

Three Schisms Threaten American Religious Life

Commotion in Protestant Episcopal Church Over Panama Conference Is Symptomatic

(By the Religious Rambler)

There has broken into print, by way of the recent division in the Protestant Episcopal Board of Missions, with the resignation of five members, including three bishops, the story of a religious issue which goes deeper and wider than the general public suspect. It not only reveals the apparently irreconcilable difference between the "high" and "low" or "catholic" and "protestant" wings of the Protestant Episcopal Church, and other churches well, but also calls attention to two other lines of cleavage that are being rapidly extended beneath the surface of American Church life.

Only when an occasional episode, like the crisis in the Protestant Episcopal Board of Missions, makes the matter "news" does the situation come to the public eye; yet in reality it is more important than the specific activities of any religious organization.

First of the issues which are engrossing the interest of really thoughtful and observant churchmen is this one precipitated among the American Episcopalians by the Panama Conference, and long paramount in that church—the disagreement between the "catholic" and "protestant" parties of Christianity. Along this same line are the current clashes between Protestants and Roman Catholics on political and other secular issues.

The other two schisms are the growing hostility between "orthodox" and "liberal" wings of Protestantism; and also between what are called the "second-coming" group and the "social service" group.

What the Row Is All About

To understand the turmoil over this Latin-American missionary conference to be held in Panama next February, one must go back to the World's Missionary Conference in Edinburgh in 1910. As a concession to the "High Church" party among the Anglicans, that conference excluded all discussion of missions in Roman Catholic lands.

There were hours when the situation was very tense. As one famous American missionary secretary said to me, as we came down the hill to Princess street, after an epochal meeting, "I tell you there were volcanoes in that meeting this morning, all ready to explode. They did not explode, and so the Edinburgh Conference came to a united and triumphant conclusion.

But representatives of many of the American mission boards having mission work in Latin America, held a meeting at Edinburgh and decided to call the Latin-American Mission Conference, which is to meet at Panama next February. All the Protestant Churches in the United States are to participate, the action of the Protestant Episcopal Mission Board in sending delegates keeping intact the solidarity of Protestantism.

The "High Church" or "ritualistic" party among Episcopalians, who wanted the name of their body changed to "The American Catholic Church," vigorously dissent. They resent all use of the word "Protestant." They seek reunion with the See of Rome, and with the oriental churches in their view, Protestant mission work in Latin-America is an affront to the Roman Catholic Church. Now the crisis has

been forced; some churchmen are openly saying that it portends a split in the denomination. As to that only time can tell.

A Present Religious Issue

Certainly the tendency to accentuate the two words "protestant" and "catholic" is far wider than the Protestant Episcopal Church. Within that body it is partly an academic discussion of dogma. In another and more prevalent phase it has become one of the gravest issues in American life. For there is no concealing the fact that there is a widespread tendency toward open antagonism between adherents of the Roman Catholic Church and of Protestantism, especially in public affairs.

There is apparent a deplorable and dangerous inclination to carry religion—or, more accurately, sectarianism—into politics. This issue has within a year determined many local contests in various parts of the country and threatens to play a part in the next national election.

No other present development of American life is more important, and less frequently treated in the press than this difficult question of sectarianism. Agitators have seized it and have indulged in reckless and bitter accusations. Men of both creeds have organized widely and are in secret or open competition, political, social and even commercial. It will take the ripest wisdom of churchmen and patriots to prevent an unAmerican and un-Christian strife.

Liberal vs. Orthodox

The while these cruder and subtler aspects of the clash between "catholic" and "protestant" ideas are at work, another conflict is raging which bids fair to have large consequences in American religious life. This is the increasing militancy of the disagreement between "orthodox" and "conservative" thinkers. I regret to record that this controversy seems to be growing in bitterness.

In ecclesiastical circles, this is the line that is constantly being drawn. Men are elected or defeated for office upon it. Whole denominations are being shaped upon this issue. In many cases this zeal for "orthodoxy" or "liberalism" arises from a sincere devotion to men's conceptions of truth; in others, it appears that unscrupulous ecclesiastics are commenting the agitation for their own purposes. An intolerance quite out of keeping with the twentieth century is being manifested on both sides. Nobody knows where it will yet lead.

"Second Coming" vs. "Social Service" When thoughtful observers of religious tendencies meet in candid and informal conference, one is likely to hear much talk of a real divergence between those who believe in the literal second coming of Christ to bring in the millennium, and those who hold, either that Christ has already fulfilled, at Pentecost, his promise to come again; or else that his second advent is outside of human knowledge, and that the only concern of Christians is to be found ready.

Now this is no mere doctrinal quibble. It affects all the work of the church. Premillennialists hold, for example, that the world is steadily growing worse, and that it will continue to increase in wickedness until Christ comes. They point to the present war as a "sign of the times." Their only hope is that a few souls may be saved out of the world to be ready for the Lord's coming. Then when He returns in the body, His kingdom will rule the world.

One man holding a contrary view declared, "This means that spiritual methods have failed, and that God must win by German methods." A Chicago preacher, active in humanitarian enterprises, said "That idea puts a crimp in all my work." For the premillennial advocates estop all social service. The most liberal among them say, according to a recent publication endorsed by Dr. Torrey, Schofield and others, that the modern social service activities are really of the devil.

With these delicate, difficult and dangerous cleavages, along fundamental lines, existing among Christians, it is clear that an extraordinary degree of statesmanship is called for in all the churches.

THE RELIGIOUS RAMBLER.

HUMAN SKELETON BURIED

Lewistown, Pa., Nov. 5.—Yesterday the human skeleton discovered near McVeytown, a few days ago by John Youtzy, was viewed by Justice of the Peace W. F. Roche, of that town and the county commissioner decided to have the bones buried.

COXESTOWN SCHOLARS HAVE PERFECT RECORD FOR MONTH

Coxestown, Pa., Nov. 5.—Many pupils in the Coxestown schools were neither absent nor tardy during the second month of the winter term. In the primary school, taught by Miss Annie Luffter, those who had perfect records were: Louisa Moyer, Frances Corl, Mary Turns, Ruth Hammaker, Florence Schell, Pauline Good, Lucille Norton, Mary Horn, Ethel Bowman, Anna Matzinger, Eleanor Greenawalt, Eva Fetterhoff, Helen Horn, Edith Bachtel, Sara Turns, Ethel Speese, Earl Cassett, Carl Bachtel, Harry Kennedy, Walter Arndt, Edward Hammaker, Linus Cassatt, John Quinner, Forrest Ensinger, Irvin Straw, George Kelley, John Sheesley, Raymond Burd, Clayton Burd, Charles Landis, Russel Rettinger, Kenneth Fetterhoff and Robert Ensinger. Number enrolled, 65. Average attendance, 60. Per centage of attendance, 92.

PAYNE-FOREMAN WEDDING

Waynesboro, Pa., Nov. 5.—A marriage of much interest took place yesterday afternoon at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Foreman when their daughter, Miss Adele Brotherton Foreman, and Robert Spottwood Payne, Jr., of Hagerstown, Md., were united in marriage by the bride's pastor, the Rev. A. A. Kelley, of the Lutheran Church. The bride's sister, Mrs. John P. Bruns, of Baltimore, was matron of honor, and Dr. Gilmer, Hagerstown, was best man.

SCOUT BAND GETS OFFER

Lewistown, Pa., Nov. 5.—The Lewistown Boy Scout Band is considering an offer for a 35-weeks' engagement, touring the country to present a play entitled "The Boy Scout." F. W. Kierforle, director of the organization, has been asked to name his terms by George W. Smith, theatrical manager of New York.

NOVEMBER is here! Are you prepared for it? This is the beginning of real winter. You will be besieged for at least four months by the powers of frost and it behooves you to have the necessary supplies to withstand their persistence. If you have as yet not prepared for the cold weather--now is your time to do so. If you have not the ready cash, we are always glad to offer you the privilege of a charge account. That means you wear your clothes while you pay for them. It makes no difference whether it's men's, women's or children's apparel. We have them all. ONE DOLLAR a week will clothe the family.



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have been well chosen and embrace all the present season's latest models as well as the conservative styles. If you want to dress in the latest English cut suits we can accommodate you to suit your own desire. On the other hand if you have a leaning towards conservative staple garments, we are also prepared to cater to your demands. All we ask of you is a trial and we are confident of adding you to our extensive list of satisfied customers.

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is replete with all of the season's latest creations and fabrics. We are in receipt of new models almost daily and as our New York buyers have to supply the demand of stores throughout the country they are constantly on the lookout for the best. Buying your outfit here assures you of the very last word in style. We guarantee every garment to give satisfaction or money refunded.



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PROGRAM FOR INSTITUTE

Mechanicsburg, Pa., Nov. 5.—On Saturday, November 13, the Teachers' Local Institute will be held in the high school auditorium here and the following interesting program will be given: 9:30 a. m., devotional exercises, the Rev. George Fulton; topic, Wasted Time, "By Teacher and Pupil"; G. W. Shumberger; "How Prevented," Dayle Russell; topic, The Country Pupil in the Town High School, "Qualifications for Admission," Paul Smith; "Best Course of Study to Follow," Robert Gutshall; topic, Agriculture in our Schools, "Purposes," W. J. Kimmel; "Methods of Teaching," Robert Matthews; topic, What Might Be Done to Improve Our Institute, "Local," A. L. Brubaker; "County," Jane McCachran. 1:30 p. m., topic, Needs of Our Schools, "Rural," Genefred Walter; "Town," Edgar Lowery; topic, Relative Importance of School Studies, "Grade," Bessie Bashore; "High," David B. Kraybill; topic, What Constitutes a Fair Examination, "Content," J. F. Lininger; "Method of Grading," Ossinger Bucher; address, the Rev. Dr. William N. Yates, of Harrisburg. The numbers on the program will be interspersed by music.

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CHILD FOUND DEAD IN BED

Special to The Telegraph

Waynesboro, Pa., Nov. 5.—Mr. and Mrs. Charles Freeman, this place, found their infant child dead in its bed yesterday.

ENGAGEMENT ANNOUNCED

Special to The Telegraph

Marietta, Pa., Nov. 5.—Mr. and Mrs. Harry M. Ressler, of Mount Joy, have announced the engagement of their daughter, Miss Anna Mary Ressler, to S. Ross Maurer, of Strasburg, Lancaster county. The date for the wedding has not been set.

THE GARDEN ON THE HILLSIDE

Little Stephan Leichman, a twelve-year-old Cincinnati schoolboy, wanted a garden. And because he wanted this garden very, very much, his little heart was filled with a deep sorrow. For he had no spot in which to plant his seeds—he had no ground in which a conventional garden could flourish. True, Stephan had a home, but the home—in the utterly irresponsible manner of some homes—was set precariously on the side of a hill. The hill was so steep that when it rained, large portions of it had a truly awful habit of sliding down muddily onto the Leichman kitchen steps.

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