MENDING THE NETS.

Dr. Talmage Preaches a Sermon on the Story of the Fishermen.

Christ's Disciples as Fishers of Men —The Gospel Net and How It Should Be Kept in Repair.

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In this discourse Dr. Talmage describes the Gospel net and how it is to be repaired after being damaged; text, Matthew 4:21, "James, the son of Zebedee, and John, his brother, in a ship with Zebedee, their father, mending their nets."

"I go a-fishing!" cried Simon Peter to his comrades, and the most of the apostles had hands hard from fishing tackle. The fisheries of the world have always attracted attention. In the third century the queen of Egypt had for pin money $470,000, received from the fisheries of Lake Moeris. And, if the time should ever come when the immensity of the world's population could not be fed by the vegetables and meats of the land, the sea has an amount of animal life that would feed all the population of the earth and fatten them with a food that by its phosphorus would make a generation brainy and intellectual beyond anything that the world has ever imagined. My text takes us among the Galilean fishermen. One day Walter Scott, while hunting in an old drawer, found among some old fishing tackle the manuscript of his immortal book, "Waverley," which he had put away there as of no worth, and who knows but that to-day we may find some unknown wealth of thought while looking at the fishing tackle in the text.

It is not a good day for fishing, and three men are in the boat repairing the broken fishing nets. If you are fishing with a hook and line, and the fish will not bite, it is a good time to put the angler's apparatus into better condition. Perhaps the last fish you hauled in was so large that something snapped, or, if you were fishing with a net, there was a mighty floundering of the scales or an exposed nail on the side of the boat which broke some of the threads and let part or all of the captives of the deep escape into their natural element. And hardly anything is more provoking than to nearly land a score or a hundred trophies from the deep, and when you are in the full glee of hauling in the spotted treasures, through some imperfection of the net they splash back into the wave. That is too much of a trial of patience for most fishermen to endure, and many a man ordinarily correct of speech in such circumstances comes to an intensity of utterance unjustifiable. Therefore no good fisherman considers the time wasted that is spent in mending his net. Now, the Bible again and again represents Christian workers as fishers of men, and we are all sweeping through the sea of humanity some kind of a net. Indeed there have been enough nets out and enough fishermen busy to have landed the whole human race in the kingdom of God long before this. What is the matter? The Gospel is all right, and it has been a good time for catching souls for thousands of years. Why, then, the failures? The trouble is with the nets, almost of them need to be mended. I propose to show you what is the matter with most of the nets and how to mend them. In the text old Zebedee and his two boys, James and John, were doing a good thing when they sat in the boat mending their nets.

The trouble with many of our nets is that the meshes are too large. If a fish can get his gills and half his body through the network, he tears and rends and works his way out, and leaves the place through which he squirmed a tangle of broken threads. In our desire to make everything so easy we relax, we loosen, we widen. We let men after they are once in the Gospel net escape into the world, and go into indulgences and swim all around Galilee, from north side to south side, and from east side to west side, expecting that they will come back again. We ought to make it easy for them to get into the kingdom of God, and, as far as we can, make it impossible for them to get out. The poor advice nowadays to many is: "Go and do just as you did before you were captured for God and Heaven. The net was not intended to be any restraint or any hindrance. What you did before you were a Christian do now. Go to all styles of amusement, read all the styles of books, engage in all styles of behavior as before you were converted." And so, through these meshes of permission and laxity, they wriggle out through this opening and that opening, tearing the net as they go, and soon all the souls that we expected to land in Heaven, before we know it, are back in the deep sea of the world. Oh, when we go a-Gospel fishing, let us make it as easy as possible for souls to get in and as hard as possible to get out.

Is the Bible language an unmeaning verbiage when it talks about self-denial, and keeping the body under and about walking the narrow way and entering the strait gate and about carrying the cross? Is there to be no way of telling whether a man is a Christian except by his taking the communion chalice on sacramental day? May a man be as reckless about his thoughts, about his words, about his temper, about his amusements after conversion as before? Alas, the words of Christ are so little heeded when He said: "Whosoever doth not bear his cross and come after me cannot be my disciple." The church is fast becoming as bad as the world, and when it gets as bad as the world it will be worse than the world by so much, as it will add hypocrisy of a most appalling kind to its other defects.

Furthermore, many of our nets are torn to pieces by being entangled with other nets. It is a sad sight to see fishermen fighting about sea room and pulling in opposite directions, each to get his net, both nets damaged by the struggle and losing all the fish. In this land, where there are more than 70,000,000 people, there are at least 30,000,000 not in the Sunday schools and churches. In such an Atlantic ocean of opportunity there is room for all the nets and all the boats and all the fishermen and for millions more. There should be no rivalry between churches. Each one does a work peculiar to itself. But there are cities in this country where there is now going on an awful ripping and rending and tearing of fishing nets. Indeed all over Christendom at this time there is a great war going on between fishermen, ministers against ministers.

Now, I have noticed a man cannot fish and fight at the same time. He either neglects his net or his musket. It is amazing how much time some of the fishermen have to look after other fishermen. It is more than I can do to take care of my own net. You see the wind is just right, and it is such a good time for fishing, and the fish are coming in so rapidly that I have to keep my eyes and hand busy. There are about 200,000,000 souls wanting to get into the kingdom of God, and it will require all the nets and all the fishermen of Christendom to safely land them. Oh, brethren of the ministry, let us spend our time in fishing instead of fighting. But if I angrily jerk my net across your net, and you jerk your net angrily across mine, we will soon have two broken nets and no fish. The French revolution nearly destroyed the French fisheries, and ecclesiastical war is the worst thing possible while hauling souls into the kingdom. My friends, I notice in the text that James, the son of Zebedee, and John, his brother, were busy at mending somebody else's nets, and I rather think that we who are engaged in Christian work in this opening century will require all our spare time to mend our own nets. God help us in the important duty!

In this work of repair we need to put into the nets more threads of common sense. When we can present religion as a great practicality we will catch a hundred souls where now we catch one. Present religion as an intellectuality and we will fail. Out in the fisheries there are set across the waters what are called gill nets, and the fish put their heads through the meshes and then cannot withdraw them because they are caught by the gills. But gill nets cannot be of any service in religious work. Men are never caught for the truth by their heads; it is by the heart or not at all. No argument ever saved a man and no keen analysis ever brought a man into the kingdom of God. Heart work, not head work. Away with your gill nets! Sympathy, helpfulness, consolation, love, are the names of some of the threads that we need to weave in our gospel nets when we are mending them.

When you are mending your net for this wide, deep sea of humanity, take out that wire thread of criticism and that horsehair thread of harshness and put in a soft silken thread of Christian sympathy. Yes, when you are mending your nets tear out those old threads of gruffness and weave in a few threads of politeness and geniality. In the house of God let all Christian faces beam with a look that means welcome. Say "good morning" to the stranger as he enters your pew and at the close shake hands with him and say: "How did you like the music?" Why, you would be to that man a panel of the door of Heaven; you would be to him a note of the doxology that seraphs sing when a new soul enters Heaven. I have in other days entered a pew in church, and the woman at the other end of the pew looked at me as much as to say: "How dare you? This is my pew, and I pay the rent for it!" Well, I crouched in the other corner and made myself as small as possible and felt as though I had been stealing something. So there are people who have a sharp edge to their religion, and they act as though they thought most people had been elected to be damned and they were glad of it. Oh, let us brighten up our manner and appear in gentlemanliness or ladyhood.

Again, in mending our nets we need also to put in the threads of faith and tear out all the jagged meshes of unbelief. Our work is successful according to our faith. The man who believes in only half a Bible or the Bible in spots, the man who thinks he cannot persuade others, the man who halts, doubting about this and doubting about that, will be a failure in Christian work. Show me the man who rather thinks that the garden of Eden may have had an allegory and is not quite certain but that there may be another chance after death and does not know whether or not the Bible is inspired, and I tell you that man for soul saving is a poor stick. Faith in God and in Jesus Christ and the Holy Ghost and the absolute necessity of a regenerated heart in order to see God in peace is one thread you must have in your mended net, or you will never be a successful fisher for men. Why, how can you doubt? The rottenest thread to tear out of your net is unbelief, and the most important thread that you are to put in it is faith—faith in God, triumphant faith, everlasting faith.

Oh, this important work of mending our nets! If we could get our nets right, we would accomplish more in soul saving in the next year than we have in the last 20. But where shall we get them mended? Just where old Zebedee and his two boys mended their nets—where you are. James and John had no time to go ashore. They were not fishing for fun, as you and I do in summer time. It was their livelihood and that of their families. They mended their nets where they were—in the ship. "Oh," says some one, "I mean to get my net mended, and I will go down to the public library and I will see what the scientists say about evolution and about the 'survival of the fittest,' and I will read up what the theologians say about 'advanced thought.' I will leave the ship awhile, and I will go ashore and stay there till my net is mended." Do that, my brother, and you will have no net left. Instead of their helping you mend your net, they will steal the pieces that remain. Better stay in the Gospel boat, where you have all the means for mending your net. What are they? do you ask. I answer, all you need you have where you are—namely, a Bible and a place to pray. The more you study evolution and adopt what is called advanced thought, the more useless you will be. Stay in the ship and mend your net. That is where James, the son of Zebedee, and John, his brother, staid. That is where all who get their nets mended stay.

I notice that all who leave the Gospel boat and go ashore to mend their nets stay there. Or if they try again to fish they do not catch anything. Get out of the Gospel boat and go up into the world to get your net mended, and you will live to see the day when you will feel like the man who, long forsaken Christianity, sighed: "I would give a thousand pounds to feel as I did in 1820." The time will come when you would be willing to give a thousand pounds to feel as you did in 1901. These men who have given up their religion cannot help you a bit.

These dear brethren of all denominations, afflicted with theological fidgets, had better go to mending nets instead of breaking them. Before they break up the old religion and try to foist on us a new religion let them go through some great sacrifice for God that will prove them worthy for such a work, taking the advice of Talleyrand to a man who wanted to upset the religion of Jesus Christ and start a new one when he said: "Go and be crucified and then raise yourself from the grave the third day!" Those who propose to mend their nets by secular and skeptical books are like the man who has just one week for fishing, and six of the days he spends in reading Izaak Walton's "Complete Angler" and Wheatley's "Rods and Line" and Scott's "Fishing in Northern Waters," and Pullman's "Vade Mecum of Fly Fishing for Trout," and then on Saturday morning, his last day out, goes to the river to ply his art. But that day the fish will not bite, and late on Saturday night he goes to his home with empty basket. Alas, alas! If when the Saturday night of our life drops on us it shall be found that we have spent our time in the libraries of worldly philosophy, trying to mend our nets, and we have only a few souls to report as brought to God through our instrumentality while some humble fisherman, his library made up of a Bible and an almanac, shall come home laden with the results, his trophies all the souls within 16 miles of his log cabin meeting house.

In the time of great disturbance in Naples in 1649 Massaniello, a barefooted fishing boy, dropped his fishing rod and by strange magnetism took command of that city of 300,000 souls. He took off his fishing jacket and put on a robe of gold in the presence of howling mobs. He put his hand on his lip as a signal, and they were silent. He waved his hand away from him, and they retired to their homes. Armies passed in review before him. He became the nation's idol. The rapid rise and complete supremacy of that young fisherman, Massaniello, has no parallel in all history. But something equal to that and better than that is an everyday occurrence in Heaven. God takes some of those who in this world were fishers of men and who toiled very humbly, but because of the way they mended their nets and employed their nets after they were mended He suddenly hoists them and robes them and scepters them and crowns them and makes them rulers over many cities, and He marches armies of saved ones before them in review.

But do not spend your time fishing with hook and line. Why did not James, the son of Zebedee, sit on the wharf at Cana, his feet hanging over the lake, and with a long pole and a worm on the hook dipped into the wave wait for some mullet to swim up and be caught? Why did not Zebedee spend his afternoon trying to catch one eel? No, that work was too slow. These men were not mending a hook and line; they were mending their nets. So let the church of God not be content with having here one soul and next month another soul brought into the kingdom. Sweep all the seas with nets—scoop nets, seine nets, dragnets, all encompassing nets, and take the treasures in by hundreds and thousands and millions, and nations will be born in a day and the hemispheres quake with the tread of a ransoming God. Do you know what will be the two most tremendous hours in our Heavenly existence? Among the quadrillions of ages which shall roll on what two occasions will be to us the greatest? The day of our arrival there will be to us one of the two greatest. The second greatest, I think, will be the day when we shall have put in parallel lines before us what Christ did for us and what we did for Christ, the one so great, the other so little. That will be the only embarrassment in Heaven. My Lord and my God. What will we do and what will we say when on one side are placed the Saviour's great sacrifices for us and our small sacrifices for Him; His exile, His humiliation, His agonies on one hand and our poor, weak, insufficient sacrifices on the other. To make the contrast less overwhelming let us quickly mend our nets, and, like the Galilean fishermen, may we be divinely helped to cast them on the right side of the ship.

Germany secured in the American market in 1900 over $9,000,000 worth of mineral oil.

CHILD LABOR BILL

Killed in the House on Last Thursday.

BIG MAJORITY AGAINST IT.

Strong Arguments Made for and Against the Bill, Extracts from Which We Print.

The child labor bill was defeated in the House of Representatives on Thursday by a vote of 66 to 32. The bill provided that children under twelve years of age should not work in "factories, mines and textile manufacturing establishments."

The fight on the bill began when Mr. Weston called it up as a special order Thursday morning. Mr. Rucker moved to strike out the enacting words A motion to continue the bill was voted down by a large majority, and the debate went on.

Mr. Gunter of Aiken said that some think we are trying to introduce new methods and that we should stick to the old. But this is a progressive age and South Carolina should keep her face to the front. Forty years ago South Carolina suffered under negro slavery. Today she is suffering as merciless a slavery by allowing 6,000 children under 12 years of age to be slaves in cotton factories. The cotton mill people who are here fighting the bill admit that the ignorance of the cotton mill people exceed their expectations. He read from Col Orr's circular letter to sustain his position.

In the discussion before the committee on commerce and manufacturers, who represented the cotton mills of the piedmont? It was the cotton mill president or superintendent and one little preacher. The operative was not there represented. South Carolina is behind other States. She is lagging behind Russia, England, France and States in this government.

One has only to go to the Richland or the Granby mill in Columbia to see children working as variable slaves 11 hours a day to put money into the coffers of the corporation. He appealed for the children to be kept out of the noise and the grease and stifling atmosphere of the mills.

In reply to Mr. Gallishat he said that 30 States in the Union had laws prohibiting children from working in the mills unless they attended schools six months in the year. In Massachusetts a regular system of registration is employed.

Mr R B. A. Robinson of Anderson opposed the bill. He said his people want to be let alone. It is optional with the parents whether or not they would work children in the mills. There are a number of widows in cotton mill districts in this vicinity who depend upon the labor of their children. He would be glad if the little tots did not have to go out in the frosty morning to pick cotton. But somebody has to labor. Nobody has the right to tell him what he must do with his own children unless he should abuse them. Who is making the greatest strides of progress, the old countries mentioned by Mr Gunter or the United States of America?

Mr. John McMaster next secured the floor. This question came up in England 10 years before the American revolution. When Watts and others mentioned machinery to spin cotton, in the North of England, arose wonderful manufactories. In the course of time women and children were leased to the factories, and the outrageous way in which they were treated led to labor agitation and labor enaction in 1800. It is a specious argument to ask "Am I my brother's keeper?" Mr. McMaster charged that Mr. Ellison Smythe had said before the committee that when he went to Anderson 20 years ago he found the people the most illiterate he had ever seen. Dr. Curry in visiting the shipyards at Norfolk had inquired who were the skilled laborers who received the big pay and had found out that they were northern men. All the big pay men in the mills come from the north where they have laws of this kind. He doesn't want a class legislation. He doesn't want a rich cotton mill owner class and a poor people class. He wants a people of one kind, a people who can read and write and make good citizens.

Mr. M. L. Smith of Camden favored the bill. Every South Carolinian is proud of the State's advancement. But we now have a great problem to face, a problem which every manufacturing State has had to face and to solve. He spoke particularly upon the political aspect of the question. The report of the State superintendent shows that although last year $700,000 was spent for the education of white children and $200,000 for the Negroes there were 150,000 Negroes in the schools and but 125,000 whites. Under the leadership of thoughtful Negroes, that race is becoming educated. The white child must be taught to think of itself or eventually lose its citizenship. The credency of the mills is toward commercial protection and Republicanism. These people should be taught upon the principles of Democracy. These children are not at work by their own will. They are put there by indolent parents who loaf around through the week and on Saturday draw their children's pay and spend it riotously. These people are to be the future citizens. The girls to make the homes, the boys to cast the ballots, and it is the duty of this assembly to legislate for future generations. As to the petitions which had been circulated here, they amount to nothing. It would not require much work to get the operatives to sign them.

Mr. F. H. McMaster said that he had visited the mills of the Piedmont. Despite the happy conditions existing in the Piedmont now this legislation is necessary. It is not to consider whether one parent is kind and one is cruel, but it is to be determined whether children barely out of the cradle must be employed in the mills. Conditions in a mill cannot be healthful and cannot be conducive to good citizenship. The older employes are shown by statistics to be more illiterate than the young. Shall the disapproval of the illiterate elders toward this bill be taken as a healthy sentiment.

Mr. R B A Robinson wanted to know if Mr. McMaster thought the Piedmont representatives were lying about the attitude of the mill operatives.

Mr. McMaster replied certainly not. He agreed with the Piedmont representatives that the conditions there are ideal. And it is to diffuse these ideal conditions among all the mills of the State that he was speaking. Orr, Smythe and Pickens have written their names high on the scroll of fame. They are doing a grand work for humanity. He could not find it in his heart to legislate against against such men and he would not do it. It was in behalf of humanity rather than against corporations.

Go to Pelzer, he said. There you will find school houses and churches as fine as any in Columbia or Charleston, furnished by the owners of the mills for the use of the operatives.

There Capt. Smythe, glorious be his name, has worked among the operatives. There many facilities and conveniences and luxuries are furnished free to the operatives by the mills. These people desire no legislation, for they need none. But the question is shall we put other mill communities on the same plane?

Shall we remain in the plane of the dark ages or shall we advance as England has done? We are now just entering into a manufacturing era and from the experience of England and New England this legislation is necessary.

He closed with an earnest disclaimer that he would not legislate against corporations.

Mr. Prince of Anderson said that he could not be frightened by the intimation that within two years the labor unions would take charge of the Piedmont and leave him and others at home. Representing as good people as there are on the face of the earth, he is not afraid to do his duty and go back to them. Mr. Prince stated that his home is in a ward in which factory people live. There is not a more orderly community anywhere. In reply to the statement of Mr. John McMaster that the operatives of the south would always be servants to northern superintendents and bosses, Mr. Prince stated that the superintendent and bosses of the mill at Anderson are country born. These operatives, he continued, come from the mountains of Georgia, Tennessee and the Carolinas. They get more in a couple of months out of the mills than they did in a year in the mountains. They are sturdy people with good, hard sense and make good citizens. Talking about raising up criminals, why Pelzer, a town of 6,000 people, is kept clear of crime by one magistrate and his constable. Could the same thing be said of Columbia or any other place? The mill children are not harder worked than they were on the farms and they are better fed and better clothed. Whence came the ignorance in the mills. It come from the country. God bless the country. He was a country raised boy himself and said this in no ill feeling to the country. He then defended the Rev. T. C. Ligon who had opposed the bill before the committee and who had been referred to by Mr. Gunter. Charlie Ligon is none of your steeplechase preachers. He is a man. God made him a man. Mr. Prince meant no reflection upon the gentlemen who had differed with Mr. Ligon in the public print, but Mr. Ligon had lived with the factory people and knows them and the other preachers had not. The operatives are not allowed to drink in Pelzer and other towns. He cited the drunkard who takes the wages of his children who work in stores and is himself a town loafer as a character unknown to well regulated mill communities. We are just on the threshold of a great mill building era and he wanted no legislation which would be country to the spirit of the times. The people who are laborers now so nice he boosted in the mills to be built. He contended that girls between 14 and 18 are injured worse than children.

Mr. Francis H. Weston, author of the bill under fire, was next recognized. He said that institutions had been made by one side or the other about what would happen to the political future of the man who voted for or against the bill. He cared not how it would affect his political future, but he would advocate the bill because he believed it to be right. It is true that South Carolina mills employ children under 12 years of age. The question is, shall this be stopped? This country is ruled by men placed in power by the ballots of the people. The question is, shall the country be ruled by an intelligent constituency? South Carolina ranks among the lowest States in the Union in the matter of illiteracy. If the child does not get education in its tender years, the opportunity is lost forever. The constitution of South Carolina bases citizenship upon intelligence. Intelligence among the people is needed to say to the preservation of liberty. Are we to labor forever under the blights of illiteracy? Unless we take some steps we will do so. What makes Massachusetts so prosperous? Because her children are being educated and the educated child produces the greater results than matter. South Carolina has never waited for any other State to mark out the path of duty and the time is at hand for her to act in this matter. It will not hurt the mills.

Mr. Croft of Aiken said that the question is comparatively a new one. Within the past few years many thousands of people have been engaging in the mill business and many new problems are being presented for solution. We can profit by the experience of other States. He has a kindly feeling for the mills. Indeed, but a few days ago he had on this floor showed his friendship for them. But this is a question of higher significance. He was absolutely certain that the proposition is right. The bill seeks to give health and intelligence to these little ones. Both these children of the few years which the free schools are open to them and their opportunity is gone forever. The hope of white Carolina is in the intelligence of the white people. He passed an encomium upon the county of Anderson. And this proud county does not need the very law which we are trying to enact. He congratulated Anderson on the voluntary action of its mill presidents in establishing a system such as this bill proposes for the entire State.

Turning to Mr. Prince, he said: Are you sincere when you say that this bill would injure these people? It would elevate them. Laws have been already passed limiting the hours of labor. Since that law has passed has South Carolina sprung forward and distanced the Union? They had been told that the creation of a railroad commission would ruin the railroads of the State. Since that time many miles of track had been laid.

The law protects a man's ox, his horse or his mule. Shall the beasts of the fields be protected and not children? Insectivorous birds cannot be killed. The majestic buzzard is protected, but not the children of the State.

Child labor is brought into prominency. Prosperity has come to the cause of child labor. To the honor of old Pelzer it may be said that her stock is greater above all others in the State. And this is a mill which does not employ child labor.

Calling to mind one of the little waifs of the house, Mr. Croft gave a striking object lesson. The child was just 10 years old. Mr. Croft said that thousands of children of this size are going to work by starlight in the morning and coming home by starlight at night. He would not challenge the honesty of the doctors or the sincerity of the preachers, but their judgment cannot be but erring if they think that to labor in mills benefits children. He called to instance incidents of the heedlessly of factory children and told feelingly of the effect upon the physical constitutions of children who had come under his observation.

The factory operatives are as poor as poverty itself. For generations they have been shut off from education and enlightment and they are not able to properly discriminate as to the necessities for their offsprings.

He recited the history of cotton mill legislation in England. In 1802 Robert Peel, the elder, succeeded in having children under 9 years of age kept out of the cotton mills. Robert Peel, the younger, and the late queen in her early reign, extended these laws. Germany, which leads all the empires of the world, goes even further and has compulsory education.

Massachusetts prohibits children under 13 from working in mills, and at 13 they must show that they have been at school five months the year before.

And furthermore no woman or minor can be compelled to work more than 10 hours a day.

These doctors say it is healthful for children to work in mills. Where is their common sense?

England, with all her labor laws, has made more progress in the last few months than the great common wealth of America. He quoted an editorial from The State to this effect.

He described the grandeur of America and claimed that the white man must be supreme. The census of 1890 showed that in this State there were 689,141 negroes and but 462,008 whites. This was one of the States forced to adopt suffrage qualifications in order to preserve to the white man his supremacy.

In 1890 there were 13,761 white people in Aiken and 13,000 negroes. Since that three cotton mills have been built in Aiken county and the population of the races is about even, yet she negroes have 1,300 more children at school than have the white people.

Lancaster safely has a white majority as to population, but as to school population the Negroes excel. There is no grander county in the State than Laurens, and in numbers the races there are about even, but there are 4,779 Negro children at school there and but 2,378 whites. What England and the enlightened world have endorsed, South Carolina must endorse to save the supremacy of the white man.

At this juncture there was sparring for more time. The motion to adjourn was voted down and Mr. Banks called the previous question. This, if adopted by the house, would shut out all amendments except as such as had already been sent up and would shut off debate. The house by a vote of 53 to 33 called for the pervious question which was the motion to strike out the enacting words of the bill. This motion prevailed and by a vote of 66 to 32 the bill of Weston, along with the substitute, was killed. Following is the vote on the motion to strike out the enacting words:

Yeas—Ashley, Aull, Austin, Banks, Beauregard, Bivens, Bolt, Brooks, Brown, Butler, Campbell, Cogeshall, Dean, deLoache, Dennis, Dill, Dominick, Dorrow, Dunbar, Durant, Elder, Estridge, Fox, Fraser, Freeman, Gallishat, Hale, Harden, Hill, Hollis, Humphrey, James, Johnson, Kibler, Kinard, Kinsey, Lide, Little, Lomax, Lyles, Manning, Mayson, McLeod, McLeod, Mellowan, Mishoe, Morgan, Nichols, Prince, Pyatt, Rankin, Redfearn, Robinson, C E Robinson, R. B. A Rucker, Shakelford, Sanders, Smith, Strom, Thompson, Vincent, Williams, Wilson, Wingo, Woodward—62.

Nays—Stevenson, speaker, Bates, Blease, Bryan, Carter, Croft, Earl, Gaston, Gourdin, Gunter, Jennings, Lever, Lockwood, Lofton, McCraw, McLaughlin, McMaster, Jno., Morrison, Moss, Murchison, Richards, Richardson, Seigler, Smith, M. L. Stroman, Tatum, Timmerman, Thomas, Webb, West, Weston, Woods—32.

Mr. DeBruhl who would have voted nay was paired with Mr. W. K. Parker, and Mr. J. Caldwell, Robertson, who would have voted nay was also paired with an absent member.

VICTORIA'S INFLUENCE

Was Exerted in Favor of the North During the War

The most critical time in our relations with the British government during the civil war was in the affair of the Trent, late in 1861, when, as the many obituaries of the queen lately published have pointed out, her majesty's personal intervention, in the passages of diplomacy probably averted a war between Great Britian and the people of the North, whose consequences would surely have included the permanent establishment of the Southern Confederacy as an independent nation. The main credit for the tonic down of Lord John Russell's harsh dispatch to Lord Lyons concerning the Trent affair must be given to the queen, since hers was the position of royal responsibility, yet the future historians will not forget to award some measure of applause to the queen's husband, the prince consort, with whom her majesty was in thorough sympthy, and upon whom she depended largely for guidance in affairs of state. It is well known that her majesty and the prince scrutinized in company Lord Russell's bellicose dispatch, and that the prince drew up the memorandum which embodied the crown's views as to the changes that ought to be made in its language. The queen, however, made some amendments to her husband's draft, which was then forwarded to the ministry. If we speak with entire accuracy, the memorandum was the work of both minds.

The prince consort died within a month after the Trent episode, and Victoria was left alone to carry the burdens of state, which, as the case of the Trent had demonstrated, were often of immense weight, even to a sovereign of modern Britain. It was highly fortunate for America that no crisis of equal acuteness occurred there, after in our relations with the British government, for the queen's ministers, Russell and Palmerston, remained on the watch for an opportunity to interfere in the struggle between the North and the South. Not that the queen would have been easily influenced by those plotters against the Union in America, yet under the mournful circumstances of her stunning domestic bereavement, the loss of the consort's sagacious counsel and so on, it is highly probable that the ministers would have had their way had they come to the point of intervening in favor of the South. Luckily conditions never favored them after the Trent affair.

It was not definitely known in this country until recent years that the British ministers in our civil war period sought an opportunity to smash the American Union. The secret correspondence between Russell and Palmerston, which is now available, proves that they were at heart hostile to the republic and its passion for national unity. Even before the Trent affair Lord Russell wrote, on October 17, 1861, to Lord Palmerston, concerning the opinion of the French minister at Washington, that the blockade should be raised by outside force.

There is much good sense in Mercier's observations. But we must wait. I am persuaded that if we do anything it must be on a grand scale. It will not do for England and France to break the blockade for the sake of getting cotton. But in Europe, powers have often said to belligerents, Make up your quarrels. We propose to give terms of pacification which we think fair and equitable. If you accept them, well and good. But if your adversary accepts them, and if you refuse them, our mediation is at an end, and you must expect to see your enemies, France would be quite ready to hold this language with us. If such a policy were to be adopted the time for it would be the end of the year or immediately before the meeting of parliment.

With this letter before us today, we can more fully understand the curt, peremptory, bellicose language in which Lord Russell, about six weeks later, conveyed his draft of the note to the British minister at Washington, demanding the release of Mason and Slidell, and an apology for their seizure. Lord Russell saw in the Trent affair the opportunity to intervene in the war which he had been already participating in by secret correspondence with Lord Palmerston. And it appears that the British cabinet was on the tiptoe at that time for a chance to help the south. We can better appreciate the value of the queen's pacific influence in restraining Lord Russell's disposition. Less than a year had passed after the Trent affair and the lamented death of Albert the Good when her majesty's ministers were again plotting for the undoing of America. On September 14, 1862, the premier wrote this note:

"My Dear Russell: The detailed accounts given in the Observer of today of the battles of August 29 and 30 between Confederates and Federals show that the latter got a very complete smashing; and it seems, not altogether unlikely that still greater disasters await them, and that even Washington or Baltimore may fall into the hands of the Confederates. If this should happen, would it not be time for us to consider whether, in such a state of things England and France might not address the contending parties and recommend an arrangement on the basis of separation?"

Lord Russell had noted the "very smashing defeat, and was prompt to answer:

"My Dear Palmerston: Whether the Federal army is destroyed or not, it is clear that it has made no progress in subduing the insurgent States. Such being the case, I agree with you that the time is come for offering mediation to the United States government, with a view to the recognition of the independence of the Confederates. I agree further that, in case of failure, we ought ourselves to recognize the Southern States as an independent State. For the purpose of taking so important a step, I think we might have a meeting of the cabinet. The 23d or 30th would suit me for the meeting. We ought, then, if we agree on our part, to propose it first to France, and then, on the part of England and France, to Russia and other powers, a measure due to ourselves and to Europe. We ought to make ourselves safe in Canada, not by sending more troops thither, but by concentrating those we have in a few defensible posts before winter sets in."

The whole scheme of finally destroying the American Union by European intervention was thus mapped out by the British foreign ministers as early as September 17, 1862. Palmerston answered the 23d that he thought Russell's plan "to be excellent." He rather objected, however, to asking Russia to join in "the offer of mediation," "because she would be too favorable to the North."

The plotting of her majesty's ministers was at that point, however, checked by the failure of the army of Northern Virginia to defeat the forces under Gen. McClellan at the battle of Antietam and the outcome of the next meeting of the British cabinet was that the ministry decided not to move in the matter. Nor did they find another opportunity. The later attempt at intervention, which was engineered by Louis Napoleon, met a resolute opponent in Russia, whose fleet was sent to New York in 1863 on a most significant mission. Vicksburg and Gettysburg also, brought the plotters to a realization of the utter futility of the whole programme.

The queen was not without attachment for Louis Napoleon, and especially for his wife, Eugenie, but there is no evidence that she ever displayed interest in, or even had knowledge of, the intervention conspiracy, which her own ministers and Napoleon nursed so long and tenderly. Her record in that entire crisis was made up in the Trent affair, which was the turning point in our country's foreign relations during the civil war.—Springfield Republican.

Glad of It.

The Columbia Record says the collapse of the Vesta mills' experiment with negro labor in Charleston is greeted with joy by factory operatives and newspapers throughout the state. Had it succeeded, the employment of every white operative in the state would have been endangered, for the cheaper price of negro labor would have appealed powerfully to factory managers.

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Tesla Again.

Tesla has just announced the perfection of a system of electric illumination which rivals sunlight in its healthful properties and can be produced with or without wires. If it should prove as fine a commercial article as Tesla claims it to be, it will be of more profit than the exchange of distress signals with Mars.

Not New.

The word Commoner, adopted by Bryan as the name of his paper, is not a new title. In 1864 William M. Corry, an extreme state rights Democrat, started a weekly paper in Cincinnati which he called The Commoner. Its views were those then denominated copperhead. It deemed the war for the preservation of the union to be unconstitutinal.

The president Tuesday sent a message to congress racommending the appropriation of $100,000 for the payment of the claim of Spain for Siputa and Cogoyan islands in the Philippine archipelago in accordance with the tarms of the treaty recently ratified by the senate.

Menagerie Burned.

With pitiful screams of fright and groans of intense pain, the 75 or more animals of all descriptions confined in cages at Frank C. Bostock's "Zoo," which was in winter quarters in the old cyclorama building, in Baltimore, were roasted or burned to death Wednesday night. The fire probably originated from a badly insulated wire on the outside of the building. The flames spread so rapidly that it was impossible for the attendants to rescue the helpless animals and with the exception of one elephant, one camel, two donkeys, and a pack of hounds, the entire herd was lost. The fire was discovered at 10:40 p. m., a few minutes after the evening performance here ceased. Twenty minutes after the fire was discovered, the entire building, which was constructed almost entirely of wood, was a mass of flames. Mr. Bostock estimates his loss on animals at about $100,000. Loss on the building probably is $15,000. Part of the Bostock aggregation of animals was at the recent State fair along with the other Bostock side shows. It will be remembered that during the Spartanburg carnival one of the cages caught fire and the flames were extinguished by the young woman tamer of lions.

The State Monument.

Tuesday Governor McSweeney sent the following special message to the two houses of the general assembly:

Gentlemen of the general assembly: Your commission appointed to erect the mounment and markers to South Carolina troops who fought on the historic battlefield of Chickamauga, respectfully advise that the monuments will be erected and ready for unveiling and dedication May 27, 1901.

You are respectfully asked to participate in the ceremonies, which the commission have arranged with regard to the diginity due the great State of South Carolina. Your presence would largely insure such a desired result. The above date, May 27, 1901, has been selected for the unveiling and the detailed arrangements will be announced through the press of the State in due time. Respectfully,

M. B. McSweeney, Governor.

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