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Daily Biblical Quotation

DECEMBER 23.

Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. Isa. 55:7.

Jesus, to thy wounds I fly,
Purge my sins of deepest dye;
Lamb of God, for sinners slain,
Wash away my crimson stain.

Thy sins are forgiven. Luke 7:48.

THE CRIME EPIDEMIC.

And now it is a crime epidemic. Eventually, it may be, our scientific friends will succeed in locating, naming and prescribing a toxin for the destruction of the germ that causes it, for, of course, there must be a germ at the bottom of all this devilment. But in the meantime, while awaiting patiently that happy event, Commissioner Atkinson is using prudent common sense in acting with decision along the good old Mosale line.

The number of peace officers are to be greatly increased as an emergency measure, and the civilian population called on to loan its active co-operation instead of indulging in carping criticism. The first steps taken by the commissioner, calling in for consultation and approval of his plans leading citizens regardless of party, evinces a rare quality of public official.

It is exceedingly pleasant, also, to hear the head of a corporate concern, like C. J. Wrightman, tendering the credit of his company to the public service, to be used in the interest of the entire community. "Do what is necessary and pay us back when you get ready," he said.

With such co-operation from the private citizens public officials can not only make good where there is an honest disposition on their part to do so, but those officials less inclined to discharge their obligations to the public with fidelity can be held in the straight and narrow path.

The crime wave, apparently has hit Tulsa. The epidemic is here. Our amusements in the opening paragraph were facetious, of course. Seriously, there is no mystery in the crime epidemic at all. There has always been an amazing portion of our people more desirous of subsisting on "easy money" than they were and are concerning the manner in which such money is secured.

We have been for many months experiencing conditions under which this semi-criminal element could realize satisfactory income and without hazard for doing almost no work at all. With the change in economic conditions and an approach of that day when the old laws would again force observance—wherein men must earn money actually before they could spend it, there has come to this class the apparent necessity of really laboring for an income. Apalling thought!

Hence the reversion to form and inclination. Such a man, who has been receiving, not earning, many, many, dollars a day for a mere show of productive enterprise, turns determinedly from an opportunity to actually earn an honest and just income to the more promising opportunity afforded him through an enterprising and daring practice of the ways of the underworld.

Society is being attacked on a new side. That is all. Society and its forms will prove victorious. A sufficient amount of courage on the part of the private citizen to actually take a chance with his life in order to protect what is rightfully his from the envy of those who have no earthly right to any portion of it, coupled with determination on the part of the peace officers and unswerving firmness on the part of the courts, will in a comparatively short time discourage the criminal element and send it to the most hardened and hopeless cases in to productive enterprise of some kind.

Fear, not moral convictions, keeps many a man at the lathe, bench and counter and free of the courts.

THE GAS RATE HIKE

Santa Claus visited the gas trust abroad of time. For that happy fact the gas company has to thank the corporation commission, a body the people created and vested with vast power for their own protection against the very thing that has occurred.

If the members of the corporation commission are not handsomely remembered Christmas day by the board of directors of the gas trust there will be an exhibition of ingratitude inexcusable. Unless, of course, Santa Claus called on the members of the commission even before he called on the gas company. That is a possibility as well as an explanation.

Coincident with the advance in rates comes the story that Tulsa now has an abundance of gas. We hope that story is true. Because a

gas supply at even 58 cents a thousand cubic feet, sufficient to keep one comfortable during cold weather, would be some consolation for the outrageous and absolutely indefensible action of the gas company in even asking an increase in rates, to say nothing of the commission's decision to give them what they asked for.

"But if the commission did not grant the increase the company would be unable to pay cash a sufficient amount of gas to meet the demands made upon it," says the apologizers, political and commercial. "For we can no longer purchase gas at 3 cents per thousand, wholesale."

One grows weary hearing things like that. Accepting the argument at its face value, does not equity require that a determination be had of the amount of gas still being delivered under the old rate—the increase allowed, whatever it might be, applying only to that proportion of gas purchased and delivered under higher wholesale rate?

There would be quite as much logic and reason in the gas company asking for a retroactive order, permitting it to collect back charge for all the gas it has ever metered on a 58-cent basis as to ask that the enormous amount of gas it is still purchasing under the old low rates should come under the new 58-cent rate, which it pleads in necessary in order that it may compete with concerns seeking to take the gas out of the state.

It is not necessary, and it is not equity or the desire to be equitable that has impelled the gas trust to pursue the course it has pursued, but opportunity alone. What it has been diligently seeking and what the corporation commission has aided it in doing, is to invoke and apply the old rule, "all the traffic will bear."

This it has made clear by its own presentments, wherein it boldly states that regardless of the initial cost of gas or the cost of its delivery, the price should be fixed for it in relation to the service as compared with the cost of other fuels.

That tells the whole matter. Coal has been high—excessively and unreasonably high. We can use the clean, satisfactory gas fuel in our homes at around 80 cents a thousand and still save money as against coal, taking into consideration the dirt and soot and defiling effects of "black diamond."

That is what the hula-balo is about; that and nothing more. From the standpoint of reasonable profits on honest investments there was just as much sense and reason in the gas hikes of the last few months as in Germany's ruthless crushing of the Belgium people. And the greatest part of the crime is that an agency of the people permitted itself to be used, thus placing itself in the class of a "kept" woman.

VEST IT IN THE COURTS

"The time is here now when the legislature should take the rate making power from the hands of the corporation commission and vest it in the courts of the state. The class of men, and their decisions, which has been set in judgment over the public utilities of Oklahoma, have destroyed the last vestige of confidence in the corporation commission."

The public utilities may be blameless in all respects, but the fact remains that did they own and dictate the decisions of the commission that body could not more supinely serve the corporate interests.

The people had much better risk their interests with the courts in open session than with this body of men who have become the oppressors of them in all respects.

"Republican success is assured if all of us who have been elected to office carry out the instructions given us by the people," says Congressman-elect Pringle of the Fourth district. "If we do these things Oklahoma will be a republican state just as it would have remained a democratic state had the party in power not grown reckless of popular rights." We don't recall ever having heard a better statement of the case. Members of the legislature should understand that. The popular mandate is to avoid profligate expenditure of the people's funds in the maintenance of state institutions and building projects. If there is a shaking of the Christmas tree by the coming session of the legislature it will also be good night for every man who participates in the shaking—whether the Christmas present be an unnecessary state hospital or a mere addition to a useless state institution.

Nameless though our new "gas regulators" are, we have no one else to pin our hopes on. The promise is that both the gas trust and the corporation will be regulated in the interests of the poor people. It is certainly a sizable job. But if the self-appointed regulators manage it successfully they may come from behind their screen of anonymity and command and receive most by reward their ambitions may crave.

The announcement that President Wilson has just purchased a home for \$250,000 proves that he's not only a covetous, as he is proudly boasted, but a thrifty one at that. Just prior to his entrance into politics Woodrow Wilson was reported an applicant for the Carnegie pension to educators. That he now has a fortune that enables him to indulge in a \$250,000 home is proof of his frugal, saving habits.

As a fighter Mr. Denney appears to be nothing else. But it is too bad that he did not feel called of the spirit to use of his wonderful talents in the service of his country when fighting was quite the order of the day. Had he done so Mr. York, of Tennessee and himself, could have formed a brigade that would have broken the Hindenburg line with ease.

William Jennings Bryan paid a very touching and sincere tribute to President-elect Harding, when he said he was a man whom the people can trust. It is that type of man that the people always want for a leader.

Mr. Tumulty says he's through with office holding. Considering the job he's had we are not surprised at his decision.

Oklahoma Outbursts

By Otis Lorton.

The most effective remedy for heart disease, says Bill Dingley, is alimony.

Far be it from us to crow over the result, but we have a picture of a certain bird out on a limb.

Up at Pawhuska, according to the Okmulgee County News, the honeymoon is considered over when the husband tells his wife that she looks just as well in cotton stockings as in silk.

A story is told in connection with Bill Miller's trip from Columbus, Ohio, into Oklahoma to tell us how to run our political affairs which illustrates his success as an outside dictator. On the train which carried him out of Oklahoma City to his Ohio home was Ed Adair, republican member of the legislature from Creek county, and other republican politicians of major and minor note. Ed wanted to leave the train at Denew but discovered that it was not scheduled to stop at that station. He stated his desire and it was suggested that possibly Congressman Bert Chandler might be able to put through a stop order, and if he failed, Miller, reputed to be a Pullman attorney when he is not dictating political orders, might wander down the aisle to the section occupied by the two influential gentlemen and introduce a bill for immediate relief.

"Too bad," replied Congressman Chandler, "if you had only noticed it before you left headquarters it could have been fixed."

"Well," said Ed, "if you can't stop it perhaps Miller can't stop anything else."

Miller's only response was a stare through the window at the passing scenery of the great country he had meditated over the bitter fruits plucked by the vicarious who meddle outside their own pasture.

Barometer of Public Opinion

The New Judiciary Law.

At the annual convention of the Oklahoma Bar association to be held in Oklahoma City December 29-30, the proposed change in the judiciary system of the state will be considered. A committee of the bar association has drawn up the plan with the intention of submitting it to the legislature with a request that it be referred to the people to vote upon as a constitutional amendment.

The details of the revised plan have not been made public. The proposed amendment, however, is meeting some strong opposition. George L. Bowman, of Kingfisher, president of the bar association, says that the association has not yet endorsed the plan. Mentioning the opposition to the suggested amendment, Mr. Bowman says:

"The principle objection among lawyers to the new plan is that it is such a radical revision that it will mean the virtual abandonment of the precedent and interpretation that has been built up by many years of court decisions here under the present system. Under the new proposal, attorneys will be virtually without decisions to guide them in many cases and litigation will be increased and prolonged."

"Another objection to the proposal is that it places too much excessive power in the hands of the supreme court. It makes that body virtually self-perpetuating. The new system will be so complicated, also, that almost no one but a trained attorney could understand it."

On the other hand, those who favor the new judiciary plan claim that it will result in a quicker administration of justice.

In deciding whether or not to recommend the proposed constitutional amendment, the convention of the bar association will no doubt take into consideration the following facts:

The administration of justice is now lamentably slow. Cases drag along sometimes for years before plaintiff or defendant knows what the outcome will be. This is true even when the dockets are clogged up with an over abundance of litigation as it usually is the case. There is still less likelihood of getting an early final decision. Second, practice of law should be made as simple as possible. Legal procedure is too complicated now.

Third, technicalities should be reduced to a minimum. Litigation should hinge largely, if not entirely, upon the merits of the case.

If the proposed change in the judiciary system would bring about the confusion which Mr. Bowman fears, if it would mean the abandonment of judicial precedents which would render construction of the law more uncertain, and if it would place excessive power in the supreme court as Mr. Bowman thinks it would, then it seems that it would be unwise to adopt the amendment.

Some change in the law should be made, however, and technicalities will not interfere with a decision of a case upon its merits and so that the administration of justice can be speeded up—Oklahoma.

France Needs Our Bland.

France needs the Bland family of North Carolina and hundreds of thousands more of a similar sort. The French government would not only give Mr. B. C. Bland a suit of clothes for each child, but would also give him a pension. For a number of years Representative Small has presented the Carolina farmer named a suit of clothing for each additional child, but, having been notified recently that the fourteenth suit was due, he felt forced to call the contract off with his (Small's) retirement from congress on the third of next March. Bland had 20 children when Small made a contract which he then regarded as reasonably safe, but Bland is now the father of 24 children and there may be still further increases in his progeny.

We read that 26 of the Bland children are living and that the present Mrs. Bland, the second wife, is the mother of nineteen, nine of whom were born during the last ten years in addition to one set of twins. Eighteen children still live at home, but Mrs. Bland says she is lonesome sometimes "because so many have gone away." Bland appears to be equally contented, being a farmer and raising a large part of the needed food. He is quoted as saying, "It is no more trouble to bring up fifty children than to raise ten." "After you pass ten," he says, "the older ones are a big help." If those French families of one child or no child at all could only see it that way, the French government would be less afraid of Germany and its larger families that go on pillaging a population prone to dream of wars of conquest. The French need to learn that without enough births there can not be enough soldiers to defend in battle France when attacked—Oklahoma Times.

A USELESS LIFE.

(Copyright, 1920, by Edgar A. Guest.)

I wish I'd lived in Caesar's time!
I might have climbed to heights sublime
By winning wars and doing things
Like overthrowing foreign kings.

An' havin' people bow to me,
For havin' brought them victory.

If I'd been here in seventy-eight—
I might have got in bold and late
Or on a tea chest swung an axe
Because of Britain's heavy tax.

An' every history studyin' kid
Would have to know the things I did.

If I'd been here when Franklin tried
Kite-flyin' with a storm outside,
I might have beat him to that trick
Or showed 'em one that's just as slick.

It might have been my luck to be
The one to find 'lectricity!

But here I am, my father's son,
An' all the biggest jobs are done;
I've missed my chance to rise to fame
An' let the whole world know my name;

When I get twenty-one or two
There won't be much for me to do.

SINCE CIVILIZATION WAS SAVED

(Copyright, 1920, by The Chicago Tribune.)



The Promoter's Wife

By JANE PHELPS

CHAPTER LXXVI

Barbara Plans Retirement.

I meant what I said to Lorraine Morton when I let her in the park; that I should have made it my business to be at some place where I could make enough to afford such luxuries. Yet when I had tried to find out—I had accomplished nothing, only angered Nell.

Suddenly there came to me the murmured sentence I overheard when father was leaving us, and had warned me to try and persuade Nell to "go slowly."

"A house of cards!" Who else had used that expression? Why Mr. Frederick, of course. He had said he was afraid. Nell was building a "house of cards" that afternoon we drove in the park, and had our first talk together.

Lorraine insisted upon walking home with me. She was really depressed, and plainly showed it. "You are not to blame," she repeated when she finally left me. "And remember I know you are not, and will be just the same friend no matter what people say. I will do all I can for Nell too. I shall allow anyone to malign him when I am around."

"Thank you, Lorraine. That makes two."

"What are you talking about, what makes two?"

"Nothing—I was talking to myself. Pardon me. I meant it made two real friends I shall have, Lorraine and Frederick. I think I perhaps might have felt all that had happened more even than I did had I been the sort of woman who has many intimates. I wasn't. Most of my friends were out of the city, so I heard little gossip, as while I had many calling acquaintances, Lorraine was almost my only intimate friend."

"Ought we not to give up our beautiful home? Had we the right to live in it? Would Nell consent to retrench to an extent that would amount to anything? I walked back and forth, from room to room, restless, uneasy, waiting dinner time to come so that I might see Nell, talk to him, and at the same time dreading to again accuse him of being—well, not quite fair in his business methods."

"Perhaps we will rent the house," I said to myself, then took pencil and paper. I would make a list of everything we owned. It might be necessary some day. I would have it ready. It would at least keep me so busy I couldn't think.

I knew we owed many bills, I had fingered a check of them when I was

looking for a pad to use for the inventory I was going to commence. Nell never talked in small sums, he seldom paid small bills, unless they happened to be at some place where weren't accustomed to trade, and not always then. I ran them through. I saw that the total amount was very large. I must speak to Nell about them. So I laid them on top of the desk. If they were in plain sight I would not forget them.

Then I went upstairs—I would commence the inventory with my own room.

I became so engrossed in my task that time passed unheeded. Each article I put down held some association. I lingered over many, admiring them, wondering if the time ever came when others had them if they could appreciate their beauty as I did.

Where are you, Barbara? Nell called, the first intimation I had that he was at home.

"Up stairs, I'll come right down."

Nell was in the library pouring himself a drink from a bottle in the cellar. Something he had done, something I lingered over many, admiring them, wondering if the time ever came when others had them if they could appreciate their beauty as I did.

"Don't look as if I were committing the unpardonable sin because I'm taking a drink," he said impatiently, talking another.

"Oh, Nell, don't! I so want to have a good talk with you. And you never are the same when you drink."

"I've had all the talking I can stand for one day. Frederick came into the office this afternoon, and I thought he never would go or let up on the talk. If you don't let me alone I shall go down to the club for my dinner. He sank into a big easy chair, and closed his eyes."

I quietly left him there. Mr. Frederick had been with him. I presumed—oh, I hoped.

Nell's Aunt Is To Visit Them Rather Inopportunely.