

PEOPLE'S PULPIT...



Sermon by CHARLES T. RUSSELL, Pastor Brooklyn Tabernacle.

"WHICH IS THE TRUE GOSPEL?"

"I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ" (Romans i, 16).

Portland, Me., Sept. 11.—The International Bible Students Convention is in session here with an excellent attendance and deep interest manifested.

Three weeks ago today Christendom was startled by a communication which announced that the Christian Alliance had lifted a collection of \$300,000 in a few minutes—\$300 in cash, the balance in promises.

Secular editors were astonished! They had been congratulating Christian people that the days of the rack, the thumb screw and the stake were past and that from every quarter were coming appeals for Christian Union.

Explanations Surely in Order. Since Brother Simpson may not care to tell the whole truth about the matter and since the Christian public is interested and ought to know the facts, I must tell them.

There are two reasons why Brother Simpson thought it doubtful if he could come next year following our three days of this year.

(1) He knew instinctively that his collections would be smaller, hardly worth coming for.

(2) The \$300,000 "raised" was not cash and a large proportion of it never will be. Some of it is promised over and over again and telegraphed over and over, as was the case with the young woman who in the spectacular manner offered her jewels from time to time and had it mentioned in the papers.

Chicago Stockyard Method. This same method is illustrated in the Chicago Stock Yards. A fine, large, trained bull gallops out to meet the cattle designed for slaughter.

We do not mean to say that those who give their money are slaughtered or otherwise injured. We believe that they are blessed—that everyone is blessed who sacrifices anything heartily unto the Lord, or to what they suppose to be his service, whether it is or not.

"The Darkness Hateth the Light." Some one may inquire why the Christian Alliance should fear us and whether or not we have ever done them harm. We reply, never have we injured them in the slightest degree, nor ever even publicly mentioned their name before.

work is to proclaim the true Gospel—to invite Christian people to Bible study in the light of the Bible's own testimony and without sectarian spectacles, which, in the past, have so distorted the Word of God and set it forth in false colors.

As Christian people come to see the grossness of the errors by which they have been blinded, the light not only has a blessed and transforming effect upon their minds, but it influences their pocketbooks also.

Let the Truth Prevail. If the intelligent men connected with the Alliance really believe the horrible nightmare of the Dark Ages which they are proclaiming as the Gospel of Christ, then, of course, they are excusable for preaching it.

Everybody knows that the word Gospel signifies "good tidings." And everybody ought to know that, as Christian people, we have for centuries misused the word, applying it to the bad tidings of great misery to all people, except the mere handful of the elect.

Which is the True Gospel? Catholic and Protestant orthodox have set forth for centuries two general views of the Gospel of Christ. To whatever extent they now disagree with these they should publicly disown and abandon them.

Our Protestant Gospel. Of which we are so proud that we want to thrust it upon Jews and Catholics and heathens everywhere, we should thoroughly understand, enjoy and appreciate before we waste good time and money giving it to others.

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of millions of mankind that we and our fathers for centuries supposed were in Purgatory roasting, stewing, tortured, but hoping for heaven. They looked at one another in consternation. They had heres and sympathies and felt that as it had devolved upon them to smash Purgatory, it must also devolve upon them to relocate all those thousands of millions whom they had on their hands. They felt the weight of the responsibility. Could they de-



Mrs. Ida Von Clausen, the statuesque woman who has filed a suit for \$1,000,000 damages against former President Roosevelt and others, and whose enforced demand for money with physical violence at the United States Mortgage & Trust Company in New York recently, before visiting the company officers, Mrs. Von Clausen telephoned several newspaper offices, stating that "something will come off shortly" and to watch close.

mand of God that they should be put into heaven? Surely not! Surely only the saintly few are fit for heaven! They, as well as all, recognized that fact. Then, with blank consternation, they determined that they must crowd the entire mass into a hell of eternal torture and shut the gates upon them forever and write upon the gates, "Who enters here abandons hope."

Brother Calvin to the Rescue. Taking from practically all humanity all future hope made the Reformers for the time heartsick. It would be awful to do that for one person, but to thus "do" all humanity seemed terrible. And then to be obliged to label that gospel "Good Tidings" must certainly have been a trying experience for the Reformers.

But Brother John Calvin helped them amazingly and took from them their burden. He told them that they should not worry, because it was all God's fault and not theirs. God had predestinated them to that awful future long before he created man. Now they should merely try to think of themselves as the "elect" and try to forget everybody else.

Good Tidings of Great Joy. Surely no sane person can any longer defend any of the above "Gospels" as the true one, of which St. Paul was not ashamed! Surely St. Paul never preached any of those Gospels, nor did any of the Apostles—nor does the Bible support such theories, except by the turning and twisting of language, misinterpretations of the original and misinterpretations of some parables.

The Bible teaches that "the wages of sin is death," not Purgatory or eternal torment. "The soul that sinneth, it shall die." Adam, the perfect, was placed on trial for life eternal or death eternal. He sinned and the sentence against him was, "Cursed is the earth for thy sake; thorns and thistles shall it bring forth unto thee. In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread"

the money was refused. Mrs. Von Clausen, walked over to the desk of Cadwert Brewer, first vice-president and knocked him down. Second vice President Carl G. Busman came to his assistance and was also promptly knocked down. She made a pass at Treasurer Joseph Adams, which he cleverly sidestepped. She was finally benumbed in and overpowered. Then she took her departure, none of the officers caring to cause her arrest. She says she will repeat the medicine if she doesn't get her \$500,000.

unt thou return unto the ground from whence thou wast taken" (Genesis iii, 17-19). St. Paul declares the same: "By one man's disobedience sin entered into the world; and thus death passed upon all men, because all are sinners" (Romans v, 12).

Looking about us we find this true. Everybody who is not dead is dying. As the Bible says, we are living under a reign of Sin and Death. Nothing that man can do can either eradicate sin or lift us out of our dead and dying condition. God alone can help us! He proposes to help us and the message respecting that help is, in the Scriptures, called the Gospel. Its announcement by the angels on the night of Jesus' birth is full, complete, satisfactory, viz: "Behold, we bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be unto all people; for unto you is born this day in the City of David a Savior (life-giver), which is Christ the Lord" (Luke ii, 10).

Ah, now we have the Truth! The penalty of sin is death. And the "good tidings" is that God has provided for our recovery from sin and death. The Savior gave his life for the cancellation of our sin, for the satisfaction of Justice, that in due time Adam and all his condemned and imperfect race might be released from the condemnation and be lifted out of the sin and death conditions which now prevail. That uplifting is Scripturally called the resurrection of the dead. Hence the preaching of the early Church was, "Jesus and the Resurrection"—the Redeemer and his work.

Still More Good Tidings. The good tidings for the race in general is that the Redeemer in God's due time will become King of kings and Lord of lords—the Messiah of glory, God's glorious Representative. For a thousand years the regenerating work for Adam's race will progress (Matthew xix, 28; Acts iii, 19-20). God's Chosen People, Israel, will be the earthly agents of the heavenly and invisible King of glory. By the close of his reign the whole earth will have been transformed into the Paradise of God. "He will make the place of his feet glorious." And mankind will all be perfect again, in God's image. There will be no more sin, no more sickness, no more dying, because all the things of sin and death will have passed away and he who sits upon the Throne will have renewed all things (Revelation xxi, 5). All who, after coming to a full knowledge of the Truth of God's love and gracious provision, will have sin and hate righteousness, will be destroyed in the Second Death, from which there will be no redemption, no resurrection, no recovery; as St. Peter says, "They shall perish like brute beasts."

HONEST ABE HITS.

Faithful Carrier Leaves Rhythms on His Rounds.

A CORKER FOR A HAPPY PAIR

Consolation Stanzas For Amanda Johnson, a Shattered Heart of Michigan—Butter For Verses Touching the Birth of Little Moses Stebbins.

By M. QUAD. (Copyright, 1910, by Associated Literary Press.)

"A BE," said Farmer Beecher as I stopped at his gate the other morning to hand him a letter, "you are a bum poet!" "Farmer Beecher," said I in reply, "you are an infernal liar!" "If you are any sort of a poet why don't you get down and come in?" "What for?" "Because Hattie and Jim Snow were married by rapid transit yesterday."



MATTIE IN THE CREEK.

after telling them that they ought to be sent to jail for a year I sat down and dashed off the following lament: FOR BRIDE AND GROOM.

For two long years the two had loved— Jim Snow and Hattie Beecher— But sorrow came—they could not send And fetch the Baptist preacher.

Jim had the measles, and his love The whooping cough it took her, Jim sprouted with the chicken pox, And Hattie's ague shook her.

Then Jimmy off a haystack fell, And his right leg was busted, And Hattie tumbled in the creek Because a plank was busted.

When Jim could limp upon that leg He broke his arm a-morning, And later on his own true love Seemed in consumption going.

But 't'other day all things were right— No broken bones to stop 'em; No falling down the cellar stairs; No kicking cow to drop 'em.

They telephoned the preacher, and The preacher he came speeding, And twenty minutes later he Was pulling off a wedding.

"It's a corker," said Jim when I had read it. "It can't be beat," said Hattie. "Abe's a poet and I'm a liar," added the father, and then we had some old cider and sweet cake and were happy all around.

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"And after about a year, Abe?" "You can bet your bottom dollar, Mrs. Johnson." "Bless you, Abe—bless you!" Butter For Three Stanzas.

I was about to drive past the house of Farmer Stebbins when I caught sight of him trying to dodge me. I therefore got down and faced him and told him to tell me all if he wanted to escape broken bones.

The Real Winners of Lawsuits. Peter McKenzie, the last of the old Hudson bay factors, had always a great hatred and fear of lawsuits.

A Poem of Sorrow. I heard that something sorrowful had happened at Farmer Johnson's before I got down there and was prepared to see his wife at the gate with her apron at her eye.

He saved the pine and saved the oak And saved the basswood tree, And as he sawed he thought of her And whistled merry tunes.

Three times a week his letters came. Each letter bristled with love; He called her duck and dear and kid; He called her his white dove.

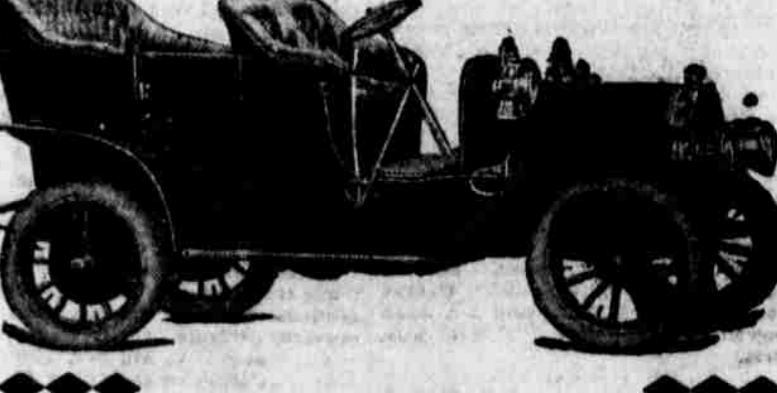
He wanted to wed her, But couldn't do it till He'd sawed the pines of Mich-I-gan And shut up that old mill.

And so Amanda, true as steel, Went west to be a bride And bring him joy forevermore And linger by his side.

courts and the supreme court. Smith was thus finally awarded, after seven years of litigation, \$500,000. "When Smith heard the glad news he sped to his lawyers.

A Yorkshire Plaster. A friend on a visit to Yorkshire caught a chill and was confined to bed. His hostess thought to give her sick visitor a treat during his confinement, so she baked a Yorkshire pudding and took it upstairs.

Why She Hesitated. "You should persuade your husband to stop smoking," said one woman. "But," replied the other, "I depend on the tobacco coupons he gives me through the year to get him a Christmas present."—Washington Star.



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