

Religious Notes

ON THE RANGE.

Far down the reaches of the broad South-west,
Where prairie grasses yield perennial store,
Cool night winds lull the ranger to his rest
When summer days are o'er.
Beside the tethered horse, near to the herd,
That now reclines in heaped, ungainly fold,
He spreads his blanket; nor forgets a word
His faithful friend will please.
Here, from the open, looking through the dark,
At the low-spreading vast star-pointed dome,
The lights seem closer as he learns to mark
The way that leads him home.
And then he, trusting, sleeps; and earth and sky
Hold man and beast in strengthening embrace,
While all the holy promises on high
Flame softly on his face.
Thus, as he feels recurring nights descend,
The harder comes to live in lone content,
Conscious that thoughts which guide him
To the end
Are stars from heaven sent.

What Is Sin?

Definition of the Word
by Dr. Lyman Abbott

What is sin? It is not mere immaturity and imperfection. It is not rawness or crudeness. A green apple is not the same as an apple with a worm at the core. A small boy is not the same as a wicked man. He may be, and sometimes is, a more uncomfortable companion, but he is not the same. The evil of sin can never be cured by growth. It is something very different from imperfection and immaturity.

Sin is not ignorance, and ignorance is not sin. Ignorance may help to promote sin; sin may produce ignorance; but no mere intellectual error whatever is a sin. Sin is not predicable to the intellect in so far as the intellect can be separated from the rest of the moral nature.

Sin is not good in the making. Mr. Beecher is credited with having said that the only fall is a fall upward. That is not sound philosophy. Every fall is a fall downward. Temptation is good in the making, but sin is not. No man comes to manhood except through temptation. Jesus Christ came through no other course. The bridge, before it can be passed over safely, must be tried and tested. This trial is necessary for its future use, but it is not necessary that the bridge shall break down to make it useful. Sin is not being tempted; it is breaking down under temptation.

Sin is always in the will. The Apostle James defines it as transgression of the law, or, as it might be translated, lawlessness. Sin is lawlessness. We are living in a world of moral order; not mere ignorance of

it, but wilful ignorance of it, the setting of it aside, the discarding and disregarding it. That is always sin. We understand that when we are on the side of moral order. The mother has no doubt that the child sins when the child violates the moral order of the family as embodied in the commands of the mother. We understand that the criminal who sets himself against the moral order of society, as interpreted by the law of the land is a sinner, because he is setting himself against our will and against the moral order as our will interprets it. But any man who discards, violates, disregards or sets himself against the divine order, the moral order that underlies all human government, sins. Sinning is setting one's own will against the divine will. It is said of Jesus Christ, as though it were said by him, Lo! I come to do the will of God. Sin is coming to do, not God's will, but our own will.

Wherever that spirit of the disregard of the moral order enters, it poisons and corrupts. It is an old story. You do not have to go to the Bible for its interpretation. The Greeks understood it. It is the underlying factor of all the tragedy of the world. Disregard of the moral order always brings tragedy. The moral law of the family is love; husband loving wife, wife loving husband; parents loving children, children loving parents. Obey this, and we have heaven on earth. Disregard that moral order of love, let the father be intemperate, let each be greedy, let either be passionate and disregard the interest of others and we have hell on earth.

How Ye Shall Know Them

Short Sermon by the Late
Dr. George H. Hepworth

Ye shall know them by their fruits.
—St. Matthew, vii, 16.

If we wish to get at the man who hides inside of the man and find whether he is well tempered steel or only poor iron, we must listen to his actions rather than his speech.

Talking is a good deal easier than doing, and one naturally paints a fair picture when describing himself. But if you look at the cold facts of a man's daily life you see at a glance whether he is saint or sinner, for deeds have a habit of telling the truth without favoritism.

And it is unsafe to depend on what he called death-bed repentance, which we well enough in its way, because it is better than no repentance at all, but a very poor substitute for an honest life. I do not believe you can have God's approval by simply saying you are sorry for what you have done when the time comes that you can have your own way no longer. It is wiser to look at things in the strong light of common sense, and refuse to do wrong rather than do it and then see that you have made a mistake.

What I call religion, therefore, is rather a serious thing. You cannot do as you please in any such world as this. There is a law which will not be blinked out of sight. Neither can it be bribed to look on you more favorably than on others. Build on sand, and the house falls; build on a rock, and stands. A child once asked me if two and two always make four. I answered "Yes, my son, and if you never forget that fact you will be saved many a regret."

Religion must not be mistaken for a frothy sentimentalism which operates in some magical way to swing the pearly gate wide open. On the contrary it is sturdy, muscular and athletic, giving you in the autumn the result of your labor in the spring and summer. Its purpose is to so educate and develop your soul that you will be happy and contented in whatever planet you find yourself, because you have earned the right to be contented and happy.

Religion is not primarily an emotion, but rather a thought, a conviction, a faith. It is like a bridge which is new to you. You try it doubtfully at first, not knowing whether it will bear your weight or not. But the further you go the more you trust it, and at last you feel sure that it will conduct you to the other shore. There are many things in religion which we do not understand, some which puzzle us very greatly. But the things we see clearly lead us to have confidence even when we cannot see at all. I do not understand the mariner's compass, but experience teaches me to put implicit faith in it even in the storm and tempest.

But some one will remind me that men and women have led the purest lives and still repudiated Christianity. I know of a marble quarry which

would be very valuable were it not for the iron rust which has permeated through it. Nevertheless I have seen several large blocks of marble from that quarry which were as white as December snow. The quarry, however, will not pay for the working.

Christianity is a series of the highest possible thoughts, and we have learned that noble thoughts make noble lives. The thought of God, of immortality, of duty, of obedience to law, are creative thoughts. They cannot enter your guest chamber without making the whole household radiant. The sun shines in every life where these thoughts dwell. The natural fruitage of faith in this is a harvest rich in good grain, and, on the other hand, the natural fruitage of doubt is discontent. The farmer who prefers poor seed to good is not wise, and why should he choose the lesser good rather than the greater?

Religion brings peace, resignation, happiness. Therefore we want it. The Master leads in the smoothest road from earth to heaven. Therefore we follow Him. If religion gives us the grace to live and the grace to die, comfortable in the thought of eternity and reunion, then we call for it as we call for food when we are hungry.—George H. Hepworth.

Trust.
Life's highest, hardest lesson is trust. When we have learned that, blessed are we. Happiness comes when we have what pleases us, but blessedness—finer and deeper than happiness—comes when we rejoice in what we have, being confident that God's goodness is in it all. God never hangs a scarf of cloud up in the sky but he drapes it beautifully; God never strikes a harp amongst the fire-trees with the fingers of the wind, but he does so harmoniously; and a life—God never so places or tunes it but that beautiful and harmonious possibilities are there. Our lesson is to have eyes that see, and ears that hear, and a heart that understands this wonderful working of our God.

The Bright Side.
Any person who sees the whole world going wrong is doubtless looking out from a perverted medium or gazing at some counterfeit. Look not into a muddy pool to see the sun when in all his glory he shines in the sky. Think pleasant thoughts; speak cheerful words; look on the bright side of things. The darkest cloud has a silver lining. "Night brings out the stars." God and the universe want to make you happy.

Ninety per cent of the 128,000,000 people of the Russian empire are farmers.

Nine of the eighty-eight United States senators were born between 1820 and 1830.

New Flag Is to Float Over President's Ship

(Special Letter.)



When next the President steps aboard a vessel, be it steam launch or man-o'-war, pleasure boat or troop ship, there will float from the mast a new flag. Not all new, but so changed that many who have for nearly forty years been familiar with the President's banner will question the ownership of this fine new one which to-day hangs in an office in the navy department, not quite finished.

The design on the flag is not changed excepting the "crest." It really isn't a crest at all, according to heraldry technicalities. The sunburst above the eagle's head in the American coat-of-arms had to have a title, and so "crest" is its designation. But the colors are changed, and, many believe, much for the better. The President's flag, in plain "United States," is the coat-of-arms of the United States on a blue field.

The seal or coat of arms of the United States was adopted by the continental congress June 20, 1782. There was a long discussion over the design, and many of the eminent statesmen of the day presented their ideas of what should figure upon the seal. Finally "Dr. Franklin, Mr. John Adams and Mr. Thomas Jefferson" were appointed a committee to prepare a device for a great seal for the "United States of America."

So many designs of merit were submitted that the committee authorized Jefferson to combine the various ideas in one design, which he tried to do, and on August 10, 1776, presented this compact seal to the congress.

Congress laid it on the table, and it is there yet. May 17, 1777, the committee reported another design, which looked like a cracked Chinese plate on one side and the body of the scrub brush on the other. This is also on the table where it was placed 123 years ago. For three years longer the committee permitted the United States to get along without a seal.

bird of freedom which soars at the main royal to-day when the President takes to the water looks well fed and prosperous, while its "fierce gray eye and bending beak" are nothing like as rapaciously and venomously depicted as in days of old.

The President's flag is a century-old institution, and has practically been in existence ever since there has been a nation. Some ten years ago, when the late President Harrison went up the Atlantic coast on the Dolphin, with the "President's flag" flying at the main, the writers for certain newspapers severely criticised the over a century old custom they had never before observed, probably because latter-day Presidents, up to Harrison's time, had gone boating but lit-



President's Flag With New Crest.

tle, yet it had been the custom up to 1865 for the blue field of the flag, known as the Union Jack, to be placed on the main when the President was aboard the ship, and all other flags were struck till the President left the vessel.

Congress has never legislated on the President's flag. It was established arbitrarily by the Secretary of the Navy, and presumably the changes made in the device upon the always blue field have been made at the suggestion of the President.

The President's flag is used only at sea, and the last time it was used was on a recent visit to Annapolis.

Victor Emanuel and His Father.
Victor Emanuel III. of Italy is curiously the reverse of all that his father was. Humbert was a very ugly man; his irregular features possessed a sort

THE GREAT SEAL.



(Obverse.)



(Reverse.)

Then a new committee was appointed, consisting of Henry Middleton, Elias Boudinot and Edward Rutledge, who, in April, 1782, undertook to provide a design. They copied the old ideas, and the design submitted by them May 9, 1782, lies on the table with the others. Congress then referred the matter of a seal to its secretary, Charles Thompson, who got a Mr. William Barton of Philadelphia to help him design a seal. Its insignificance was complicated, and it followed the others on to the pile of tabled devices.

Mr. Barton of Philadelphia then produced another design, which is much like the one finally adopted, but it eschewed a glory, or, breaking did not suit congress. Messrs. Middleton, Boudinot and Rutledge in some way appeared as a committee again June 13, 1782, and reported Mr. Barton's device with some modification. It was referred to the secretary of the United States, and June 28, 1782, the secretary of congress, to whom was referred the several reports of committees on the device of a great seal, reported the following, which was adopted, and is the same to-day



First President's Flag.

that it was a century and nearly a quarter ago:

"Arms—Paleways of thirteen pieces, argent and gules; a chief, azure; the escutcheon on the breast of the American eagle displayed proper, holding in his dexter talon an olive branch, and in his sinister a bundle of thirteen arrows, all proper, and in his beak a scroll, inscribed with this motto, 'E Pluribus Unum.'"

"For the crest—Over the head of the eagle, which appears above the through a cloud, proper, and surrounding thirteen stars, forming a constellation, argent, on an azure field.

"Reverse—A pyramid unfinished. In the zenith, an eye in a triangle surrounded with a glory proper. Over the eye these words, 'Annuit cœptis.' On the base of the pyramid the numerical letters, MDCCLXXVI, and underneath the following motto: 'Novus ordo seclorum.'"

The eagle of the design adopted by the congress of 1782 is of the lean and hungry type, modeled after strict heraldic ideas, doubtless, but the proud

ABOUT TURIN HOLY SHROUD.

Remarkable Photographs of the Miraculous Winding Sheet.

M. Vignon read a most interesting paper at the last meeting of the Academy of Sciences and exhibited some photographs which he had taken of the winding sheet preserved at Turin and traditionally said to be that of Christ. This winding sheet has on it certain markings printed in a brown color which when photographed give a white imprint, as does a negative when printed from. These markings, therefore, act as a true negative, and M. Vignon has shown by certain and very careful experiments that cloth impregnated with oil and aloes, as was the winding sheet in question, will receive an impression when in contact with ammoniacal vapors such as would be given off from a sweat very rich in urea, as is the case in the sweat of a person dying a lingering and painful death.

Any idea of fraud need not be considered, for no one has touched this winding sheet since 1323, and no painter at that date had the skill to reproduce such an exact drawing. The impression of the head is excellent. The wounds produced by the crown of thorns and the marks of the blood drops are quite obvious. The wound in the side and even the marks of the stripes produced on the back by the flagellation are also quite evident. Each of these stripes has at its end its enlargement such as would be produced by a cord with a ball of lead at the end. It is well known that this form of scourge was employed by the Roman soldiers and such a one has been found at Pompeii. Finally, the marks of the nails in the arms are not in the palm of the hand, but show that the nails were driven through the level of the wrist.

M. Vignon's paper, says the London Lancet, has created an extreme interest both in the scientific and the religious world.

WHERE LIFE BEGINS.

Question That is in Many Respects Unanswerable.

At what point does life begin? So far as regards space or time, the question is unanswerable. Only a few weeks ago it would have been said that in regard to that seemingly essential condition of life temperature we did know pretty nearly a superior and inferior limit. Little of life is there below the freezing or above the boiling point of water, and far above or below these critical points we should expect even germ life to be destroyed, says the London Telegram. When our greatest physicist, in 1871, suggested that seeds of plants might have been borne to this world in a far-distant age, the hypothesis seemed incredible, because the temperature of space, being at least as low as minus 140 degrees Centigrade, would be fatal to life in any form. This is not so. Recently at the Jenner Institute bacteria have been frozen in liquid air and even in liquid hydrogen, and on the application of heat and placed in proper media have germinated. The processes of life were arrested, but the nascent life-energy was not destroyed at 200 degrees Centigrade, say, 360 degrees Fahrenheit of frost. Experiments are now being made to find whether long continuance for months or years in such cold takes away the vitality of these lowest forms of life.

China the Cyclists' Paradise.

The "Velo"—a journal devoted entirely to bicycling and automobilism—publishes some notes from a report addressed by the Italian consul at Tientsin to the foreign office at Rome, from which one learns that the paradise of cycle manufacturers lies in China.

The roads are good, the villages lie far apart, the rich are tired of sedan chairs, the poor are tired of walking, the bicycle is the ideal means of communication and the Chinese are taking to the wheel with a passionate enthusiasm which is rapidly making making the fortunes of the only two bicycle agents in Tientsin, who are selling machines at very nearly their weight in gold.

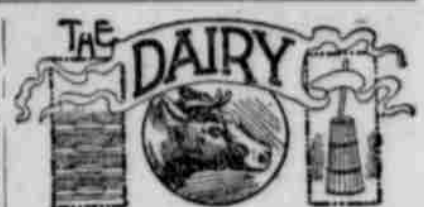
A Favorite of Fortune.

Ian Zachary Malcolm, who will, it is said in a London dispatch, soon marry Miss Jeanne Langtry, daughter of Mrs. Langtry, the actress, has been a member of parliament for the Stowmarket division of Suffolk since 1895. He is now in his thirty-fourth year. He was educated at Eton and Oxford and has seen diplomatic service at Berlin, Paris and St. Petersburg. He was for some time one of Lord Salisbury's private secretaries. He is the son of Colonel Edward Donald Malcolm and was born in Quebec. He is a young man of large means and is a member of several London clubs. It has been said that the fates have much in store for him.

Senator Dryden's Modesty.

Senator Dryden of New Jersey has fully established a reputation for modesty and courtesy since he has been a member of the senate. As the president of one of the greatest life insurance companies in the world and a man of affairs, who is known in the business world as a "hustler," the New Jersey senator might be expected to have a bearing indicative of hurry and importance. The fact is exactly the opposite. Until the doorkeepers of the senate became well acquainted with the New Jersey senator the latter always politely informed them of his identity as he requested the privilege of entering the chamber.

Little things console us because most of our afflictions are little ones.



Tuberculosis a Grave Matter.

The Storrs Experiment Station has been carrying on for a number of years some tests with cows known to be tuberculous. The results are given in bulletin 23, which closes with the following summary:

The development of tuberculosis in the condemned cows, although slow, continued gradually, until at the end of four years three of the four cows were practically worthless, either for milk production or for beef.

The results of experiments with these tuberculous cows and the use of their milk for feeding calves coincide with the general results of European observations, and indicate that the danger of the spread of tuberculosis through the milk of diseased animals is not so great as has often been supposed. In the earlier stages of the disease, and when the udder is not affected, the danger from the use of the milk appears to be limited. But when the udder is affected, or when the disease is so far advanced as to be indicated by outward signs or marked physical symptoms, the infectiousness of the milk is increased, and the danger in using it is greater.

It is not to be understood, however, that the farmer may neglect any case of tuberculosis in his herd that happens to be not in the advanced stages, or if the udder of the cow is not affected. As a matter of fact, it is practically impossible for him to tell when any animal that reacts to tuberculin may acquire tuberculosis of the udder. There is danger enough in the fact that the cows may acquire the disease from one another at all, no matter how likely or unlikely they may be to do so. Therefore, if the farmers do not want their dairy industry menaced and perhaps seriously injured by the wider spread of tuberculosis among their herds, it is of the utmost importance that each one use every effort to free his herd from the disease.

Cows should be examined carefully for physical symptoms of the disease and be tested with tuberculin, and any that respond at all should be looked upon with suspicion. What-ever disposition is finally made of those that are diseased, they should be kept at all times completely separated from those that are not, and the non-affected animals should be carefully watched and be tested with tuberculin at least once a year. Only in this way can new cases be discovered in their earlier stages. Unless the farmers can be brought individually to appreciate the gravity of the matter to themselves and the menace to their industry, and to take measures for destroying the disease in their own herds, the history of bovine tuberculosis in Europe, where in some regions the greater portion of the cows are infected, may easily be repeated in this country.

A Move for Pure Milk.

Pasteurized milk in sealed bottles, prepared and inspected under the direction of the city health department, will be furnished during the summer in the congested districts of the Northwestern University Settlement. Five stations in the Sixteenth and Seventeenth wards will distribute the milk to flat and tenement dwellers at a rate slightly exceeding the price paid for ordinary milk. The first delivery will be made within a week.

By offering cleaned and tested milk to the residents of the crowded Polish district the workers in the university settlement hope to check the enormous death rate among children on the Northwest side during the hot months. The blocks surrounding the settlement, Noble and Augusta streets, were found in the investigation of the City Homes Association two years ago to be among the most thickly settled in the city, and the death rate is double the general Chicago rate of mortality.

The milk will be pasteurized in specially prepared quarters at the settlement, and will be sent out to all the substations each day for distribution. The milk will be inspected twice a week by the city health department. At first the milk will be sold only at the stations.

The health conditions in the Polish district have been such as to urge the workers in the Northwestern University settlement to immediate action. In the crowded neighborhood of the upper Seventeenth ward and the lower Sixteenth, the residents are far from a park or a public playground. Lincoln, Humboldt and Union Parks are all blocks away from the district. None of the new breathing spots are near the crowded quarters of the Poles, and there are no available public baths. The children live in the streets and alleys where grass spots are few. The Northwestern University settlement looks for no financial reward in carrying out this plan, but will furnish good milk, thoroughly cleaned, at actual cost.

Ventilation in the cow stable is a necessity if the health of the animals is to be conserved. Little is known among the generality of cow owners as to the scientific principles of ventilation. The subject is worthy of study, especially by the men that are to construct stables. The men that have stables should investigate with the object of putting in a perfect system of ventilation.