

# Where Are the Great Preachers?

### Though the Neighborhood Changes, Rev. Percy Stickney Grant Stands Fast at Church of Ascension

### Firm Believer in Truth

### Knows Philosophy of the Workers and Flaunts Aristocratic Dogmas

In these days of rapidly changing neighborhoods, when churches in the downtown districts are being deserted by the score, the Rev. Percy Stickney Grant interprets the conditions as a challenge.

Nothing, he declares, will induce him or his people to abandon their work at Fifth Avenue and Tenth Street and to seek a new parish for the historic Protestant Episcopal Church of the Ascension.

He has seen fine residences converted into shops and factories and office buildings. But he has never lost sight of the needs of the people in the nearby congested sections, nor of the relatively few that have refused to sacrifice their fine homes to the victors.

He has witnessed the influx of a new class and he has declared that their needs are just as vital in matters of religion as of those whose places they took.

"Instead of abandoning changed neighborhoods and following our people let us realize our responsibility. If our people move to new neighborhoods let them adopt one of two courses. Let them provide the wherewithal for new churches or, in these days of quick transit, remain steadfast to the old," he says.

### Began as Fashionable Parish

The Church of the Ascension began its service to the city as a fashionable parish. It prospered. But no one doubts that its present appeal is more far-reaching than its old. Its evening meetings on Sundays have become an institution in the city. On special occasions, as, for instance, when Mme. Breshkovsky spoke at a forum, the demands for seats have been embarrassing. The forum has grown to such proportions that a new hall may be necessary.

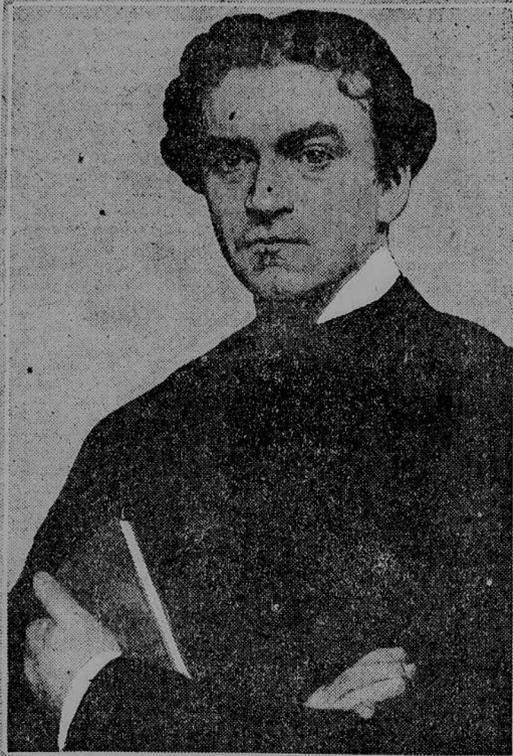
On Sunday mornings the conventional prayer book service of the Protestant Episcopal Church is followed by a sermon, usually with Mr. Grant as the occupant of the pulpit. With the conclusion of the order for morning prayer conventionalities cease, for Mr. Grant cannot be the conventional preacher. He is one of the leaders in the liberal movement of the Episcopal Church. He has stood squarely for truth and has said that if the old conventions are menaced the truth must not be sacrificed.

His utterances have stirred grave controversies. At one time he was outspoken on the subject of marriage and divorce that another rector caused all of his vicars to preach in opposition to Mr. Grant's teachings and himself delivered a bitter attack upon the rector of the Church of the Ascension.

### Ignored the Attacks

To these attacks Mr. Grant made no reply. He refused to become engaged in controversies; that is not his method. He speaks the truth as it

The Rev. Percy Stickney Grant



appeals to him and enters no further plea in justification.

He dresses in "clericals." He has an ecclesiastical cast of countenance and a ministerial bearing. But that comes from his environment. In addition to directing the affairs of the busy institutional church, he never has ceased to be a pastor; and is available at any hour of the night or day when there is sickness or need. His manner is direct and forceful. His vocabulary is rich; his illustrations are apt, even picturesque. His voice is powerful and susceptible of many rich inflections. He is at his best when he is aroused. Then his diction loses some of the richness and grace that characterize his contributions to the periodical press. His language then is just as picturesque—but infinitely more convincing.

For instance, one Sunday morning he mentioned that several members of the parish had asked to be transferred to St. Thomas's. He said he had asked them for their reasons and had been informed they were out of sympathy with his work among the poor, that they disliked the idea of bringing all sorts and conditions of people into the church on Sunday evenings and holding forums.

### Refused "To Saddle" Another

Said Mr. Grant: "I will not transfer these people. The parish to which they have asked to be transferred is

a busy parish and the rector is a busy man. He is doing a useful work. As a brother preacher I refuse to saddle upon him people of this type, who, because of their self-centredness, will prove only a handicap. Furthermore, I wish to take advantage of this occasion to say that any future applications made for the same reasons will be treated in the same manner."

One morning, in the course of a sermon, Mr. Grant accentuated a point he was endeavoring to drive home with a descent into some slang phrases. Nothing shocks the people of the Church of the Ascension. But a stranger in the parish was heard to say: "That is the first time I ever heard a parson use slang without prefacing it by the statement that he was going to say something 'in the vernacular.' I like that man. He has the courage of his slang."

### A Church of Beauty

The Church of the Ascension is one of the most beautiful houses of worship in the city. Its windows have been pronounced some of the highest achievements of the stainer's art. John La Farge, Frederick Crownshield, Alden Weir and the artists of the Tiffany Studios all contributed to its

beauty of the windows. Then there is the painting of the Ascension, by La Farge, that is set above the altar like a retable.

The service is what would be called "low." There is nothing of the grandeur of extreme ritualism, which one might expect in the beauty of the surroundings. Yet the note of grandeur is not missed. Everything about the manner of worship seems in keeping, for the church is like a retreat. It seems to breathe an atmosphere of devotion.

Mr. Grant came to New York from St. Mark's chapel, Fall River. There his work had been among mill operatives. He had lived among them, been with them at their occupations and in their philosophy, and with it the philosophy of the workers of the world. It was a great wrench to pull away from their lives—and yet he had been trained at Harvard. From the dimly lit streets of Cambridge to the dingy homes of the Fall River toilers was a marked change; and Mr. Grant had adapted himself so well that he had become as one of the toilers.

### Demanded a Free Church

His work attracted much attention. Finally the vestry of the Church of the Ascension sent a representative to study his methods at first hand. Then the call was extended. Mr. Grant thought he would be able to decline the call gracefully by naming what he believed would be impossible conditions, among them that the historic church must become absolutely free. His conditions were accepted without question and he came from St. Mark's, the mill operative church, to the Church of the Ascension, with its background of wealth and fashion.

His impress in this city was soon felt. One of the staunchest adherents was Bishop Potter, who, too, had a social vision. On one of his extended tours Bishop Potter named Mr. Grant as his secretary and chaplain, and much of the material that was the basis for the Bishop's later addresses and reform movements was furnished by the rector of the Church of the Ascension.

Perhaps the best portrayal of Mr. Grant is one sketched by his own utterances. Here are some of the most striking.

"The church must face modern problems or go backward. It will not be the people's church until it does. What if we had no creed. I think the church would be better off. Our fields of influence would be greater. We must be democratic, throw away our aristocratic dogmas. Until we do this our church will be an armchair institution, fit to be laid away in a box."

### His Message to Women

"This is a message to women. They must: "Guard new life and disencumber humanity of injurious life already in existence.

"Clean up defective and destructive ideas.

"Make the top of humanity less wasteful and the bottom less wasteful.

"Prevent sickness and disease by forcing employers to pay higher wages.

"Claim just as radical as they are now—much more so than men."

Dr. Grant has a tremendous influence with workmen and women because of his profound sympathy for them. But he does not seek to win them by flattery or by ignoring their shortcomings.

This is one of his most widely quoted utterances on the subject; it is the first in a series of talks: "We cannot put the people behind the law merely by taking power away from the capitalist class and giving it to the working class. Our problem would not be solved. A working class control would be as unjust as capitalist control, for, in too, would be one-sided. The working class on the whole, is unfortunately to be noted, is not broad and some of the decisions adverse to labor we are obliged to account for (and this is admitted by labor men themselves, as the result of immature legislation undertaken in the haste and querulous call of labor."

As a poet Dr. Grant is known to a smaller audience. This is not a reflection upon his poetry, but a compliment to his literary activities. He has published three volumes of verse, including a poetic drama, "The Return of Ulysses," and a narrative poem, "The Search of Belshazzar," and a volume of sonnets and lyrics entitled "Ad Matrem," but his alma mater has recently recognized his gift by an invitation to deliver the Phi Beta Kappa poem at the coming Harvard commencement.

His political and economic creed is concisely put in the following sonnet entitled "Democracy."

Democracy on law and virtue stands. That point thee flouting, with a brutal face. Not to Rome's proletarian populace, Nor Paris mobs that round a red flag throng, Nor London slums of satiate sin belong Such names—delict, pitiable—trace Though in their husky mutterings we can trace God urging brotherhood upon the strong. Democracy on law and virtue stands. The home it loves and children at the knee; It bread it earns, its lips can speak in prayer. Though greed and pride would blind its giant hands, I trust the conscience of humanity. See freedom widen in the people's care.

The subject of next Monday's article will be Bishop B. B. Wilson, Resident Bishop of New York of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

### The "cannon ball service" of tennis means tired muscles.

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quickly relieves all muscular strains. Get a tube today. Theo. Leeming & Co., N. Y.

People find ALBODON beneficial and pleasant. It never hardens in the tube no matter what the weather!

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The purity and quantity of its cleansing and polishing ingredients keep the teeth at maximum whiteness and cleanliness. The essential oils and antiseptics keep the mouth sanitary and germ-free. Used daily from youth, there need be no serious dental trouble. The danger is in starting late.

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### Wife Insulted, Then She And Husband Are Beaten

### Brooklyn Youths Attack Couple When Apology Is Demanded

Robert Marrell, thirty-three years old, an attendant at the State Hospital for the Insane in Brooklyn, was beaten yesterday and his wife, an attendant in the Contagious Disease Hospital, suffered a fractured skull when Marrell demanded an apology from three young men who had made insulting remarks to the couple passed.

According to the police, Marrell told the police, Marrell overheard the young men's remarks about his wife. When he demanded an apology they attacked both. Marrell's jaw was fractured and Mrs. Marrell was struck in the head with a stone. Neither could give the police a good description of the men.

### Railroads Bankrupt But for Government Control, Says Hines

### Director General Declares There Must Be Higher Volume of Business or Heavy Increase in Rates

SYRACUSE, June 8.—Passenger and freight rates must be advanced unless the volume of business on the nation's railroads increases materially, in the opinion of Walker D. Hines, Director General of Railroads, who stopped off here for a short time on an inspection trip, which will take him half way across the continent.

Wages are up to stay, he said, and they are higher than in any other lines of work. He expressed the hope that during government control the roads would get back to the high standard of service rendered under private ownership. Government control, he said, is saving the railroads from bankruptcy.

"The increase in business," he declared, "will not be sufficient to make the roads self-sustaining for a long time, judging by the way things are running now. During the war we had a large volume of business, but since then we have shown a decrease. The cost of the roads must increase or there must be a decrease in expenses."

Asked what decreases were meant, he said: "The cost of materials makes up about 40 per cent of the total bill of the railroads; we may expect a reduction of about 10 per cent in that account. I do not see how the roads can be made to pay expenses, say nothing of making a profit, except in two ways. Either the volume of business must greatly increase or there must be a decided increase in freight and passenger rates."

Increases in the freight and passenger rates would have other ways of high cost of living that would submerge us deeper than we are already. I do not favor the plan. The effect of government control is now to protect the public from increases that would be made in order to keep the roads from going into bankruptcy. This shows how government control stabilizes things. It is keeping the railroads from bankruptcy. I am heartily in favor of turning the roads back to their owners at the end of this year. There should be a consolidation of the lines into a few great systems."

### Believe Zapata Lives

### Mexicans Think Rebel General Burst Coffin and Escaped

QUAUZTLA, Mexico.—Legends already are beginning to spring up among the superstitious and ignorant Indians of this state regarding Emiliano Zapata, the rebel chief who met death here April 10. In an attempt to preserve the bandit's body as long as possible in order to give the rebels a chance to see it, it was packed in ice, in the absence of embalming fluids.

The ice burst the sides and top of the coffin and gave rise to superstitious tales that the "Atilla of the South," as Zapata was called, was not really dead, but had burst his coffin and escaped.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

### Dirigible C-5 Planned Sea Crossing, the Navy Admits

WASHINGTON, June 8.—Official confirmation that the Navy Department contemplated a transatlantic flight by the dirigible C-5 without stop from St. John's, Newfoundland, to the Irish coast, is contained in Lieutenant Commander E. V. Coll's report of the C-5's voyage from Montauk Point, L. I., to St. John's, Newfoundland. The report made public for the first time today shows that the C-5 flew 25 hours and 50 minutes, covering more than 1,022 sea miles.

### Chilean Mail Ship Sinks; Passengers and Crew Saved

LIMA, Peru, June 7.—The Chilean mail steamer Limari sank early today after running ashore forty miles north of Eten, Northern Peru. The passengers and crew, it is reported, were rescued by the Peruvian Line steamer Mantero. The Limari was southbound from Panama for Callao and Valparaiso. The steamer Limari measured 2,047 tons. She was built in Glasgow in 1898 and was owned in Valparaiso.

### Chloroform Fatal to Woman

Mrs. Bedelia Holton, forty-five years old, a housekeeper at the McAlpin Hotel, was found dead in bed yesterday. The police believe she died of natural causes, but Dr. Garlock of the New York Hospital, who examined the body, said death was due to chloroform. An empty chloroform bottle was found near the body.

### Manhattan

Fourth Avenue, cor. 25th Street. Eldridge St., cor. Livingston St. East Houston St., cor. Essex St. Seventh Ave., bet. 48th & 49th St. Lexington Ave., cor. 124th St. Grand St., cor. Clinton St. E. 72d St., bet. Lexington & 3 Ave. E. 8th Ave., cor. 127th St.

### Brooklyn

Smith St., cor. Livingston St. Graham Ave., cor. Devoe St. Pitkin Ave., cor. Rockaway Av.

### PER MONTH ON PLEDGE OF PERSONAL PROPERTY

THE PROVIDENT LOAN SOCIETY OF NEW YORK

Office Hours: 9 A. M. to 5 P. M. Saturdays, 9 A. M. to 4 P. M. (from first Saturday in June to first Saturday in September, both inclusive, 9 A. M. to 1 P. M.)

### Hirsch Seeks Share in State Housing Probe

### He Asks That Counsel for Mayor's Committee Be Permitted by Legislators to Cross-Examine Witnesses

### Hearing Resumed To-day

### Officials of Life Insurance Companies Among Those To Be Questioned

The legislative inquiry into rent profiteering in New York City, scheduled to be resumed to-day in the Aldermanic Chamber of City Hall before a joint legislative committee headed by Senator Charles C. Lockwood, may be held up as a result of the desire of Mayor Hylan's Committee on Rent Profiteering to participate.

Nathan Hirsch, chairman of the Mayor's committee, sent a letter yesterday to Senator Lockwood asking that his investigators be allowed to take part in the examination of witnesses subpoenaed by the legislative committee. Mr. Hirsch requested Senator Lockwood either to agree to the proposal by noon to-day or to postpone the examination of witnesses. Mr. Hirsch's letter, in part, follows:

"I understand that your committee has subpoenaed and is intending to begin on Monday the examination of officers of life insurance companies, together with material supply men, this in connection with your investigation into housing conditions.

Has the Same Power

"The Mayor's Committee on Rent Profiteering, as you doubtless know, has joined aid is acting with the general welfare committee of the Board of Aldermen. The latter has the same right to subpoena and to compel the attendance of witnesses and also the production of papers as has your committee.

"Inasmuch as all of us are striving for the same end it would appear as though there should be close cooperation, to the end that all the committees may secure for the people of the city and state the benefit of the facts gathered and elicited by each committee, and that this should be done at the least possible expense to the city and the state.

"Therefore I suggest that your committee permit counsel for the Mayor's Committee and the General Welfare Committee, acting through the same committee, to participate in the examination of all witnesses and that the fullest cross-examination.

"In order that there may be no technical objections on the part of witnesses, as to answering questions put by counsel of any of the committees, we suggest that your committee be regarded as associated with your committee for that purpose, and that purpose alone, and that your counsel may be regarded as associated with our committee.

### Choice of Two Actions

"As our hearings are to begin on Monday, I will ask you to be good enough either to respond to this offer by Monday noon, or, if that be impracticable on account of the shortness of the notice, that you either postpone the examination of witnesses for a day or two or suspend their examination subject to the questions our committee may desire to put."

Senator Lockwood could not be reached yesterday. Assemblyman Thompson, A. McWhinney, vice-chairman of the Lockwood committee, said he was sure Senator Lockwood would be glad to accord every possible courtesy to the Mayor's investigators.

"I think, however," he added, "that the suggestion that counsel representing the Mayor's Committee sit with our committee and participate in the investigation would mean confusion and delay in clearing up the facts as quickly as possible, so that we may take up the question of the cost of it."

### Funeral Services Held For Frederic Thompson

### Well Known Theatrical Men Are Pallbearers—Interment in Woodlawn

Funeral services for Frederic Thompson, founder of the New York Hippodrome and Luna Park, were held yesterday afternoon at St. Bartholomew's Church, Fifth Street and Park Avenue. The burial service was conducted by the Rev. Dr. Percy Gordon, assisted by the Rev. Dr. Bartholomew, assisted by the Rev. Dr. Bartholomew, assisted by the Rev. Dr. Bartholomew.

### Court to Go to Levi Morton

### Aged Man Unable to Make Trip to Give Testimony

POUGHKEEPSIE, N. Y., June 8.—Levi P. Morton being unable to come to Poughkeepsie to testify in the Surrogate's Court in the action brought by the State Controller against his wife's estate, Surrogate Daniel J. Gleason will on Tuesday go to Ellerslie, Mr. Morton's summer home, and there examine Mr. Morton as a witness.

Mr. Morton's testimony is wanted in the suit started by the Controller to prove that Mrs. Morton was a resident of New York State when she died last October, leaving an estate of several million dollars.

The executors of Mrs. Morton's estate have refused to pay the tax on her estate in New York State because they claim that she was a resident of the District of Columbia. When Mr. Morton retired from politics he moved from New York to Washington, and the executors of the estate claim that his wife's legal residence was then automatically changed. Mr. Morton, who is ninety-five years old, is in such feeble health that his physicians advised against his making the trip to Poughkeepsie to attend court.

### Memorial Service Held For Mrs. C. J. Walker

### Message From Governor Smith Among Those Received From Prominent Persons

Messages from Governor Alfred E. Smith, R. R. Moton, principal of Tuskegee Institute, and from Emmett J. Scott, special assistant to the Secretary of War, were read at the memorial service held yesterday for Mrs. C. J. Walker in the Salem Methodist Episcopal Church, 102 West 133d Street.

Born fifty-one years ago Mrs. Walker rose in the last fourteen years of her life from a washerwoman earning \$1.50 a day to the wealthiest negro woman in the United States, with a fortune estimated at close to \$1,000,000. About a year ago she built a country home at Irvington-on-Hudson, costing \$250,000. She had developed a method for straightening the hair of black people, and her fortune was made through the means of her hair preparations and agencies for their sale.

Representatives of many organizations for the advancement of the colored race, with which Mrs. Walker was affiliated, spoke at the memorial service. The Rev. Dr. R. D. Jonas represented the International League for Darker People; Mrs. Lelia Walters, widow of the Bishop of the A. M. E. Zion Church, represented the African Redemption Society; Mrs. Irene Norman Blackstone, president of the National Colored Business Woman's Fraternal Association, spoke for her organization, and Lieutenant Eugene McGill, formerly bandmaster in the 36th Infantry, represented the Music School Settlement for Colored People.

### EDWARD MACDONALD

LENOX, Mass., June 8.—Edward MacDonald, seventy-five, president of the Lenox National Bank, died here this morning. He was a member of the Massachusetts Legislature in 1870 and again in 1908, and postmaster of Lenox under President Cleveland. For twenty years Mr. MacDonald was a member of the Board of Selectmen of Lenox.

He was treasurer of the Lenox Savings Bank and organizer of the Lenox Electric and Water companies. For fifty years he was a vestryman of Trinity Episcopal Church, which presented to him a loving cup on Easter Sunday. Since 1914 he was president of the 49th Massachusetts Regimental Association.

### G. W. C. NOBLE

CAMBRIDGE, Mass., June 8.—G. W. C. Noble, eighty-two, principal emeritus of Noble and Greenough School and the last surviving member of the board of overseers of Harvard College which appointed Dr. Charles W. Eliot president, died at his home here Saturday.

### MRS. HOKE SMITH

Mrs. Birdie Cobb Smith, fifty-seven, wife of United States Senator Hoke Smith, died here Saturday at her home in Plainfield, N. J.

### BIRTHS

GORDON—Mr. and Mrs. Ben Gordon (nee Edna Sandman) 609 West 169th st. New York City announce the birth of a daughter on June 7.

GREENBERG—Mr. and Mrs. Emil Greenberg (nee Anna Sommer) of 1433 Crowsley av., Bath Beach, Brooklyn, N. Y., announce the birth of a son on June 7.

### ENGAGEMENTS

GREENBERG—DANOWITZ—Mr. and Mrs. Louis Danowitz, 425 Broadway at Brooklyn, N. Y., announce the engagement of their daughter, Lillian, to Dr. Abraham L. Greenberg, at home Sunday afternoon, June 15.

JANKOWITZ—MERBER—Mr. and Mrs. D. Jankowitz announce the betrothal of their daughter, Ruth, to Mr. Maurice Merber, Reception Sunday, June 15, 1919, from 3 to 6 p. m., Pennsylvania Hotel ballroom.

KOENIGSBERG—SOLOV—Mr. and Mrs. Harry Solomon of 1413 Madison av., announce a reception will be given in honor of the betrothal of their daughter, Lillian Pearl, to Mr. Henry Koenigsberg, at the Savoy on June 15, 8 p. m.

YOUNG—HEBLICH—Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Heblich, 3501 14th av., Brooklyn, announce the betrothal of their daughter, Martha, to Mr. Felix Young, Reception at home June 15, 2 to 6. No cards.

### MARRIAGES

GROSS—WIENER—Mr. and Mrs. Hyman Wiener, 750 East 53d st., announces the marriage of their daughter, Jane, to Mr. Joseph Gross, June 8, 1919.

KENDALL—BENJAMIN—June 6th, Louis Benjamin, son of Mrs. Benjamin Benjamin, to David Matthew Kendall, son of Mr. and Mrs. David A. Kendall, of Wilkes-Barre, Kan., at Brooklyn, N. Y.

MELTZER—HEIDT—Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Heidt announce the marriage of their daughter, Tillie, to Milton L. Meltzer, Surgeon, U. S. Army, at Temple Beth Elohim, 8th av., New York City, June 8, 1919.

MEYER—STERN—Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Stern announce the marriage of their daughter, Hilda, to Frederick Meyer, son of Charles Meyer, on Sunday, June 8, 4:30 p. m., at Temple Beth Elohim, 8th av., New York City, Brooklyn, New Haven and Chicago papers please copy.

POST—KNAPP—On June 7, 1919, at Brookwood, East Islip, Long Island, by Rev. William J. Thayer, Rev. Charles W. Knapp, and the Rev. William H. Garth, of St. Mark's Church, Islip, Long Island, Caroline Burr, daughter of Harry Knapp, and Caroline Burr Knapp, to Charles Knapp, son of Charles Knapp, of East Islip, Long Island, by Rev. William J. Thayer, Rev. Charles W. Knapp, and the Rev. William H. Garth, of St. Mark's Church, Islip, Long Island, Caroline Burr, daughter of Harry Knapp, and Caroline Burr Knapp, to Charles Knapp, son of Charles Knapp, of East Islip, Long Island, by Rev. William J. Thayer, Rev. Charles W. Knapp, and the Rev. William H. Garth, of St. Mark's Church, Islip, Long Island, Caroline Burr, daughter of Harry Knapp, and Caroline Burr Knapp, to Charles Knapp, son of Charles Knapp, of East Islip, Long Island, by Rev. William J. Thayer, Rev. Charles W. Knapp, and the Rev. William H. 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