

The Rice Belt Journal

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FRIDAY, MARCH 13, 1914.

JOHN T. HOOD, EDITOR AND MANAGER

Vice-President Marshall would advocate kissing as a cure for the divorce evil. But it all depends upon who you are kissing.

How would you like to be convicted and sentenced to a term in the Mississippi Legislature? Isn't the thought horrible?

War is no doubt all that General Sherman declared it to be—but we observe that this peaceful waiting policy of the administration toward the Mexican situation suggests that same thing that the General was talking about. It occurs to us that if President Wilson and Secretary Bryan would resign their jobs for about fifteen minutes in favor of Governor Colquitt of Texas, the Mexican situation would be considerably simplified.

THE TRANSITION.

The indications are that this present year will mark the beginning of a very important transition period in the agricultural and commercial life of the community. In our agricultural life we are surely undergoing a change from a single speculative money crop to an ample diversified agriculture. To the masses of the farmers the evasive charms of the single crop of rice have been illusive like the will-o-the-wisp at night in the swamp luring the traveller ever further and further in the mire and darkness; like the search for the bag of gold at the end of the rainbow. The hidden treasure is not going to be discovered at the end of long expeditions over tireless acres of rice but the real independence of this section will be developed on a small parcel of land about our very doors. Our vision has been cast upon vague distant illusions and in so doing we have lost sight of the real wealth at our feet. We have heard something about entertaining angels unawares, and it occurs to us that the rich possibilities in a diversified agriculture may be so likened. We are just now awakening to the gracious opportunities that are knocking at the doors of our agricultural life, in the form of diversified agriculture. We are coming back home to learn that after all our real prosperity must be established by developing those resources that contribute to the support of life. We shall almost wonder why we hadn't thought of corn, lespedeza, hay, potatoes, sugar cane, etc., cows, mules, horses, poultry and hogs, all these first, and then a little rice as a surplus.

Of course it is hard to break away from that illusive one crop idea. It was hard for the boll weevil ridden section to break away from the one crop of cotton but it is being accomplished and upon the ruins of the cotton industry a real wealth is being built up never contemplated in the balmy days of cotton. Many of us will say we can't this year but let us even this year plant just a little corn, try just a little more poultry and hogs for home use and then add just a few yearlings to our stock, and next year it will be easier.

But we have not the space now to observe the transition taking place in our commercial life, but the mortgage system is fast going down under the cash system of doing things. The time is not far distant when nothing of the old time supply merchant will remain but a history, and these changes in our commercial and agricultural life must inevitably go hand in hand.

Types of Silo and Silo Construction.

There are various types and kinds of silos on the market and various types and kinds that can be constructed on the farm. Under certain conditions it would be advisable to purchase one of the "ready-made" silos, under other conditions one of the "home-made" silos would probably be best. I shall attempt to outline what constitutes an ideal or perfect silo, and from this each man can decide on the type best suited to his conditions and means.

The Silo Foundation.—The foundation of the silo is important in that it is largely responsible for the stability of the silo. Especially is this true of the heavy walled silo, such as the concrete or stone. The foundation is usually constructed of concrete and should be amply strong to take care of the weight of the wall and the pressure of the silage. Usually for any of the wooden silos a foundation eight inches thick and extending about 12 inches below and 10 inches above the level of the ground will meet all requirements. For any of the heavy-walled silos the foundation should be at least 12 inches thick and if it is not planted on a good firm sub-soil, 14 to 18 inches is better. If a good clay sub-soil can be reached at a depth of two, three, or even four feet it is advisable to excavate to that depth for the foundation of heavy silos.

The Silo Wall.—The walls of a perfect silo should be: First, efficient, that is, they should be water and airtight so as to retain the moisture and exclude the air. They should be smooth enough to permit even, easy settling of the silage, and stout enough to withstand the bursting pressure; second, the structure should be storm-proof, should withstand the elements of decay, and if possible fire-proof; third, ease of construction, the ideal silo requires a minimum of special material and a minimum of skilled labor; fourth, cheapness, the other things being equal, the best silo is the one that costs the least.

The Silo Top.—I do not believe that a top on a silo is a necessity unless it is where heavy snows are common. The top only adds to the appearance of the silo and protects the feeder from disagreeable weather while throwing the silage out. These are the chief advantages, and the silage will keep as well in a silo without a top as it will in one that has a top.—J. W. Ridgeway, in the Progressive Farmer.

Best Family Laxative.

Beware of constipation. Use Dr. King's New Life Pills and keep well. Mrs. Charles E. Smith of West Franklin, Mo., calls them "Our family laxative." Nothing better for adults or aged. Get them today, 25c. All Druggists or by mail.

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A WARNING TO AUTO DRIVERS

There seems to be a general disregard of the ordinance in regard to running of autos, and there have been many complaints as to violations of the ordinance. I am asking all who drive autos to obey the law in this matter.

By having your lights both front and back burning as the law requires, also as to speed and blowing at all corners, if you fail to obey do not be surprised if you are stopped by the officer.

R. S. GREER, Mayor.

Kickapoo Worm Killer Expels Worms.

The cause of your child's ills—the foul, fetid, offensive breath—the starting up with terror and gaining of teeth while asleep—the sallow complexion—the dark circles under the eyes—are all indications of worms. Kickapoo Worm Killer is what your child needs; it expels the worms, the cause of the child's unhealthy condition. For the removal of seat, stomach and pin worms, Kickapoo Worm Killer gives sure relief. Its laxative effect adds tone to the general system. Supplied as a candy confection—children like it. Safe and sure relief. Guaranteed. Buy a box today. Price 25c. All Druggists or by mail.

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"THE UNPARDONABLE SIN."

A Sermon Delivered by Rev. A. V. Reese, Now Conducting a Revival at the Baptist Church.

Text—1. John 5:15.

There has been no little discussion among Bible students as to this "Sin Unto Death." This deadly sin has been committed by thousands and will be committed by thousands more. A dying man said: "I have known for twenty years that I was doomed for hell." O, the horror of it, to know for twenty years that you are doomed for hell.

What is the Unpardonable Sin, or the Sin Unto Death?

I. WHAT IT IS NOT.

1. It is not murder in any form. The command comes from thundering and quaking Sinai, "Thou shalt not kill," and no man can stain his hands with human blood without suffering for it. The man who takes life will suffer for it. He may be acquitted by human courts but he will never be acquitted at the bar of his own conscience. His conscience will lash him with scorpion lashes until the stains are taken from his soul by the blood of Jesus Christ. Stephen Holcome, now a minister of the Gospel, was playing cards one night aboard a Mississippi river steamer, when a man accused him of dishonesty. Stephen Holcome drew his revolver and fired at the man, the ball taking effect in the accuser's neck. The man fell on the floor and bled to death. Stephen Holcome for weeks and months could see the dying man in his dreams struggling, groaning and bleeding on the floor of the steamer. He joined the church, thinking that he could get peace of conscience, but he could still see and hear the dying man. He went to the Lord's table and ate of that bread emblematic of the broken body of Christ; he drank of the cup emblematic of the shed blood of Christ. But still he was haunted by his awful crime. Months after he was in his room praying, "O, God how can I get rid of this awful scene?" And there came stealing through his senses the strains of that old familiar hymn.

"What can wash away my sins,
Nothing but the blood of Jesus,"
And Stephen Holcome saw Christ on the cross dying for his sins and found peace of conscience.

Murder is an awful crime, and I think that in homicide is the worst form of murder. Thousands of unborn babes are murdered by their parents, assisted by the family physician, and on the judgement day there will be thousands of parents cursed into hell by these undeveloped infants. Yes murder is an awful crime, an awful sin but it is not the Unpardonable Sin, for "though your sins be scarlet they shall be as white as snow; though they shall be red like crimson they shall be as wool."

2. It is not adultery. This sin is cruel enough, mean enough, and black enough committed one time to send a soul to hell. But the man or woman, though they have lived an impure life till it has wrecked body and mind may come to Christ and find pardon. God said, "Thou shalt not commit adultery;" but yet He will forgive those who repent of this terrible sin. Adultery unpurged will sink the soul down to the lowest, deepest and hottest hell; but this is not the unpardonable sin, or the "Sin unto death."

3. It is not dishonesty. A man may cheat, lie, defraud his neighbor, gamble be dishonest with God, his family and himself; desecrate the Sabbath and sink into the lowest depth of a life of shame, but yet he may repent and be saved. Dishonesty is not the "Sin unto death."

4. It is not idolatry. Men are worshipping many gods instead of the one true God. God says, "Thou shalt have no other gods before me," but though man may worship gold, silver, fame, worldly amusements, and the pleasures of sin for a season, yet "the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin."

5. It is not drunkenness. Men drink until they lose their money, their manhood, their reputation and character, and bring want and misery to their homes, bring their children to rags and a crust of bread, their wives to want and misery; and become filled with a mania for the damnable cup, in so much that they will sell their manhood and self-respect for one drink of intoxicating liquor; but yet men who have been sot drunkards have repented become good citizens, loving husbands and fathers, and even ministers of the Gospel. Drunkenness is a sin black and terrible, but not the unpardonable sin.

6. It is not unbelief, or infidelity. It was unbelief that arrested, tried, convicted and crucified the Son of God; it was unbelief that caused the Roman soldier to thrust the cruel spear into the side of our Savior; it is unbelief that keeps men and women under the shackles of sin and Satan. "He that believeth not shall be damned." There are many infidels who say in their hearts that there is no Divine Christ, that there is no foot prints on the other

shore; but if they put their faith in Christ He will save them. Unbelief is the tap-foot of all sin. One doubt as to the divinity of Christ will damn a soul for all eternity.

God cannot look upon sin with the least degree of allowance, for He hates sin. "The wages of sin is death." The soul that sinneth it shall die." None of these sins which I have named are unpardonable. The "Sin unto death" is different from all other sins in that when it is once committed it forever shuts one out of heaven. He is as certain for hell as if he were already there "There is a line by us unseen That crosses every path that Marks the boundary of God's mercy and His wrath."

II. WHAT IT IS.

1. It is blasphemy. All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven unto men; but the blasphemy against the Holy Ghost shall not be forgiven unto men. And whoever speaketh a word against the Son of Man it shall be forgiven him; but whoever speak against the Holy Ghost it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the world to come. (Matt. 12: 31-32). "All sins shall be forgiven unto the sons of men, and blasphemies where with soever they shall blaspheme; but he that shall blaspheme against the Holy Ghost hath never forgiveness but is in danger of eternal damnation: Because they said "He hath unclean spirit." (Mark 3:28-29.) That is what it was then, and what it was then it is now. Attributing the work of God to the devil. (Luke 24:14.) "And he was casting out a devil and it was dumb. And it came to pass when the devil was gone out, the dumb spake; and the people wondered, but some of them said, He casteth out devils through Balaam the chief of devils." (Luke 24:19.) "And if I with the finger of God cast out devils, no doubt the kingdom of God is come upon you."

There is great danger of committing the "Sin unto death" by speaking, or opposing a true Holy Spirit revival. When a boy I remember hearing my pastor relate the following authentic incident: He was holding a meeting and there was a prominent man in the community who was very wicked. One afternoon this wicked man said, "I believe I will go down to church tonight and see what a hell of a time they are having down there." Just before sundown he went to his home. Supper was not ready so as he was not feeling very well he went to his room, lay down upon his bed and began to play with his child. His wife soon heard him struggling and running into his room found him dead. Dead before church that night! I verily believe many men will find themselves in hell having committed the unpardonable sin speaking against a revival without the Holy Ghost being present in great power, and as you value your soul be careful that you do not stand in the way of the onward march of a band of Christians led by the Holy Ghost.

Two men were together, One a believer; the other an infidel. Some women passed with their Bibles and the infidel asked where they had been. Whereupon his friend told him that they were returning from a revival. The infidel said, "I will defy God and show you that there is no God." He then walked upon a little hill and looked up into the sky and said, "If there be a God let Him strike me dead." He paused a moment and then said, "If there be a God let Him send a bolt of lightning and strike me dead." He said the same thing a third time and started to say it a fourth, but a bolt of lightning came down from the sky and struck him dead in his tracks. The pastor of the Baptist church of that city was on the ground before he had been removed and testifies to the fact.

2.—It can be committed by grieving the Spirit of God. "My Spirit shall not always strive with man." Gen. 6:3. "Woe to him that striveth with his maker." Isa. 44:9. "They shall call upon me but I will not answer they shall seek me early but they shall not find me." Prov. 24:31. "The Holy Ghost saith, 'Today if you will hear my voice harden not your heart.'" Heb. 3:7.

III. THREE STEPS TO HELL.

1. Neglect. "How shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation," Heb. 2:3. "Then Agrippa said unto Paul, 'Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian.'" Agrippa lost his soul because he neglected. Many drop into hell from this step.

2. Refuse. "Because I have called and ye refused." Prov. 1:24. "What then shall I do with Jesus which is called Christ?" Matt. 27:22. Are you refusing? "See that ye refuse not Him that speaketh." It is not very far from this step to hell.

3. Despise. "They would none of my council; they despised all my reproof." Prov. 1:30. Do you find that deep down in your heart you hate God Jesus Christ, the Bible, churches and preachers? If so, you are nearing that boundary line which if crossed you are doomed forever and ever.

Dr. Geo. A. Loftin draws a vivid picture of the last fight with conscience. There are three scenes in the picture. First. The angel stands before a young man as he faces a great crisis and

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pleads with him to choose the right. Second. The young man has refused, and the angel has knocked him down. He is under deep conviction. He weeps, groans, and makes good resolutions. Third. The young man quickly recovers himself, knocks down the angel places his foot on him, and stamps the life out of him. Fourth. The angel with a flutter of his wings, gives the young man a last look, and flies toward heaven and the young man is left to himself. The Holy Spirit has taken His everlasting flight. "My spirit shall not always strive with man."

I was in Oklahoma aiding my brother in a meeting when this incident came under my personal observation: There was an only son, the son of a Baptist deacon, who attended the meetings, and was under deep conviction. On Saturday morning he spoke of going to Missouri, but his mother and the pastor, who was his cousin, persuaded him not to go. But in order to get out from under the influence of the morning service, he harnessed his team and drove away to Kingfisher, a town fifteen miles distant. He asked me to go with him, and had I known what an awful struggle he was undergoing I would willingly have gone. As he drove along the road about 11 o'clock, the hour for services at the church, the Holy Spirit came upon him in great power, and he wept as he drove along. He made an effort and threw off the impression. He came back into the services but his heart was as hard as stone. He told me that he was wholly indifferent. One night afterwards I saw him trembled with emotion, and I said to him, "Is you are wholly unconcerned, why do you weep?" He replied with a look of despair, "I was weeping because of what I have done." That day at eleven o'clock was God's time and that boy's last opportunity and he failed to see it.

IV.—HOW YOU MAY KNOW WITHOUT DOUBT WHETHER YOU HAVE COMMITTED THE UNPARDONABLE SIN OR NOT.

There are just two spirits in the world: The Spirit of God, and the spirit of the Devil.

1. The spirit of God is saying, "Accept Christ as your savior, renounce the world and live for the glory of God." If there is any such desire then you have not committed the unpardonable sin up to this hour.

2. The spirit of the Devil is saying, "You do not need religion, you do not need Christ in your life, you are as good as anybody." The spirit of the Devil tells you that you were created to gratify your own hellish lusts. If you heed the voice of Satan it will soon be "Too late, too late, too late! For Jesus of Nazareth will pass you by."

V.—HOW TO KEEP FROM COMMITTING THE "SIN UNTO DEATH."

1. Yield to the Spirit of God; and cease to neglect, to refuse, and to despise; make sure your salvation while it is called today; tomorrow may be too late I had been resisting the Spirit of God

for several years. My brother was making a deep impression on me, but did not yield. Two days later my sister was dying. I was summoned to go into her room. I did so. And I fell into a chair near her bed I then felt there surrendered all to Christ, then walked to her bed and told her that by the grace of God I would meet her in heaven. From that night I have been living a Christian life. Some I will hear the blessed Master say, "Come home my child." O, how glad will be to meet loved ones, and to see Jesus.

Dear reader: It is your privilege to be at the great home coming, and to be down at the marriage supper of the Lamb. "And I heard a great voice of heaven saying, Behold the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself shall be with them, and be their God, and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes, and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain; for the former things are passed away." God bless the preaching of His word. Amen.

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