

THE THEOCRAT

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Voliva's Letters to the Chicago Newspapers

Calling their Attention to "Billy" Sunday's Literary Thefts

SPECIAL NOTE TO THE PUBLIC

Thursday Evening, March 14, "Billy" Sunday delivered his (??) celebrated (???) address on "The Home." The "Chicago Herald," the "Chicago Examiner," the "Chicago Tribune," and other Chicago papers, on Friday, March 15, printed numerous paragraphs from this address.

After reading the papers Friday morning, we immediately discovered a rank literary theft from George R. Stuart, and a still ranker literary theft from Dr. Talmage.

We immediately dictated and had written and caused to be delivered to the editors of the different Chicago newspapers the following letters, which we invite the public to read and to read carefully, as they tell the story in the most emphatic way and the evidence ought to be sufficient to convince every honest man and woman.

"Billy" Sunday steals from other men's addresses, delivers the stolen goods to his audience (including hundreds of professed ministers of the Gospel and thousands of professed Christians), palms them off as his own, thus practising the rankest deception, and then the Chicago newspapers print these stolen paragraphs and send them out to the public.

What have we come to in this the Twentieth Century, that a man, posing as a Christian minister, posing as some great one, can come into Chicago, one of the greatest cities in the world, with all of its ministers, churches, schools, colleges, universities, great newspapers (one of them claiming to be the greatest newspaper in the world), and palm off on the people addresses delivered twenty-five, thirty years ago by Ingersoll, Talmage, George R. Stuart, Sam Jones, Rev. David McCaughy, and others and get by with the stuff?

What a sad commentary on the present condition of the churches and affairs in general, when such a thing can be done successfully!

Office of
WILBUR GLENN VOLIVA, GENERAL OVERSEER
OF THE CHRISTIAN CATHOLIC APOSTOLIC
CHURCH IN ZION
Administration Building
Zion City, Illinois

March 15, 1918.

To The Editor of THE CHICAGO HERALD,
Chicago, Illinois.

Dear Sir:

I am sending to you, by Mr. Croft, a copy of "The Theocrat," dated March 9, 1918; and as soon as the next number is off the press—which will be some time early tomorrow morning—I shall send to you a copy. I respectfully ask that you take the time to read these two numbers.

On Page 5 of your paper of Friday, March 15, 1918, under the heading—"BILLY SUNDAY'S SERMONS YESTERDAY"—there appears the following; which, for the purpose of making an easy comparison, I am having placed in the left-hand column. Then your attention is called to the following quotation, taken from a volume, entitled, "Sermons by George R. Stuart."

"BILLY" SUNDAY:
(See Column 2, Paragraph 3)

"In Genesis, the eighteenth chapter, the nineteenth verse, 'I know him' (speaking of Abraham), God said, 'I know him, and he will command his children and his household after him.' 'And I will be perfectly satisfied if they are as good and on the square like Abraham. 'I know him, for he will command his children and his household after him.'"

"I want you to go with me for a brief time to the most sacred spot in all the world, the one around which clusters more sweet associations and precious memories than any other in the universe—and that is home. The longer I live and the more I visit up and down the land and see the joys and the sorrows and the successes and the failures of men and women, the more I become convinced that the home is one of the greatest problems we have.

HOMES LIKE STREAMS.

"The homes are like streams, pouring forth their current into the great world, and they should be the center of everything that is noble and inspiring.

Now, Mr. Editor, the above ought to be enough to convince you that "Billy" Sunday stole this sermon which you have printed in your paper; but in order that you may have some further proof, your attention is called to the following two paragraphs, taken from the Herald of March 15, 1918, Page 5, Column 2. After reading these two paragraphs, please glance at the right-hand column and read the following:

"BILLY" SUNDAY:

"You walk up and ask ten different men for a definition of home; you get ten different definitions. To one it is love of hearth. To another it is plenty on the table. To another it is plenty to wear. To another it is warmth. To another it is comfort. To another it is intelligence. To another it is devotion. To another it is a regretful goodbye when you go away and greetings with a smile and a kiss when you return. To another it is want, looking out of a cheerless fire, and it is hunger in an empty tray, and the damp air, shivering with curses; no Bible, no Sabbath wave rolls over the threshold, the children are robbers in embryo; obscene songs their lullaby. Every face is a picture of squalor and of want. It is a vestibule to the pit and it is a furnace forging chain.

Quoted from the Volume, entitled, "Sermons by George R. Stuart," Page 49:

THE CHRISTIAN HOME.

Genesis 18:19: "For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the Lord, to do justice and judgment; that the Lord may bring upon Abraham that which He hath spoken of him."

I shall go with you tonight to

THE DEAREST AND MOST SACRED SPOT ON EARTH

to you and me—a spot around which cluster the sweetest associations and the most precious memories.

I shall speak tonight of home. The longer I live, the more I visit from home to home, the more I see of the sorrows and cares, the successes and failures, of this life, the more I am impressed that the home problem is the greatest problem of our civilization. The homes of our country are so many streams pouring themselves into the great current of moral, social, and political life. If the home life is pure, all is pure. The home is the center of everything.

Quoted from Page 154 of book, entitled, "Gems of Truth and Beauty," by Rev. Charles C. Albertson (Copyright, 1888):

WHAT IT MEANS

Home—ask ten different men the meaning of that word and they will give you ten different definitions. To one it means love at the hearth, it means plenty at the table, industry at the workstand, intelligence of the books, devotion at the altar. To him it means a greeting at the door and a smile at the chair.

Ask another man, "What is home?" He will tell you it is want looking out of a cheerless fire grate; meeting hunger in an empty bread tray; the damp air shivering with curses; no Bible on the shelf; no Sabbath wave rolling over that doorsill; children robbers and murderers in embryo; obscene songs their lullaby; every face is a picture of ruin: want in the background, and sin staring from the front. Vestibule of the pit. Furnace for forging everlasting chains.

Now, Mr. Editor, the above proof ought to be sufficient to convince any person that "Billy" Sunday stole this sermon, which you have printed on Page 5 of your paper.

Is not this, with the many other shameless literary thefts of this kind, enough to shock every Christian—yes, every honest man and woman?

How can the ministers and the members of professed Christian churches continue any longer to support this man in his literary thieving and deception? and how can newspaper men who make any claim to truthfulness and honesty continue to parade him before the public?

Trusting that you will give this matter the attention which it deserves, I am

Yours respectfully,
WILBUR GLENN VOLIVA.

"A PATHETIC INCIDENT."



Robert G. Ingersoll delivered a Decoration Day oration at the Academy of Music in New York City, on May 30, 1882.

"Billy" Sunday delivered a Decoration Day address in Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania, May 26, 1912, and this address was reported in the "Daily Times" of Beaver, Pennsylvania, Monday evening, May 27, 1912, under the following headlines:

DAY FOR MEMORY AND FOR TEARS

"Billy" Sunday Preaches Memorial Sermon—Eloquence Shames His Knockers

The paper adds: "They all heard from the lips of Evangelist Sunday what was unanimously declared to be the most eloquent, forceful, and inspiring address that has ever come from the lips of man on a similar occasion in this valley.

"Following the address, a pathetic incident occurred, when an old veteran, enfeebled by age, walking by the aid of crutches, grasped the hand of Mr. Sunday and said, 'It was the best thing I ever heard.'"

The fact of the matter is that "Billy" Sunday stole a large part of the Decoration Day address which he delivered, from Robert G. Ingersoll. He received the words of praise without a blush of shame, knowing full well that he had stolen Ingersoll's address and palmed it off as his own.

The above picture should be a powerful sermon to every honest man and woman in the city of Chicago, and everywhere else.

The attention of all readers is called to the following:

In the "Philadelphia Public Ledger," of February 1, 1915, Sunday is reported to have said, "I never read a line that 'Bob' Ingersoll wrote or spoke, that I know of."

In "The Courier" Jacksonville, Illinois, October 27, 1908, he is reported to have said, "I have read everything that Robert Ingersoll ever spouted from one end of the land to the other, and I have read it carefully."

How does he reconcile the two statements?—One, "I never read a line that 'Bob' Ingersoll wrote or spoke, that I know of;" and the other, "I have read everything that Robert Ingersoll ever spouted from one end of the land to the other, and I have read it carefully."