey milk furnished by kind friends every day. With the gift of the goblet came the gentle hint that he hold enough for one meal. After expressions of thanks on the part of Mr. and Mrs. Reider, a rich repast was served to all present, when again the company was delighted with some choice selections of music, furnished by members of the choir and friends present. At a late hour the friends repaired to their homes, wishing Mrs. Reider many happy returns of the occasion. The pastor was heard to say that, among all the surprises which his wife and his family have had, none more successfully carried out. It was an event long to be remembered—a beautiful oasis in the pathway of life.

Afraid of Rain. The tortoise is not an animal one would naturally fix upon as likely to be afraid of rain, but it is singularly so. Twenty-four hours or more before rain falls the Gallapagos tortoise makes for some convenient shelter. On a bright, clear morning when not a cloud is to be seen the denizens of a tortoise farm on the African coast may be seen sometimes heading for the nearest overhanging rocks; when that happens the proprietor knows that rain will come down during the day, and as a rule it comes down in torrents. The sign never fails. This pre-sensation, to coin a word, which exists in many birds and beasts, may be explained partly from the increasing weight of the atmosphere when rain is forming, partly by habits of living and partly from the need of moisture which is shared by all. The American cat-bird gives warning of an approaching thunder-storm by sitting on the low branches of the dogwood tree (whether this union of the feline with the canine is invariable the deponent sayeth not) and uttering curious notes. Other birds, including the familiar robin, it is said, give similar evidence of an impending change in the weather.

An English firm claims that with its outfit of casing-making machines a cask has been made from beginning to end—staves, heads and hoops—and put together in about five minutes.

Into the Chautauquan curriculum this season two new branches were introduced. One is the fine art of setting a table, and the other the almost extinct art of letter-writing.

Advertisement for Royal Baking Powder, featuring the logo and text: 'The only Pure Cream of Tartar Powder.—No Ammonia; No Alum. Used in Millions of Homes—40 Years the Standard.'

The Nonpareil.



OUR DRESS GOODS DEPARTMENT

Was never more complete than at the present time. We have every novelty in plain and fancy materials that the best manufacturers in Europe have produced this season, and our prices are lower than ever before for the same quality of goods.

We have over 100 pieces of All-wool French Foule and Storm Serges in every shade that can be mentioned, at 50c per yard.

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28 pieces of 46-inch All-wool Soft-finish Diagonal Surahs in myrtle, forest green, light navy, tans, medium and golden browns, mode, electric and several other new tints. Worth at least \$1 25, at \$1 per yard.

10 pieces very choice Fancy Dress Goods in small effects, 50 inches wide. Worth \$2, at \$1 33 per yard.

We are showing a more extensive variety of Imported Pattern Suits than any other house on the Pacific Coast.

Call and see our magnificent assortment of Genuine 54-inch French Broadcloths. Our line at \$1 50 per yard surpasses anything shown in this city for less than \$2.

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All Goods Marked in Plain Figures and One Price.

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Advertisement for Woonsocket Rubber Boots, featuring an illustration of a boot and text: '30 YEARS TEST PROVES THEM THE BEST WOONSOCKET RUBBER COMPANY TAKE NO OTHER BRAND. MOST SERVICEABLE RUBBERS ON EARTH.'

Meeting Notices.

I. O. O. F.—ALL MEMBERS of subordinate lodges and encampments of Odd Fellows of this city are hereby urged to meet at Odd Fellows' Temple THIS (Monday) EVENING, November 6th, at 7 o'clock, for the purpose of taking proper action for attending the funeral of our deceased brother, WALTER B. LYON, Grand Secretary.

R. A. NOE, N. G., Sacramento Lodge, No. 2. GEO. T. HESSER, N. G., Eureka Lodge, No. 4. LOUIS SMITH, N. G., El Dorado Lodge, No. 8. R. L. HALL, N. G., Capitol Lodge, No. 57. GEORGE BERNHARD, N. G., Schiller Lodge, No. 106. G. F. DICKERSON, N. G., Industrial Lodge, No. 157. CHAS. S. WALSH, C. P., Pacific Encampment, No. 42. GEO. KROMER, Secretary, Occidental Encampment, No. 2.

INSTALLATION.—MEMBERS OF WALHalla and Capital City Groves, U. A. O. D., are requested to attend the Public Installation of the officers of the above Groves, at 7 o'clock, near Hall, Seventh street, THIS (Monday) EVENING, at 8 o'clock. Members of sister Groves and friends cordially invited to be present. By order of ENT. COMMITTEE, 417 1/2

STATED MEETING OF TEHAMA Lodge, No. 3, F. and A. M., THIS (Monday) EVENING, at 7 o'clock. Visiting brethren cordially invited. W. H. DAVIS, W. M.

ATTENTION, EXEMPTS.—Your regular monthly meeting will be held THIS (Monday) EVENING, at 7:30 o'clock. Delinquents take notice. L. B. SUTLIFE, Secretary.

COURT CAPITOL, No. 6742, A. O. F. Officers and members take notice that our meetings hereafter will be held at the New Foresters' Hall, 18th street, between Seventh and Eighth. PHIL HIRSCH, Chief Ranger. ED. MORRIS, Rec. Sec.

General Notices. MONEY TO LOAN ON GOOD SECURITY. Apply to JOHNSON & JOHNSON, 504 J street, Sacramento, Cal. n6-1w

MADAME PORTER, CLAIRVOYANT, Fortune Teller by Cards and Palmistry. Charges 50 cents. Gen. S. F. by cards and clairvoyant sittings, \$1 50. 822 Twelfth street, between H and I. n4-1w

NOTICE.—HAVING LEASED THE R. S. Carey ranch, in Yuba County, for hunting purposes, all persons trespassing or hunting on said ranch will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law. C. L. TUFTS.

FREE CHRYSANTHEMUM EXHIBITION. Daily; 1,500 trained plants in 100 best varieties, at H. SCHWALZES, Twenty-fifth and O streets.

MARRIED LADIES SAFE GUARD; PATented; no mod. or copy. If private returned if not satisfactory. Send 10c to LADIES NOVELTY CO., Kansas City, Mo.

HARRY W. RIVETT, STEAM CARPET cleaning, corner Twelfth and O streets; carpet cutting, sewing and retinting; furniture packed for shipment; second-hand carpets and furniture bought and for sale. Telephone 292.

WANTED.—A SITUATION BY A FIRST-class cook, or mod. or copy. If private returned if not satisfactory. Send 10c to LADIES NOVELTY CO., Kansas City, Mo.

WANTED.—DRAFT HORSE, 1,600 pounds; rangy and broke. JAS. A. SCOTT, 1616 Seventh street. n6-37

WANTED.—A GIRL TO HELP WAIT ON table and mod. or copy. If private returned if not satisfactory. Send 10c to LADIES NOVELTY CO., Kansas City, Mo.

WANTED BY A FIRST-CLASS DRESS-maker, a situation to do sewing in private family. Apply MISS HESSIE JOHNSON, 727 J street. n4-47

GERMAN GIRL WANTS A SITUATION for cooking or general housework. Address SEVERAL, this office. n3-37

INFORMATION WANTED.—SHOULD this notice be read by H. H. Lobs, born at Stue Hannover, Germany, or by anyone knowing his whereabouts, it would be to his advantage by answering L. L. R., care of Record-Union office. n3-37

WANTED.—A COMPETENT GIRL wishes a situation to do housework; good cook and laundress; city or country. Apply 923 M street. n2-2w

PASTURAGE.—GOOD ALFALFA PASTURAGE below gate on Riverside road. For terms, etc., apply 1720 Tenth street, between Q and K. n2-2w

WANTED.—BACK NUMBERS of "Harpers's Weekly"—no matter how far back; fair price paid. Room 72, State Capitol. n2-2w

Lost-Found. To Let or Rent. TO LET—THREE PLEASANT, SUNNY rooms; kitchen, bath; up stairs; quiet house; rent, \$10; no children. 814 O street, 317 J. n2-2w

TO LET—LOWER FLAT OF SIX ROOMS and bath; all modern conveniences; large yard. Apply on premises, 1410 N st. n1-1w

TO LET—ROOMS SUITABLE FOR HOUSE-keeping, at 920 Ninth street, between I and J. n2-2w

TO LET—1315 K NEW HOUSE, SIX rooms, bath, basement, modern improvements. Apply 719 L. n2-2w

TO LEASE—INTERNATIONAL HOTEL of Sacramento. Apply at the Hotel. n2-2w

For Sale. FOR SALE—BY CARL STROBEL, 317 J street, thirty acres; good for hops, vegetable, milk dairy, hog or chicken raising; one mile from Sacramento; price, \$3,000. n-1w

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MOUNTAIN BUTTER, 25c POUND; 4 flour, 95c sack; potatoes, 75c sack; 8 bars soap, 25c; Cape Cod Cranberries, apples, 90c box; SUGAR & BEANS, 25c. n1-1w

FOR SALE OR EXCHANGE—SMALL and large farms, improved or unimproved; also city property. CARL STROBEL, 317 J street. n2-2w

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