WHAT SHALL MINISTERS PREACH?

There are two classes of extremists in respect to preaching, with neither of which are we able fully to agree. Neither states the whole truth, and neither states even half of it so as properly to represent it. The one class claims that the themes of the pulpit should be almost exclusively *spiritual*, having reference to the thoughts, affections, and purposes of the heart toward God, and leaving these to work out their proper results in the ethical and mundane relations of the present life. This is deemed to be spiritual preaching, and no other is proper on the lips of the Christian ministry. The other class demands that the pulpit shall be as exclusively devoted to temporal moralities, growing out of the present relations of men, leaving dogmas, creeds, theologies, and what they deem spiritual abstractions and impalpabilities to books and professional experts. This is *practical* preaching, and just the kind most wanted in this world.

Both of these classes are right, and both wrong, in some respects: and hence neither presents the whole truth in its rounded, completed, and symmetrical form. Blend the two views together, so that each shall modify the other, and thus produce a compound somewhat different from either by a simple change of proportions; and we then have the whole truth, as appearing in the Word of God, and enforced by a comprehensive reason. The Christian pulpit, when moving in such an orbit, is never out of its sphere. Though not preaching at any one time a whole system of theology, or a whole system of morals, and never running hobbies at the expense of general harmony, it aims to give to every man what the Bible calls a portion in due season.

Those doctrines and duties which have their center in God, especially as revealed in the Gospel of Christ, are not mere ornamental parts of religion, simply to supply the rhetoric and the sanctions of preaching. Nor are they so obscure and impalpable as to embarrass utterance or perplex thought. They are vital, and withal indispensable to the formation of a sound religious character. They constitute really the strongest elements of appeal to human nature. It should always be a primary object with the Christian pulpit to turn men's hearts into God; and that, too, by presenting the true God in his attributes, religious, moral government, plan of grace, and providence over the world. A pulpit without a distinct and positive theology, which it emulates, would be like a cranium without any brains inside. It would be a mere unvitalized shell. Virtue, even if it were possible, that has no basis in God would not exist for the strongest reason, or be energized by the highest motives. A bad theology in the pulpit, as in the press and everywhere else, is a prodigious evil to humanity. It may not be as formidable in all respects as atheistical morality; yet, as compared with truth and the normal effects thereof, it is a grave calamity to the world.

Equally clear is it that the ethics of time which grow out of the temporal relations of men, whether they be domestic, social, or political, should have the freest scope in the utterances of the Christian teacher. There is nothing in this world too good to be commended, or too bad to be condemned; and the Christian teacher is just the man of all others to commend the good and condemn the bad. There are no select vices, licensed by usage or sanctioned by law, which limit his functions of exposure and rebuke. The idea of some that because a subject has political relations it must be carefully ignored by the preacher, whatever may be its moral merits, is an error of thought founded in either sin or ignorant prejudice. Whatever concerns morality in any of its departments is an appropriate theme for Christian utterance, whether in the pulpit or out of it. The only question is one of opportune selection, due proportion, wise adaptation to existing wants, and discreet presentation so as best to gain the end.

The right and the duty of the pulpit, in things spiritual and things moral, to exercise the largest liberty of discussion ought to be most cheerfully conceded by the pew. A gagged ministry is not worth paying for. A timid ministry courts more criticism than it avoids, and licenses more opposition than it conciliates. A time-serving ministry is too contemptible to be entitled even to toleration. A one-sided ministry is not broad enough to meet the wants of its own position or those of the world. A bold and comprehensive ministry, metropolitan in the great elements of truth and cosmopolitan in their application, best honors itself while it best serves the purposes of preaching.

N. Y. Independent.

SQUELCHING A PEDDLER.

"Goodness gracious! If there an't that pesky tin peddler again! I declare, he'll worry the very life out of me! He ought'r know't I don't want anything!"

So exclaimed Aunt Betsy, as she looked out from her window, and saw the inevitable—the thus far irrepressible—tin peddler who had aforetime so pertinaciously, and sometimes almost impudently, bored her. She had told him that she wished he would not call, and in reply he had intimated that by virtue of his license he had a right to call as often as he pleased.

But, even as the peddler descended from his cart, a change came over the countenance of Aunt Betsy. Her eye brightened and sparkled behind her silver-bound spectacles; her lips, at first tightly compressed, parted with a significant smile; and with a suggestive nod she laid aside her knitting, and arose to answer the peddler's loud knock at the door. The bantering nomad smiled blandly as he asked—

"Anything in my line to-day, ma'am?"

"Well, I declare for it,—seein' you've come—have you got any first rate tin kitchens?"

"Yes, ma'am!" And away went the peddler to his cart, nodding and chuckling, evidently with the idea that his perseverance was at length to be rewarded; and he soon returned with three different sizes of the article mentioned, which he deposited upon the entry floor.

"Have you got any real good first chop, sizable milk-pans?" was Aunt Betsy's next query, put in a manner most winning and bland.

And away went the peddler, and brought from his cart an armful of tin pans.

Aunt Betsy next asked if he had tin pails; and next, if he had wash-boilers; and so she went on until full one half the peddler's load had been transferred from the cart to the house. At length there was a pause, for Aunt Betsy seemed to have exhausted the vocabulary of household tins; and the peddler asked,—

"Is there anything more you want, ma'am?"

Our good Aunt looked up in surprise.

"Why—bless your soul! you didn't suppose I wanted any of this stuff, did you? *I only asked if you had'em.* Mercy! I don't want any of 'em—not a solitary article!"

The hitherto irrepressible was effectually squelched. He tried to get mad, but Aunt Betsy's benignant face rippled with a smile so quiet and so self-satisfied, that he held his temper. He did the next best thing, however: He resolved thenceforth to give that house the go-by when his wanderings might chance in that direction; and, to Aunt Betsy's great satisfaction, the resolve has thus far been adhered to.

S. C., Jr.

The occupation of Rome by the infidels had the effect of destroying a very valuable branch of business formerly carried on by the *cures* of the parish churches. All parishioners were legally bound to confess and receive the communion at least once a year, at Easter. If they failed of this duty, they were liable to fine and imprisonment. Accordingly, there was an open trade carried on in certificates of communion, by buying one of which the purchaser established his reputation as a good Catholic, and avoided the trouble of trying to recollect all his sins and obtaining absolution for the same. Now that there is no penalty attached to this delinquency, excepting such as will be administered in the world to come, the number of these impenitent sinners is so great that the list of their names is not affixed to the doors of the churches, as formerly, because of its intolerable length. The *cures* still visit the houses of their parishioners, and bless the beds and other furniture, sprinkling them with holy water; but very few of those thus favored think it necessary to make any pecuniary return—not even of the bad money they had received during the year, and which they used to lay up carefully for these pious uses.

LAWS

—OF THE—

STATE OF LOUISIANA.

[PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY.]

[Continued from 1st. Page.]

ARTICLE NINTH.

At a general meeting convened for that purpose, and of which notice by publication, as in the case of general elections, shall be given for at least twenty days, the stockholders may make any modifications, additions or changes in their articles or dissolve their corporation. On all matters submitted to the vote of the stockholders, they shall be entitled to one vote for each share held by them respectively, and to cast the same in person or by proxy.

ARTICLE TENTH.

Under no consideration shall any stockholder be liable for the debts or losses of the company, beyond the amount due on his subscription.

ARTICLE ELEVENTH.

This corporation shall go into operation as soon as one thousand shares of its capital are subscribed for, and these articles are recorded as required by the laws of the State. It shall have and enjoy succession by its corporate name, for the period of twenty-five years from the date of said recording, and for such longer time as may be allowed by general or special law, unless sooner dissolved as hereinbefore provided.

ARTICLE TWELVETH.

The liquidation of the affairs of the company shall be made by five commissioners, elected by the stockholders at the time designated for the last general election of directors, or if a liquidation should be resolved on previous to said time, then the said commissioners shall be elected at a general meeting specially convened after thirty days' previous notice, in the manner required for regular elections. Said commissioners shall have the same qualifications required by the charter or by-laws for directors; their salary and term of office shall be determined previous to their election, by the general meeting of stockholders, and they shall, by the fact of election, be vested with all the powers necessary to collect and dispose of the assets of the company, and its property, to settle its liabilities, and to distribute the surplus pro rata among its stockholders.

ARTICLE THIRTEENTH.

The names of the stockholders, their residence and the amount of stock taken by each are hereby declared to be for the present such as are subscribed to the act, and each of the incorporators in this act shall have the preferred right at any time the books of subscription shall be opened, to subscribe for a number of shares not in excess of one twenty-seventh part of the number of the shares for which the books of subscription shall be opened.

This done and passed at my office, at the city of New Orleans, in the presence of Martin L. Ainsworth and George Martin, witnesses of lawful age and domiciliated in this city, who hereto sign their names together with the said appearers, and me, the said notary, on this eleventh day of February, in the year of our Lord 1871.

Original signed:
M. L. Ainsworth,
George Martin,
Witnesses,
M. A. Bryson,
F. H. Barbot,
John N. Bofinger,
C. T. Howard,
James S. Clarke,
And others, their associates.
P. Charles Cuvillier.
Notary.

Sec. 2. Be it further enacted, etc., That for the purpose of providing and maintaining proper and efficient levees throughout all the portion of the State watered by the Mississippi river, and the rivers, streams and bayous running into, and from the same, and to protect the inhabitants from inundations, the State of Louisiana contracts and agrees with the Louisiana Levee Company, terms as follows:

1. That in order to maintain a uniform and perfect system, the location and dimensions of all levees to be constructed, maintained, repaired and kept in repair and managed, shall be determined by a commission of three engineers, to be appointed as follows, to wit: One by the Governor of the State of Louisiana, who is hereby authorized and directed to appoint said engineer within thirty days after acceptance of the terms of this act by the said company, as hereinafter provided; one by the Louisiana Levee Company, and one by the government of the United States.

It shall be the duty of said commission, and they are herby directed to detemine the proper location and dimensions of all levees to be constructed, repaired or strengthened by the said corporation, and the standard of dimensions to which they shall be maintained by said company, and to report the same with maps and profile thereof, and the number of cubic yards to be built in the construction of new levees, and in the strengthening, enlarginig and repairing the levees now in existence, to the Secretary of War, the Governor of the State and the president of said company, which report shall be made in sections of five miles or more of said levees. Any two memberers of said commission shall be competent to do and perform the duties hereby imposed upon the said commission, and their decision shall be sufficient and shall be accepted and taken as and for the decision of said commission. Provided, that the neglect, failure or refusal of the goverment of the United States, or the Governer of this State, to appoint a member of said commission as aforesaid, shall not in any respect invalidate or annul this agreement. And the said commission, and the members of it, are and each of them is vested with all and every power, authority and right requisite and necessary for the discharge of said duties.

2. That the said Louisiana Levee Company, for and in consideration of the compensation, benefits, rights and powers hereinafter stated, shall take charge of manage, control, construct, maintain, repair and keep in repair all the levees in this State on the Mississippi river, its tributaries and outlets, and such levees in the State of Arkansas as may be necessary to protect any of the lands of this State from overflow by the water of the Mississippi or Arkansas rivers: provided, however, that the consent of the State of Arkansas be first had and obtained to the building, constructing, maintenance, management and repairing of said levees in said last mentioned State.

3. That for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of the preceding article, the said Louisiana Levee Company is hereby vested with the sole and exclusive custody, management and control of all the levees of this State for the period of twenty-one years from the day when this act shall take effect. Said corporation shall have full right and authority, at all times, to enter upon and occupy, as far as may be necessary, by their surveyors or engineers, contractors, agents and servants, together with all necessary carts, animals, tools, materials and equipments, all such lands as may be necessary, and to remain as long as may be necessary, for the purpose of doing and performing all and singular matters and things required to be done and performed in and about the inspecting, building, construction, maintenance, repairing and extending said levees; and the said corporation shall have all the rights, powers, and prerogatives with respect to the location, construction, maintenance and management of said levees as are now vested by law in the State, parish or municipal authorities; provided, however, that said corporation shall have no power to lay, assess, or impose any tax, impost, fine or penalty whatsoever, nor to compel the owner or occupants of land to construct or keep in repair any levee or parts of the same, or to contribute to the same.

4. That said corporation shall, within sixty days from the receipt of the report of said commission, commence the constructoon of said levees, and shall thereafter construct not less than three millions of cubic yards per year until said levee shall be completed according to the standard required by the report of said commission.

5. That on and after the completion of any and all sections of said levee said company shall maintain the same up to the standard dimensions required by the report of said commission, and in the event of said corporation failing or neglecting to do so it shall be liable in damages to any person or persons injured by reason of said neglect or failure, provided, that said corporation shall in no case be liable where such injury shall be caused by or said failure shall result from acts of violence of men, the wrongful acts of individuals, the existence of obstacles interposed by the action of courts, or the operation of causes over which said company can have no control, or on account of the floods rising above the standard height determined by said commission.

6. That within thirty days after the receipt of the report of said commission the Governor of the State shall cause an estimate to be made of the cost of constructing or completing said levees according to the standard required by said report, said estimate to be made at the rate of six per cent. per cubic yard of said work, and to transmit said estimate to the Auditor of the State, and said Auditor shall thereupon apportion the sum total of the estimated parishes according to the assessment rolls of the State, and shall annually thereafter for the period of twenty-one years cause to be collected ten per centum of the sum of said estimates; provided, however, that until said estimate is made as provided in this article the Auditor of the State shall levy and collect annually, in lieu of said ten per centum of said estimate, two mills upon the dollar of the assessed value of the taxable property of the State; the said ten per centum of the sum of said estimates or the said tax in lieu thereof shall be collected at the same time, in the same manner and by the same officers as the ordinary taxes of the State are collected. Said ten per centum of the said tax in lieu thereof, when collected, shall be paid over to the Treasurer of the State, and shall be set apart as a special fund to be known as ihe "levee construction fund," which shall not be used for any other purpose than as compensation to said Louisiana Levee Company. And said fund shall be paid on the order of the president of said company, to the treasurer thereof.

7. That the Auditor of the State shall cause to be assessed and collected annually for the period of twenty-one years, from and after the passage of this act, two-tenths of one per centum upon the assessed value of the taxable property within the State, to be set apart and known as the "levee repair fund," which said fund shall be collected at the same time, in the same manner and by the same officers as the ordinary taxes of the State are collected, and shall be used for no other purpose than as provided. Said fund shall be paid over to the treasurer of the State as compensation to said company, for maintaining said levees in good and efficient repair according to the standard as hereinbefore provided; provided, however, that on the presentation to the Secretary of the State, of a certified copy of a judgment or decree rendered in any court of this State, or of the United States, together with the certificate of the clerk of said court that the time within which a suspensive appeal or writ of error may be taken by said company, from said judgment or decree, as provided by law has expired, and that no suspensive appeal or writ of error operating as a suspension has been taken from said judgment or decree; or that said judgment or decree has been affirmed by the court of last resort upon such appeal or writ of error, and that said final judgment or decree has not been paid, and that said final judgment or decree was for damages sustained by the neglect or failure of the said corporation to erect, or maintain said levees as herein provided, the said Treasurer of the State may satisfy said final judgment or decree, together with interest and cost out of said fund; provided, he shall have notified said company in writing, ten days before such payment, that said payment or decree has been presented to him for payment, and the payment of such interest and cost shall be considered as a payment to said company, to the amount thereof, out of the moneys so set apart as provided for in this article.

8. That said company shall have full right, power and authority to mortgage said funds, and to transfer, by proper instruments in writing, the power of receiving the same, or any portion thereof, to any person or persons; and the Treasurer of the State, upon presentation to him of such instrument of transfer, shall pay from said funds such portion or portions to the person or persons so authorized to receive them; provided, however, that if the said company shall issue its coupon bonds, and shall so direct, all bonds so issued by this company shall be registered in the offices of public accounts and state treasurer, and such registry endorsed thereon, and the coupons thereto attached shall be stamped across their face by the Treasurer with a *fac simile* of his signature. That to secure the prompt payment of principal and interest of such bonds as may be issued by this company, a sufficient amount of the revenues accruing under the provisions of this act are hereby pledged. And after the issuance of any bonds by this company, it shall be the duty of the State Treasurer to withold from any funds in the State treasury to the credit of said company an amount sufficient to pay all the interest coupons upon bonds so issued, falling due within six months, which coupons he shall pay from the sum so withheld at the time and place so designated on the said coupons; and a sum equal to a per cent. of the principal of the said coupons so issued shall also be retained the State Treasurer, which sum shall be sufficient only to fully retire the bonds at their maturity. The State Treasurer shall annually advertise for a period of thirty days, in the official paper of the State, and in at least one daily paper in the city of New York, for sealed proposals or the sale to said Treasurer of an amount of said bonds sufficient to absorb the aforesaid accumulated sinking fund of the year. On the first Monday after the expiration of said publication, he shall open said bids in his office, in the presence of the Auditor of Public Accounts and the president of the company, and the awards shall be made to the lowest bidder; provided, that no bids shall be accepted for more than the face of the bonds. If there should be no offer of said bonds at par or less, it shall be the duty of the Treasurer, under the advice of the Auditor of Public Accounts and the president of this company, to invest said funds in the bonds of this State or the United States, for the benefit of the company, and hold the same as a portion of the sinking fund for the retirement of the bonds issued by this company. In his annual report to the General Assembly the Treasurer shall give a full statement of any proceedings had by him under this act, and it shall be the duty of the State Treasurer on the first of every month, to communicate to the president of this company a statement of the amounts received during the past month, and the disposition thereof.

9. That whereas no tax, as provided herein, can be levied and collected during the year eighteen hunnred and seventy-one, the Governor of the State is hereby authorized and required to issue the bonds of the State to this company to the amount of one million of dollars, said bonds to be deivered to the president of the company filing with the Secretary of State an acceptance of this act, and a resolution of its directors and incorporators, binding itself to perform the obligations of this act. Said bonds shall be of the denomination of one thousand dollars each, shall be signed by the Governor, countersigned by the Secretary of the State, and sealed with the seal of the State. They shall be dated on the first of April, 1871, and shall be payable to the president of the "Louisiana Levee Company," or bearer. They shall bear interest at the rate of eight per cent per annum both principal and interest to be paid in the legal money of the United States, at the time when the payments are due, Said bonds shall be registered in the books of the Auditor of Public Accounts and of the State Treasurer, and payable in New Orleans or New York, at the option of the holder on the first day of April and October of each year. For the payment of the principal and interest of the bonds aforesaid, the faith of the State of Louisiana is unconditionally pledged to the holder. To provide for the prompt payment of the principal and interest of said bonds, an annual tax of one-half mill on the dollar shall be levied and collected on real and personal property in the State subject to taxation, which tax shall be paid into the State treasury, and shall be placed to the credit of a special fund to be entitled "The Louisiana Bond Fund," which fund shall be applied first to the payment of the coupons of said bonds, as the same shall fall due, and any excess thereafter shall be applied, annually, to the purchase and retirement of said bonds.

10. That should an officer of the State fail, neglect or refuse to do any of the matters or things which he shall be required to do, by the provisions of this act, said corporation may apply any court of competent jurisdiction, for a writ of mandamus, directed to said officer who shall neglect, fail or refuse to perform said matter or thing as aforesaid, commanding him to do and perform the matter or thing, so as aforesaid required of him, and said judge shall therefore issue said mandamus; provided, that said judge may, in his discretion, appoint a special commission with full power to do and perform such matter or thing, and to comply with the requirmehts af such provision of this act; and the actions and proceeding of said commissioner in the premises shall have the same validity and force as if they had been done and performed by said officer.

[(Continued in our next Number.]

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1 prize of	7,000 is		7,000
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