

PEOPLE'S PULPIT...

PRESENT YOUR BODIES.



Sermon by CHARLES T. RUSSELL, Pastor Brooklyn Tabernacle.

Chicago, Jan. 2.—Pastor Russell of Brooklyn Tabernacle, New York, preached here today to large audiences. The Auditorium of world-wide celebrity for its size and excellent acoustics, afforded the immense audience a superior opportunity to hear Pastor Russell's discourse in the afternoon. We report his evening discourse based on the foregoing texts. He said:—

The opening of a New Year is like the opening of a new ledger. It is a favorable time for determining what should be disposed of in the profit and loss account, and for putting into effect resolutions governing the New Year. The fact that thousands of resolutions will be made at this season only to be broken later under the impact of temptation, should not discourage us from making such resolutions ourselves and advising the course to others. The man or woman who makes no Resolutions or Vows makes little progress in character-building. Poor, fallen human nature needs all the bands and braces and supports which a well-directed will can give it. We are not advocating hasty, and sometimes unreasonable, vows and resolutions and pledges thoughtlessly taken. What we do advocate is thoughtful, rational sitting down and counting the cost, and then and there resolving with the full strength of the character, with the full determination of the mind, to pursue the way which deliberate judgment tells one is the proper course.

A Christmas Vow or Resolve.

A Christian, like other men, can be benefited by such Resolves to himself, which should be secretly kept, in proportion as he respects himself and would be respected. These Resolutions may apply to sundry affairs of life—his home, his business, his personal habits, etc. But when the Christian comes to consider his highest interests, he at once recognizes that they are those by which he is related to his Creator and his Savior. At the very beginning of his Christian experience, after he had longed for righteousness and turned from sin; after his eyes had seen Jesus as his Redeemer; after his ear of faith had heard that he was reconciled to God through the death of his Son and had forgiveness of sins through faith in his blood—then came to him the most important moment of his life. For God, through his Word, invited him to make a full consecration of himself (including every earthly interest and affair) to the Lord and his service.

The proposition, in the language of the Savior, was that he should take up his cross and follow Christ; and that as a reward he should have in the present life tribulation from without, but the peace of the Lord within, and in the future life experience a share in the First Resurrection. That change to glory, honor, immortality, the Divine nature, means joint-heirship with his Redeemer in his great Office and work as the Mediator between God and the world during the Millennial Age. The terms are clearly stated,—self-denial, cross-bearing, service for Christ, faithfulness unto death. The rewards also, as clearly stated, are crowns of life and membership in the Royal Priesthood, a seat with the Lord in his throne, an opportunity of being one of the judges for helping and uplifting mankind during the Millennium.

While stating the conditions clearly and distinctly, through his Word the Lord did not urge consecration, but said rather that each should sit down first and count the cost. After having counted the cost, whoever chose to accept the proposition did so by making a Vow unto the Lord—a Consecration Vow of full submission—the full surrender of the will. This was to the intent that thereafter not only the conduct of life, but the words of the mouth and the meditations of the heart should be acceptable to the Lord. This comprehensive Vow is symbolized in baptism, which, rightly understood, as explained by St. Paul, is a baptism into membership in the Body of Christ (the Church), and this by baptism or immersion "into Christ's death."

Only such as make this Vow are accepted at all as members of The Christ, and anointed with the holy Spirit. It is respecting this Vow that St. Paul urges, in the words of our text, "I beseech you, (justified) brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies living sacrifices, holy, acceptable to God, and your reasonable service." Our contract with the Lord entered into, made secure, by the Vow of Consecration, and the remainder of life is merely a testing of the course created one, to determine to what degree he really meant the Vow; to what degree he uses his every endeavor to be dead to the world, dead to self, dead to all earthly things and alive toward God and the interest of the Millennial Kingdom to which he has consecrated himself as a "member" of the Body of the Mediator of the New Covenant (Jeremiah xxxi. 31; Galatians iii. 29).

"I Will Pay My Vows."

Let no one lightly undertake a Vow unto the Lord. It carries with it weighty responsibilities. It would be better every way that none should take the Vow without first understanding the matter and entering fully into the spirit of the resolution he makes

Once made and accepted by the Lord through the impartation of the holy Spirit, it cannot be annulled. But why should we wish to annul the Vow? Why should anyone who puts his hand to the plow look back? To use the Apostle's illustration, why should the sower that was washed return to wallowing in the mire? Why should we, after having renounced the world and received the begetting of the holy Spirit, and after having tasted of the good Word of God and the powers of the Age to come, lose the precious taste and appreciation of these, and return in craving to the beggarly elements of the world? Surely there are no good reasons for so doing. Surely the joys of the present life, as well as the hopes of the Kingdom to come, all should encourage us to fully "set our affections on things above and not on the things beneath."

The world, the flesh and the Adversary—all exercise influences contrary to our Vow or Resolution to the Lord to be dead to the world and to self that we may be alive with Christ and share his glory—surely we had him, that we may rely with confidence on the poet has expressed the proper thought here, saying:

"My soul, be on thy guard, Ten thousand foes arise; The hosts of sin are pressing hard To draw thee from the prize."

Much of our success in keeping our Vow of Consecration depends upon two things:

(1) The clearness of our grasp of the situation when we made our Vow and the thoroughness of our intention; the amount or weight thereof; the will power exerted for righteousness.

(2) An additional feature of great weight in the matter is the degree of our knowledge. It is in line with this thought that the Scriptures declare, "My people perish for lack of knowledge." God has given us his Word and informed us that it is "profitable for doctrine, for reproof and for correction in righteousness, that the man of God may be thoroughly furnished." He has advised us to search the Scriptures and to forget not the assembling of ourselves together. And where his advice is followed and the Scriptures are searched daily, not in a formal manner, but with a desire to know and to do the Lord's will and to be guided in his way, a strengthening of the will is effected. Correspondingly there is a weakening of the evil influences which oppose us as New Creatures and our Vow. The Word of God is so arranged as to provide "meat in due season" for all of his faithful people, whether old or young, in every time. As "babes in Christ," as young men and as full-grown sons of God, it is for each of us a storehouse of Grace and Truth, to make us strong in the Lord and in the power of his might. Only by appropriating this spiritual food can we have strength to fulfill our Vow, to finish our course with joy and to attain the Kingdom. Item by item, as our minds are able to grasp its unfolding prospects of glory, honor and immortality, we are thereby strengthened by the Lord's might in the inner man.

In proportion as we realize the facts of the case we may appreciate what a great bargain the Lord has offered us. We surrender in consecration our earthly rights, privileges and pleasures, and receive in return more happily spiritual blessings in the present life and the inheritance of the unspeakable blessings and glories of the future. It should, therefore, become much more easy to pay our Vows with a willing heart, as we grow in grace and in knowledge of the Lord and his Word. Indeed, as the Apostle suggests, it is possible for us to reach the place where we can "rejoice in tribulation also"—knowing that thereby our future blessing is increased.

"What Shall I Render?"

As the consecrated believer considers what God has already done, and what he proposes yet to do for his faithful, gratitude wells up in his heart and his inquiry is, "What shall I render unto the Lord for all his benefits?" The more he considers the matter, the more he realizes that his talents and opportunities are necessarily small, insignificant. It is from this standpoint that the poet wrote, "O for a thousand tongues to sing my great Redeemer's praise."

It is well indeed to show our appreciation of God's grace by songs of thankfulness and praise, but we are to remember that not merely poetic cadences are our acceptable songs, but that from the proper standpoint life itself is the proper hymn of praise to be continually rendered to the King of kings. "Singing and making melody in our hearts unto the Lord" will imply that our works will be in harmony—a song of life" (Ephesians v. 19).

Taking the Cup.

The Psalmist's answer, prophetically represents the attitude of heart of all the faithful. Each is expected to say, "I will take the Cup of Salvation and call upon the name of the Lord" (Psalm cxvi. 13). The cup of salvation at the present time is the "Cup" which our Lord proffered to his disciples, saying, "This is my blood of the New Covenant shed for many for the remission of sins. Drink ye all of it" (Mat-

thew xxvi. 27, 28). It is a "Cup" of suffering, self-denial, self-sacrifice, as respects the earthly things which we give up, surrender, that we may attain the heavenly things as joint-heirs with our Redeemer. There might be danger, however, of some getting the wrong thought on this subject. There is a peculiar pleasure in drinking of the Lord's "cup" of self-sacrifice, which those who have never partaken of can not hope to understand. It is the pleasure of fellowship in his sufferings, as St. Paul explains. And a part of the pleasure connected with that "cup" is the associated hope of drinking with our Lord of his other cup of joy and glory and blessing in the Kingdom, as he promised.

The necessity of partaking of this "Cup" of the Lord is shown by the Savior's words to two of his disciples who inquired, saying, "Lord, grant that we may sit with thee, the one on thy right hand and the other on thy left hand in the Kingdom." Our Lord's reply was that they little realized what this high privilege of sitting in the Millennial Throne with him would cost. He inquired, "Are ye able to drink of the cup that I shall drink of?" (Matthew xx. 22)—the cup of suffering, ignominy, dishonor, death?—"and to be baptized with?"—not the baptism into water, but into that which is symbolized by the water—a baptism into his death. The apostles indicated their willingness. And we can do no more. If left to ourselves, undoubtedly the contract would be more than we would be sufficient for. Our sufficiency is of God's providence—our great Redeemer is our High Priest and Advocate, able to succor us in every time of need, and able to provide ways of escape from trials too hard for us; able to strengthen us when weak; able to give us the "meat in due season"; able to make us strong in his might; able to bring to our attention the great and precious promises of God's Word. Yea, says St. Paul, "I can do all things through Christ, who strengtheneth me" (Philippians iv. 13).

"In the Presence of All the People."

In the context the prophet declares, "I will pay my Vows unto the Lord in the presence of all the people." Publicly, openly, I will espouse the Lord's Cause. I will remember his words, "Whosoever shall be ashamed of me, and of my words, of him also shall the Son of Man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father, with the holy angels" (Mark viii. 38). I will be faithful in the performance of my Covenant to such a degree that my loyalty shall be known to all the brethren as well as to the Lord, who reads the heart. Yea, and the worldly should know of the faithfulness of God's people, even though, not appreciating the matter, they should despise them and count them fools for Christ's sake.

Vows of this kind are not for the worldly, even though they be morally disposed. They are yet in their sins, if they reject the offer of Divine forgiveness upon Divine terms of consecration. Such may not think to take Vows of consecration to the Lord until first they have renounced willful sin and accepted redemption through faith in the precious blood. Until then they remain amongst the wicked. "Unto the wicked God said, What hast thou to do to take my words into thy mouth [as a Vow] seeing thou latest instruction and castest my words behind thee" (Psalm l. 17). All who do not wish Divine instruction, all who spurn the Lord's Word, are in this sense wicked—in a wrong condition of heart. We are glad that there is no truth in the theory that they are liable to eternal torture, but, oh, how much they are missing, nevertheless, of the joys of the Lord in this present time and of the glories and eternal blessings of the future!

In closing, dear friends, let me suggest to you a little Vow unto the Lord—not as instead of your Consecration Vow, which is all comprehensive, but as supplemental thereto—as specifying certain matters, which are indeed part and parcel of your Consecration Vow. The thought is that by this Vow these particular features of your obligation will be daily more prominently before your mind. It is my belief that the taking of it earnestly and soberly, and the keeping of it, would be one of the wisest New Year's Resolutions that God's people could make—most helpful to them in the peculiar time in which we are living.

A Vow Unto the Lord.

1. Our Father which art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name. May Thy rule come into my heart more and more, and Thy will be done in my mortal body. Relying on the assistance of Thy promised grace to help in every time of need, through Jesus Christ our Lord, I register this Vow.

2. Daily will I remember at the Throne of Heavenly Grace the general interests of the harvest work, and particularly the share which I myself am privileged to enjoy in that work, and the dear co-laborers at the Brooklyn Tabernacle, and everywhere.

3. I vow to still more carefully, if possible, scrutinize my thoughts and words and doings, to the intent that I may be the better enabled to serve Thee and Thy dear flock.

4. I vow to Thee that I will be on the alert to resist everything akin to Spiritism and Occultism, and that, remembering that there are but the two masters, I shall resist these snares in all reasonable ways, as being of the Adversary.

5. I further vow that, with the exceptions below, I will at all times, and in all places, conduct myself toward those of the opposite sex in private exactly as I would do with them in public—in the presence of a congregation of the Lord's people.

6. And, so far as reasonably possible, I will avoid being in the same room with any of the opposite sex alone, unless the door to the room stand wide open.

7. Exceptions in the case of brethren—wife, children, mother, and natural sisters; in the case of Sisters—husbands, children, father, and natural brothers.

Should any of those who take this Vow unto the Lord desire to inform me of the fact, I shall be very pleased to hear from them at my Brooklyn address.

ICE COVERS OHIO RIVER

Cincinnati, O., Dec. 31.—For the first time in seven years the Ohio river at this place was frozen over, except for a small space in the local harbor. Tugs are plying up and down the harbor in an effort to keep it open, but it is believed that if the present cold weather continues their work will go for naught. Over a million dollars' worth of river property is jeopardized by the freezing of the water. While there is no danger to this property as long as the weather is cold, rivermen fear a sudden thaw or warm weather will play havoc with shipping.

CONFER WITH GOVERNOR

Columbus, O., Dec. 31.—At a conference between Democratic senators and Governor Harmon, it was decided that no bills would be introduced for at least three weeks after the session of the assembly begins. No agreement was reached on a legislative program, and it is considered unlikely that any will be made until after Governor Harmon's message goes to the legislature. The governor in his regular message plans to cover all the leading questions agitated recently save the canals and good roads, and these will be discussed in a special message later.

Lodge Elections

Daughters of Liberty Evening Star Council, No. 18, Daughters of Liberty, elected these officers Wednesday evening: Councilor—Jennie Baker. Associate Councilor—Luella Smith. Vice Councilor—Josephine Peugh. Associate Vice Councilor—Ilda Larabee. Recording Secretary—Sarah Smith. Assistant Recording Secretary—Anna Baker. Financial Secretary—Rose Moore. Treasurer—Nora Davis. Guide—Amanda Belt. Inside Guard—Jessie Faulhaber. Outside Guard—Jennie Denman. Trustee—Jerusha Ward. Pianist—Carrie Gilliland. Assistant Pianist—Lizzie Hinger. Delegates to State Council—Jennie Baker, Nora Davis, Emma Stephy, Sara Smith and Jennie Lett. Alternates—Sarah Headington, Ohio Wineland, Lizzie Trimble, Hattie Pickard and Margaret Popham.

MAGNATE INDICTED

Cincinnati, O., Dec. 31.—W. Kesley Schoepf, president of the Cincinnati Traction company and of the Ohio Traction company, was indicted by the grand jury on four counts, charging failure to keep cars on four city lines up to the temperature of 60 degrees, required by law.

WILL BE NO STRIKE

Cincinnati, O., Dec. 31.—It was announced by the conference committee of the Big Four telegraphers and officials of the railroad that terms of agreement had been reached. There will be no strike.

Not Up to Modern Standards. "Your wife's new hat makes her look like a queen," said the man who tries to be complimentary. "Don't let her hear you say that," answered Mr. Bliggus. "I have looked through the histories, and I never yet saw a picture of a queen who looked as if she employed a first class milliner."—Washington Star.



BARONESS VAUGHAN, WHO WAS FORCED TO LEAVE BELGIUM.

The Baroness Vaughan, morganatic wife of the late King Leopold, lost little time in getting out of Belgium after the king's death. The fact that she was about the only one of his household present during his last illness aroused the people, who had long held her in contempt, to the point of hostile demonstration, and she took her two small boys and went to her chateau near Monte Carlo. She will obtain a large share of Leopold's fortune through his will. Leopold himself gave her the title of baroness. She was the daughter of a French innkeeper.

EXPIRES WHILE WRITING SENSATIONS OF DEATH

Kalamazoo, Mich., Dec. 31.—When he failed to make an appearance in court to try a case that he was scheduled to appear in, an attorney went to the office of William Lubby, a well-known lawyer, and found him dead, and on his desk was a chart in which he described the approach of the end. The chart, which was started Wednesday afternoon, said: "I am not feeling well. At noon I took medicine for my heart." In the first notation, "I am taking medicine every two hours." "At 4:20 my condition does not improve. Am still taking my medicine." "I must have been asleep the last two hours, I do not remember," wrote Lubby shortly after 7 o'clock. "I am alternating pellets." At 9 o'clock he wrote: "I am not feeling as easy." During the next several hours there is no mention of his condition. At 2 o'clock in the morning he wrote the following: "Cold; I know my condition is serious. It is hard to breathe. I am—" and there the note ended.

MINNESOTA STANDPATTER DENOUNCED AT BANQUET

Owatonna, Minn., Dec. 31.—That there is going to be a big fight against Congressman James H. Tawney in his next campaign for congress is the belief following a "love feast" banquet here, during which the ally of Cannon was unsparringly denounced to his face. The denunciation was uttered by Thomas Kelly of Owatonna, who is expected to oppose Tawney for the Republican nomination.

BUSINESS COLLEGE is the most thorough school of business in the State of Ohio. It graduates without an exception are employed. To the first representative of a town we offer a discount of 5 per cent, secure positions for students to work for their board while attending school. Open all year. New classes formed every Monday. Write for catalogue. Address: BLISS BUSINESS COLLEGE, Columbus, Ohio.

BANNER WANT ADS PAY

20 Per Cent Discount Sale

Take Advantage of It NOW

A. A. Dowds Dry Goods Co. THE STORE OF QUALITY

RIST Got Off Very Easy Before 'Squire Harter Fined \$25 And Costs And Same Suspended

Edward Rist, the detective, was arrested Thursday evening at the Third ward engine house on a warrant sworn out by William Hough before 'Squire Harter. The justice of the peace was called and the hearing was held. Rist entered a plea of guilty to the charge of unlawfully giving away liquor to prisoners in jail and was fined \$25 and costs. The fine was suspended.

CHESTERVILLE

The Masonic lodge gave their annual banquet on Wednesday evening of this week. Quite a number of Masons and their ladies were present and music and speaking were the order of the evening. A delicious luncheon was served during the evening.

Mrs. J. W. Weekley is spending the week with relatives at Shadyside.

The I. O. O. F. lodge gave an oyster supper in the lodge rooms on Monday night of this week. About 50 were present and enjoyed the evening.

Mrs. Douglas Wilson who has been suffering a light attack of pneumonia is getting along nicely.

Miss Gladys Corwin is visiting in Columbus.

Will Boner and family of Columbus are the guests of friends here.

Mr. and Mrs. James Lansing are visiting in Mansfield.

Mr. and Mrs. John Wurts have purchased a farm near Fredericktown.

Miss Helen Dalrymple of Sandusky is home for the holidays.

Arthur Seffner and wife and Miss Kate McCausland of Marion were at home for Christmas with their father, John McCausland.

Miss Jennie Weekly is spending her vacation with her parents at Chesterville.

Mr. Bert Kraft, teacher of the Ball school, south of Chesterville, and his scholars gave a nice Christmas entertainment on Friday afternoon before Christmas, consisting of recitations and dialogues. At the close of the exercises Miss Mozelle Wilson in behalf of the school presented Mr. Kraft with a beautiful hand mirror and coat and hat brushes. A loud knock was heard on the door and who should enter but Santa Claus, all loaded down with candy and nuts for everybody. A number of the parents were present and the afternoon was greatly enjoyed.

95 Per Cent

of the business in the business world is based on credit. Good credit is therefore a most essential item in every business.

In addition to the amount of your money in the bank, the fact that you are safeguarding your future and have a check account with a strong bank, strengthens your credit.

We have facilities and are in a position to handle your banking business, whether large or small.

THE GAMBIER BANKING CO.