COMING REVOLUTION.

A NEW SERIES OF SERMONS BY REV. THOMAS DIXON, JR.

He Discusses the Signs of the Times That Indicate Great Social, Economic, Political and Ecclesiastical Changes—Restless Masses.

NEW YORK, Oct. 1.—Rev. Thomas Dixon, Jr., begins a new series of morning sermons in Association hall. The subject of the series he calls "The Coming Revolution." In it he will discuss the signs of the times that indicate great social, economic, political and ecclesiastical changes. The sermon this morning was a general introduction to the study, which will run through several weeks. The subject of this introductory discourse delivered today was "The Restless Masses." He declares that democracy in its broadest and truest sense is manifestly the destiny of the race, and that there is today developing a world movement of the masses that presages a new social reformation. The text chosen was from Mark xii, 37, "And the common people heard him gladly."

THE COMMON PEOPLE.

There is no more pregnant sentence within the lids of the New Testament than this text. The common people—the great multitudes—heard him gladly. Then we may rest assured the high, ruling, conservative classes did not hear him gladly. We are not surprised that they crucified him between two thieves as a common felon. This profound sympathy with the great under masses is in reality the key to the mystery of the incarnation.

He was the carpenter's son.

He lived the life of a common workingman. He chose his fellows from the ranks of the lowly masses. The great and the rich were not his disciples. His apostles were from the ranks of the common people. There could have been no accident about the birth of the Saviour of humanity. It was not by chance that he was born of humble parents in a manger. It was the fulfillment of prophecy. It was the fulfillment of the divine plan of the ages. Only thus could the world—the whole world—the real world—be reached and saved. Only thus could he truly say, I am the *Son of Man!* Beginning thus among the simple and ignorant and poor slave masses of a sin cursed and sin burdened earth, he placed the leaven that should at last leaven the whole lump of humanity.

And since Christ the trend of the ages has been slowly but surely toward the uplifting, ennobling and saving of the common life.

Vital Christianity has been the only power through the centuries of the Christian era that stood between the weak and the strong and steadfastly declared that might is not right, and that weakness shall rule strength at last.

THE SOURCE OF ALL POWER.

The source of all power is the very last analysis; when all fictions have been exploded, is found in the under millions who bear the world's burden, intellectual, spiritual, moral, physical. In this mass will be found the true source of all power, intellectual, spiritual, moral, physical. As men and families scramble out from among the masses and array themselves with clique and class, they degenerate and their offspring perish—some in the first generation, others in the second.

The seat of ultimate imperialism has always been in the masses. They have simply never yet become conscious of the fact. They are the Samsons, but they are asleep. As they wake to the consciousness of the power that inheres by nature in them, they assume that power and never relax it.

We behold thus the ever growing, never halting expansion of a world democracy. It is the destiny of the race.

There is no power on the earth, under the earth or above the earth that can defeat its final triumph. Each day in time's calendar witnesses some victory, however small, gained in this world movement. An inch of soil once gained is never lost.

A NEW CHAPTER IN HISTORY.

There is a presentiment, a feeling—call it what you may—that pervades the civilized world, that we are about entering upon a new chapter in the history of the world. So strong each day becomes this feeling that to some it means fear and trembling, to others hope and inspiration. In every period of the world's history immediately preceding great changes, this prophetic spirit has filled the hearts of men and found utterance. At no time has its utterance been so clear and so nearly universal among nations and peoples and classes of divers interests. It is humanity's hour of exultant prophecy. It is the race's hour of spiritual uplifting when society is being ushered into a higher and diviner life.

To the mind of the pessimist the air is heavy with the threat of coming revolution by violence. To the man of hope there comes the vision of tears, but the tears are turned to dew to water the gardens of a new heaven and a new earth. Does this feeling prophetic of great change mean anything real, or is it a figment of the imagination?

Is there anything apparent in our life to justify it, and has it a basis in fact, or is it merely the ever recurring vision of the radical and pessimistic temperament in all times?

Certainly there is one fact in our current history that has immediately to do with the great question of social destiny that can be gainsaid. It is a portentous fact in the future of the world's history, because it concerns the life movement of practically the whole human race. It is this:

There is today a world movement of the common people which indicates the new approach of a great social change. We observe this:

First—In the dawning consciousness among all nations of a common life.

The solidarity of the race has been apparently a dream too high for the effort of the common people. It has remained through the ages but a dimly outlined article in our poetic creed.

It is a fact that is now being incarnated in the daily life of the humbler folk of the world with amazing rapidity.

INTERNATIONALISM.

It is no longer a poet's dream. It is a fact that the under masses of the world are beginning to demonstrate practically to the philosophic critic. When the coal miners of England recently struck on account of a reduction of wages, the coal miners of the continent, representing more than one nation traditionally hostile, refused to handle coal to be sent to English markets.

International societies of workingmen are fast becoming a power in the world. Internationalism has, in fact, come to stay. It is time to spell it with a capital I. The serf of Russia, cold and isolated amid his far northern snows, has his friends and sympathizers in the nations where flowers always bloom and the child is born and dies who never saw the snow. A strike in London echoes round the civilized world. The riots in Belgium are backed by the moral sentiment of countless millions who could not locate Belgium on the map of the world. Whether the naked savage that in the heart of darkest Africa crossed the track of Stanley was wronged becomes a matter of international inquiry and debate.

There is growing in the world each day a profounder regard for man as man. Class trappings and traditions more and more fade before the one essential of inherent manhood. Poetry, song and story no longer fawn at the feet of pride and power. They sing the free songs and tell the inspiring dreams of the brotherhood of man.

It is said that Robert Browning on one occasion was left by his son, the artist, to do the honors of the house at an exhibition of his paintings. A woman entered unannounced and unattended. Browning greeted her with the same cordiality he had exhibited to all. In her surprise the woman said, "Please, sir, I am only the cook, but Mr. Barrett asked me to come and see the pictures!" Without a moment's hesitation and with genuine courtesy he offered her his arm and showed her the treasures of the room with the same consideration he had displayed to others. It is not an exceptional illustration. It is part of the growing incarnation of a new world spirit. Ring out the old; ring in the new! How much such a fact means to the future of human society the historian and student of sociology well knows.

MILITARISM.

Second—The rebellion against militarism and war among the masses of mankind is one of the most significant facts of the closing years of this century.

The people have at last begun to see that it is utter insanity that they should butcher one another to further the ambitions of kings and princes and rulers.

We are beginning to see that the only enemy they have is the common enemy of man—hunger and cold, suffering.

The great armies of Europe are honeycombed with these ideas. How far machine discipline has crushed the human in these armies themselves remains to be seen.

In case of a general European war, it is now extremely doubtful if the great masses of the working world could be induced to engage in it or support a governmental army. Germany has but recently rejected the pet army bill of her government, and it required all the resources of the Imperialists to force a meager majority for the measure in the new assembly.

At the recent international congress of socialists one of the principal questions discussed officially by the congress was whether in the event of a war all workingmen should go on a general strike and refuse to work until the butchery ceased.

Such a movement on the part of the masses would surely strike the death-blow to military power. The masses are learning at last the truth about war. When they know it fully, the era of universal peace is come.

According to Edward Atkinson, the Boston statistician, the total cost of the war of the rebellion has been up to date (1893) about $12,000,000,000. The entire assessed wealth of the United States in 1860 was only $16,000,000,000, including the value of the slaves.

It costs $7,000 to kill a man. From the Crimean war down to that of 1870–1 the civilized nations of Europe and America spent in destroying one another $21,000,000,000. The wars of the last 100 years have cost $140,000,000,000, without counting the sorrow, the agony, the loss of men and other results.

WHEN BUTCHERY SHALL CEASE.

When this butchery shall cease and the vast standing armies of the world be turned into armies of industry, who can estimate the speed at which the new civilization will go forward?

Some time ago the Emperor William of Germany made a little speech on the occasion of the administering the oath of allegiance to the recruits of the guard. In this speech he said:

> Recruits, you have before priest and altar sworn fealty to me. You are too young to understand the true meaning of the words in which you have sworn, but be diligent in following the instructions given you. You have, my children, sworn allegiance. That means you have given your services to me, body and soul. You have only one enemy, and that is my enemy. In the present socialist agitation I may order you, which God forbid, to shoot down your relatives—your brothers, even your parents—and you must obey without a murmur.

A generation ago the exhilarating proposition to shoot down one's relatives, brothers and parents at the behest of ambitious fools was received and acted on as a divine command. But today this proposal was received with a sullen growl, which made the ears of more than one crowned head tingle for many months.

In America workingmen refuse to join the military organizations. For the first time in our history our national guard is not a representative body. The masses are not in it. Look to it. It is a fact pregnant with tremendous consequences. Deeper and deeper grows the conviction among them that the military is the enemy of the people and the last bulwark of class, power and privilege.

In the face of this growing hostility to the military power among the masses who must make up the ranks of all great wars, we observe the blind fatality with which the ruling powers of the world are preparing for war. A great war within 10 years seems now inevitable. And when it comes who can foretell the age sweeping results? All the great powers of the old world are each day enlarging and hastening their preparations for the event. Each army maneuvering is planned on a vaster scale than its predecessor. Each year adds a new squadron to the ironclad battleships that are to contend for the mastery of the seas. These ships and guns and armies will surely be put in motion soon. Who can tell the outcome? What will be the answer of the common people to the scourge of war? Hitherto it has been silence and suffering. But today the masses are moving under a resistless impulse toward an international federation and a world peace.

THE EUROPEAN CRISIS.

James Gordon Bennett sent recently to the San Francisco Chronicle a brief review by cable of the European situation, which reveals the condition of unrest and uncertainty among the great powers startling enough. He says:

> While I would not have my readers consider me a pessimist or a bird of bad omen, I am again compelled to say that the situation of European affairs is far from reassuring. Signs of coming storms may be seen on all sides of the political horizon. There is not a single country in Europe actually without interior or external turmoil. In Germany the situation is particularly bad. The conflict between the crown and the people is assuming an aggravated form, and it can be brought to an end only by some unconstitutional act on the part of the emperor, who wishes an increase in the army, which the people have refused to sanction. New deputies, hostile to the imperial plan, will be elected.
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> Grave news comes from Austria. There is an internal crisis resulting from constantly increasing ill feeling between the Czechs, Magyars and Germans. In England the home rule troubles are increasing, not to mention certain recent happenings in the royal family, on which it were better not to dwell. France, hardly out of the Panama crisis, is to have next September general elections which will upset public life. The French statesmen also have to deal with several troublesome colonial matters, including the Siamese incident, which may result seriously, not to mention many complications with England.
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> Italy is passing through a financial crisis, and also has a ministerial crisis. Since yesterday the internal situation is not auspicious, and her foreign relations are weighted down by military expenses.
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> Spain and Portugal have a financial crisis which is leading them surely and quickly to bankruptcy. Belgium has not come to the end of her constitutional crisis. Sweden and Norway are in open conflict that may result in forcible division.
>
> The Servian coup d'etat and the little king have brought no quiet.
>
> Bulgaria is in the throes of a long standing crisis, and there exists tacit hostility between the people and General Stambouloff.

Most of these predictions as to elections and their results have since been verified, and many new developments confirming them have more recently appeared. What the result will be when this powder magazine is exploded by some royal fool throwing the stub of his cigarette into it, who can tell?

SOCIALISM.

Third—We observe this world movement among the masses in the tremendous development of socialism among the masses of the old world.

Socialism is everywhere in Europe the rising power. It is no longer a voiceless mob to be suppressed by club and bayonet. It is a resistless uprising of the millions whose representatives are fast crowding the parliamentary assemblies of every nation. In Germany, with her broad and deep culture of the masses, they lead the way. In the last elections their increase was enormous. Other parties rise and fall with local events, but the Social Democrats have with each election steadily and swiftly advanced. Beginning 15 years ago with but a few thousand votes, they polled at the last election about 2,000,000, in the face of the combined opposition of the government and all the traditional conservative forces of society.

Already the socialists have captured the great cities, almost without exception. Berlin is theirs by such a great majority that if it were an independent community they could reconstruct society in it at once. Munich, Hamburg, Bremen, Lubeck, Leipzic, Glauchau, Gotha, Dantzig, Nuremberg and Magdeberg are all socialist, with others to hear from. As the population of every country in the world is rapidly concentrating in the cities, the party that gains control of the cities is the party of the future.

The emperor may well look to his guards. The hour of the common people surely draws nigh.

PLATFORM OF GERMAN SOCIALISTS.

Are these socialists the enemies of man and society? This is the platform of the German Social Democracy. Read for yourself:

> Universal suffrage, male and female, direct election by secret ballot, one citizen, one vote and biennial parliaments
>
> The initiative and referendum.
>
> Annual revision of taxes.
>
> Local self government and the election of all public officials by the people.
>
> Universal military training for national defense instead of a standing army.
>
> Parliamentary control of the question of peace and war.
>
> The settlement of international disputes by arbitration.
>
> Free speech, free press and free association.
>
> Separation of church and state.
>
> Compulsory attendance at secular national free schools and free education, free books and free dinners for pupils, as well as for deserving pupils at higher institutions.
>
> Free justice, free legal advice and an elective judiciary.
>
> The abolition of capital punishment, the establishment of criminal courts of appeal and compensation for persons unjustly accused, arrested or condemned.
>
> Free medical assistance for the sick and free disposal of the dead.
>
> Graduated income, property and succession taxes.
>
> The abolition of indirect taxes, duties and class privileges.
>
> National and international legislation for the protection of the working classes, and state insurance for workmen, with workmen sharing in its management.
>
> An unbroken period of rest of at least 36 hours per week for every workingman.

In England constructive socialism is rapidly taking control of the government. A recent London dispatch to the Boston Herald says:

> Socialistic schemes are being warmly fostered by the London county council. That body is already committed to the purchase and operation of street railways and the construction of public works by direct employment of labor and purchase of materials instead of through contractors. It will probably soon undertake to supply coal as well as water, gas and electricity to the inhabitants. When all that has been done, the steps are comparatively easy to the assumption of all the functions ascribed to government in Mr. Bellamy's scheme.

In France at the recent election the most remarkable spectacle of the century was enacted. All parties were practically merged into two. On the one hand the conservative and traditional forces of society rallied to the republican administration and monarchy disappeared. On the other, the socialists rallied in startling force. From an insignificant faction they developed in one election to the proportions of a national party, the only one in opposition to the government. They elected 60 members of the assembly on the straight socialist platform and 127 "Radicals" of about the type of the present "Populists" of America, making in all a legislative force of 187, a unit on essential principles.

In Belgium we have recently seen the government surrender to the popular voice of the masses and grant them universal suffrage. And that voice had no expression save in the howl of the street mob and the sullen defiance of the industrial strike.

Australia is already a socialistic continent and is giving the world each day a new lesson in the science of progressive government.

The crown presses each day with greater weight upon every monarch of the old world from the czar in the north to the smallest duchy in Germany.

THE REVOLUTION IN AMERICA.

Fourth—We observe this movement in the current revolution in political and economic life in America.

Our traditional parties are certainly going to pieces with a rapidity that must bring dismay to their most hopeful leaders.

The new People's Party under most adverse conditions polled in the last campaign 1,000,000 votes and have their representatives in the house of representatives and senate and the governor's chairs of many states. The great financial panic of this year has destroyed the unity of both the traditional parties, and each day it becomes more and more apparent that they must unite against the party representing the new movement among the masses if it is to be held in check even temporarily.

A call is now being circulated for a federation of all the labor organizations in one great alliance for political purposes. The bloodshed at Homestead was the prophecy of a new era in our political social life. That much is acknowledged now by the defeated party to have been the power that overthrew the last administration and set up a new. A new generation of men have come upon the scene of action in America, and the mere assertion of tradition will not satisfy them. All things are being arraigned for trial by this new court. General Francis A. Walker, who is the incarnation of the mathematics of the old regime, recently gave utterance to this pathetic wail:

> A revolution is upon us. The bonds of tradition and barriers of authority have been swept away. Everything once deemed settled in economic theory is now audaciously challenged.

Right you are, general, and how are you going to help yourself? It is the sweep of the age progress! You can easier push back the stars than stop it.

CONSTRUCTIVE CHRISTIAN SOCIALISM.

This movement has in it thousands of the best men of the nation counted now among the traditional bulwarks. The Christian ministry is rapidly perceiving the fact that this revolution is a religion—a normal development of the doctrines of Jesus Christ. Some of our greatest religious papers are the avowed champions of constructive Christian socialism.

Dr. Lyman Abbott, pastor of Plymouth church, said some time ago:

> The wealth of the nation is the wealth of the people—that is, it springs from the people. It therefore of right belongs to the people. Industrial democracy does not demand a division of the wealth of the nation among its 60,000,000 population. But industrial democracy does demand, with Laveleye, "To each worker his produce, his entire produce, and nothing but his produce." Organized injustice would then disappear from our industrial organization, and with injustice would disappear dangerous (dangerous because reasonable) discontent and the division into the two classes of the very rich and the very poor.

A holy discontent has seized the masses of the world. The cry in many quarters is inarticulate. They are yet in infancy. They have no language but a cry. Yet God has heard it. And he who can read the language of a tear and interpret the message of an aching heart in all tongues and beneath all skies has heard their prayer. And he will answer it.

France's Tribute to Switzerland.

M. Barthoidi, the eminent sculptor, is putting the last touches to his colossal work, the group which, in accordance with the will of Baron Gruyer, is to be erected in Switzerland in commemoration of the assistance rendered by that country to France during the war of 1870–1. The prompt succor afforded to the city of Strasburg by the Swiss after the terrible siege and the hospitable reception extended to the worn out troops of Bourbaki's army are both represented allegorically on the monument, which shows Switzerland covering Alsace with one protecting arm, while with the other she sustains a figure of wounded France. This superb work is to be erected on a public place at Basel.—London News.

New Cooking Methods.

It may be pleasant and appetizing to smell the coffee brewing in the morning and catch the aroma of the dinner soup when hungry for that meal, but it is now known that these heralding flavors mean a distinct loss to the article when served. The preservation of all gases is one of the chief points of the several new "ovens" and "cooking methods" now being advocated, and a test of the food prepared under such protection emphasizes its value.—New York Times.

Destroyed the Plants.

Trees and plants at Niantic, Conn., were destroyed by the salt blown from the ocean during the recent severe storms.—Exchange.