CATHOLIC CHURCH ST. PETER'S KEYS

Pastor Russell Claims to be a True Catholic.

The Catholic Church—Its Divine Foundation—Apostolic Authority—St. Peter's Keys—How He Used Them—How Keys of Kingdom—What Power and Authority Given Apostles—May Sins Be Absolved; if So, by Whom?—Pastor Says He Is Nobody's Foe.

Atlanta, Ga., March 21.—Of Pastor Russell's two discourses here to-day we report the one on Matthew 16:18, 19, "Upon this rock will I build My Church; and the gates of Hell (Hades, the grave) shall not prevail against it. And I will give unto thee the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven." The Pastor said in part:

For some unaccountable reason numerous Catholics have gotten the thought that I am their foe, just as Presbyterians, Methodists, Episcopalians, Baptists, etc., have gotten the impression that I am their foe. I am a foe to no human being, and especially to no Christian. I believe more fully than do Methodists in Free Grace—that ultimately God's grace will reach every human being. I believe more emphatically than do most Presbyterians that the Church is an especially elect class, and is now being gathered out of the world to be God's agents in the ultimate blessing of all the non-elect. I believe with Baptists that only the Elect, the immersed, will constitute the Kingdom of God, although I deny their claim that baptism in water is the real immersion. I hold, with the Apostle, that it is baptism into Christ's death. Similarly I hold to the great Catholic doctrine that there is only one true Church, founded by the Lord Jesus Christ through His Apostles, nearly nineteen centuries ago.

I am aware that several churches claim to be Catholic—the Anglican Catholic, the Syrian Catholic, the Greek Catholic, and the Roman Catholic. Each claims to be the true Church and reprobates the others as heretical. But I take the still broader, catholic ground. I hold that the word catholic means general; and that any limitation, such as Roman Catholic, Greek Catholic, etc., to that extent denies their catholicity. Perhaps, therefore, I am really saying that I am more catholic than any of these brethren.

I must prove my point or be misunderstood. I hold, and few, if any, will dispute it, that the one catholic or universal or general Church of Christ is the one mentioned in the Bible—"the Church of the Firstborns, written in Heaven." If this be admitted, my next proposition is that the Lord in Heaven records as members of His true Church all the saintly—whether Roman Catholics, Anglican Catholics, Greek Catholics, Baptists, Methodists, Presbyterians, etc.—and none others.

Have we not here the one Church, the Catholic Church, the universal, the only Church which the Bible recognizes? In the past we have been too narrow and have supposed that God was as narrow as ourselves. It was on this account that in the past Presbyterians, Roman Catholics, Anglicans, Baptists and Methodists persecuted and were persecuted, because each thought itself the true Church. Are we not all getting broader conceptions of our God and of His Church? Do we not see that a part of our mistake was in calling the outward organization the Church of Christ, instead of remembering that the Lord alone writes the names of the Church, that He alone reads the hearts, that He alone is the Judge, and that He alone has the right to blot out the names of those who become reprobates?

St. Paul wrote against the spirit of sectarianism, already manifest in his day—some saying, "I am of Paul"; others, "I am of Peter"; etc. The Apostle asks, "Is Christ divided?" (1 Corinthians 1:10-13.) So to-day, if with us, he would ask, Why Romanists, Anglicans, Baptists, Methodists, etc.? Is not the name of Christ enough? He explains that these different names of old signified a sectarian spirit, the spirit of division, that failed to recognize the true Head of the Church, His true representatives and His true members. The trouble is the same to-day. The entire foundation of divided Christianity would disappear and all the true Church of Christ—all real saints—would be speedily manifest, if true catholicity were acknowledged.

The one great obstacle to unity is the erroneous doctrine respecting the eternal torture of all not members of the Church. We must open our eyes wider and see that many of our theories were not taught by Jesus and the Apostles. We must see that the Church is a comparatively small company of saintly footstep followers of Jesus, irrespective of sectarian lines; that the Bible teaches not that these are to look over the battlements of Heaven to all eternity and see all others in torment, but that they are to demonstrate their loyalty unto death and in due time be associated with Messiah in His great Millennial Kingdom, which will bring knowledge and opportunity to all the families of the earth—the living and the dead.

St. Paul declared that the saints of God, the true catholic Church, "are built upon the foundation of the Apostles and Prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the Chief Corner Stone." (Ephesians 2:20.) The Twelve Apostles are here referred to in their double office—Apostles especially commissioned by the Lord as His representatives, and Prophets, mouthpieces, for the proclamation of the Message to the Church. Jesus, referring to these same foundation stones, pictures the Church of Glory as the New Jerusalem, and its twelve foundations as twelve precious stones, in which are the names of the twelve Apostles of the Lamb—no more, no less—St. Paul being God's choice to take the place of Judas, the betrayer.

To think of St. Peter as the only foundation for the Church would be to deny Christ's teaching and St. Peter's own statement—that the entire Church is symbolically represented as living stones built together by the Lord through the Holy Spirit. (1 Peter 2:4-6.) It was a costly mistake when our forefathers, overlooking this well-established point of Scripture, thought of the bishops of the Church as Apostolic Bishops, and took their decisions in councils assembled as the voice of God to and through the Church. The voice of God to and through the Church came only through "the twelve Apostles of the Lamb." All others so claiming are denounced by Jesus Himself as pseudo-Apostles—false Apostles.—Revelation 2:2.

God's true saints of all denominations should ignore all human creeds and return to the Bible and its declaration of "one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all." (Ephesians 4:5, 6.) Are we more loyal to human organizations than to God, His Truth, His Church—all saints and one people, imbued with one spirit, the world around—the catholic Church?

As St. Peter was only one of the twelve foundation stones of the Church, so, likewise, he was only one of The Twelve to whom the Lord declared, "Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in Heaven; and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in Heaven" (Matthew 18:18—the same statement exactly that on another occasion He made to St. Peter only. But He gave the keys to St. Peter alone.

Would it seem reasonable that Jesus should tell the twelve Apostles that God would do anything that they bade Him do—taking to Heaven whom they pleased and excluding whom they chose? Would it be wise or safe to entrust to poor humanity such dictatorial powers respecting the eternal interest of even one individual? Assuredly not! When we remember that these Apostles declared that they were men of like passions with others, that St. Peter himself dissembled on one occasion and on another denied his Master, we are the more convinced that Jesus did not mean that God would abdicate His authority and wisdom in favor of any twelve men.

What, then, does the passage mean? We answer, It implies that the Lord would so overrule the utterances and writings of His twelve Apostles as to make them safe guides for His Church. To these Apostles would be given through the Holy Spirit at Pentecost wisdom enabling them to understand which things of the Jewish Law were binding upon the Church and which not binding. Their decision would be absolutely right, and the entire Church might have confidence that what the Apostles bound or loosed on earth was equally bound or loosed in Heaven. As an illustration of this binding and loosing, see Acts 15:28, 29.

To get back into proper relationship with each other and rid of all sectarian systems, God's people must recognize that only the words of the New Testament Apostles and Prophets are authoritative; properly representing the Divine mind. Other things men have bound and loosed on earth, without recognition in Heaven. The things necessary to the Church are found only in the Bible, as St. Paul declares.—2 Timothy 3:16, 17.

"Other Foundation can no man lay than that which is laid, Jesus Christ." (1 Corinthians 3:11.) In the Divine arrangement Jesus Christ is the Foundation, the Rock, upon which is built the entire superstructure of His Church—the one Catholic, world-wide Church. On this Rock, Christ Jesus, as St. Peter declares, all the Church is being built as a Temple of God. (1 Peter 2:4-10.) The New Jerusalem, the Church in glory, had twelve foundation stones, built upon the one Foundation Rock, the Lord Jesus Christ. It would manifestly be erroneous, therefore, to suppose that our Lord abdicated His own place in the Church in favor of St. Peter, much as He loved him.

What, then, did Jesus mean when He called St. Peter a stone, spoke of building His Church upon "this rock," and declared that the gates of Hell (Hades, the grave) would not prevail against it? We reply, Jesus went down into the prison-house of death, Sheol, Hades, the tomb; but on the third day the gates of Sheol, Hades, were opened, and He came forth. These gates will not prevail against the Church, as they did not prevail against her Lord. This is an assurance of the resurrection of the dead.

To understand St. Peter's connection with the Rock Foundation of the Church, we should read the preceding context. The disciples had told Jesus the common talk respecting Himself. He then asked them, "Who say ye that I am?" St. Peter answered, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God." This was the first public declaration of Jesus' Messiahship. Even the disciples had only now come to recognize their Teacher as the long-promised Messiah. Jesus answered, "Blessed art thou, Simon, son of Jonas; for flesh and blood hath not revealed this unto thee, but My Father in Heaven. Thou art Peter (a stone, ready for the spiritual Temple, the first one to publicly acknowledged Jesus), and upon this rock (the Truth just declared, that I am Messiah) I will build My Church."

In the Greek the word Peter signifies a stone of moderate size, while the word here rendered rock signifies a mass of stone—a foundation. Our Lord Jesus Christ evidently meant that St. Peter's statement was a recognition of Himself as the great Foundation of the Divine Plan—Messiah. Upon that foundation truth, that Jesus is Christ, the Church would be built; and St. Peter was the first living stone to build himself upon that foundation by believing and confessing Christ. St. Peter himself gives us the same thought—that he and all others of the Church are living stones, being builded together as a holy Temple of God. This entire Gospel Age has been devoted to the building of these stones upon that great Foundation Rock, Christ Jesus. As soon as the great Temple of God shall be completed, this Gospel Age will end and the New Dispensation be inaugurated.

To St. Peter our Lord said, "I will give thee the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven." What did He mean? We shall not suppose that any who hear my voice or are sufficiently intelligent to read this discourse in the newspapers are stupid enough to think Jesus meant that Heaven is locked up, and that nobody could get in except as St. Peter would open the door or gate. True, some have voiced such fantastic notions. But we refuse to believe that intelligent people could be in earnest in any such view.

What the Lord meant is very simple, very beautiful; and we see exactly how it was fulfilled. He indicated that St. Peter, the first to confess Him, was to have a special honor in connection with the inauguration of the Church on earth. By the expression, "Kingdom of Heaven," is meant the Church, a class being called out of the world to become with Christ the ruling power of the world during the Millennium, through the great resurrection "change." See 1 Corinthians 15:42, 54.

Jesus meant that St. Peter would be honored in being permitted to do an opening work in connection with the Church. The Bible shows us two different opening works and two different keys. The key is a symbol of power or authority or an initiative. St. Peter used his first key of privilege on the day of Pentecost. When the Holy Spirit came upon the early waiting Church, it was St. Peter that used this key. Standing up with the eleven, he lifted up his voice, explained the situation and opened the door to the Church of Christ for the Jews, admonishing them of their opportunity to enter. He told of the merit of Christ's death and how He had risen and had ascended on High, and how forgiveness of sins was, therefore, preached in His name.—Acts 2:14-36.

The second key to the Kingdom of Heaven—the Church, the embryo Kingdom preparing for glory—St. Peter used three and a half years later. Then the seventieth week of Divine favor prophetically appointed to the Jews expired, and the time came that "the Gentiles might be fellow-heirs with the Jews of the same Promise." The opening work was with the household of Cornelius, to whom St. Peter preached Christ. The Lord blessed the preaching and granted the Holy Spirit to Cornelius and his family. Thus the Gentile door into the Kingdom was thrown wide open.—Acts 10.

"That repentance and remission of sins might be preached in His name to all people" (Luke 24:47). God never gave power to bishops, priests or ministers of any denomination to forgive sins. "Who can forgive sins but God alone?" Nor did Jesus give authority to His Apostles to forgive sins. They might preach repentance and forgiveness, but only in His name. Any child of God is Scripturally authorized to declare that Christ died for human sin, and has thus made arrangement by which all repentant sinners may be forgiven. It is an honor to be the bearer of such a Message from God to men; and every child of God is fully commissioned to tell the Divine Message to all who will hear.

In proportion as God's people throw away their sectarian spectacles they can read God's Message in the words of Jesus and the Apostles. Let us hold fast the precious Word which Jesus exhorted us to search and which is sufficient that the man of God may be thoroughly furnished. Let us remember that there is only one true Church, each member of which is a saint, related to God and the Lord Jesus Christ through faith, repentance and remission of sin and the begetting of the Holy Spirit; that it is the only Church that is catholic, universal; and that a member of the Body of Christ is a member of that Body anywhere. "Now are ye the Body of Christ, and members in particular."—1 Corinthians 12:27.

FREE FOR THE ASKING.

Regardless of what Church you do or do not belong to, a post-card request to Bible Students, 17 Hicks St., Brooklyn, N.Y., will bring you by return mail, free of charge, a masterful article under the caption, "Church of the Living God." (1 Timothy 3:15.) St. John, St. Peter and the other Apostles, as well as true Christians of all the intervening centuries to the present, have belonged to this Church, the one true Catholic Church, which St. Paul also designated "the Church of the Firstborns, which are written in heaven."—Hebrews 12:23.

Not a Cinch.

"I should think you would work, instead of begging for your living."

"I do, mum."

"You do? Then why are you asking me for money?"

"That's my profession, mum. But if you knew how hard it is to pry a dime out of some folks you'd never accuse me of not working."

Sinclair's Silk Sale Is Now On

Regular $1.00 and $1.25 Dress Silks for only 75c yard
Regular 50c Shan-tung Dress Silks for only - 33c yard

This is the week of our big Dress Silk Sale. This week we offer your choice of Several Thousand yards of black and colored Dress Silks in Pailettes, Messalines and Silk Stripe Voiles, in Plain Colors also Fancy Stripes and Brocades, our regular $1.00 and $1.25 yard wide and 42 inch Dress Silks for only 75c yard

With these Colored Dress Silks we also place on sale, one bale of one thousand yards of 34 inch Natural Shan-tung Silk, regular 50c quality, on sale this week for only 33c a yard.

Never have we shown such variety as may now be seen in the Ladies' Wear Department of our store, of Ladies' and Misses' Spring Suits. These are shown in all the Newest Weaves of Cloths, in Black, Navy, Belgian Blue, Putty and Sand Shades, and are shown at every price from $13 50 to $29.50

Sinclair's — See Our Display of **Ladies' Easter Waists** — Sinclair's

WE'RE GLAD WE'RE BRITISH

WRITTEN FOR THE ONTARIO BY J. H KENNEDY, ALLISONVILLE

During the past six months of horrible war, while the great armies of six nations aided by the most modern life destroying machinery, have engaged in the awful struggle; 'mid sad leave-takings and sadder still the lists of casualties, out of the darkness of it all, there has been one ray of light, one ever growing consolation. We are glad we are British. England is stronger than she knew and stronger than the world knew. Today three millions of her sons are under arms, mind you voluntarily, to fight to the bitter end for the privilege of living under the "Union Jack"

Perhaps nothing could have so genuinely bound the Empire together as has the present awful war. Men, money, yes and faith too, have the various colonies and dominions contributed to the common cause, and, Providence be thanked the end of our resources is not even in sight. But we are sharing the risk, we are sharing the sorrow, we will share the victory together and "we are glad we are Britsh."

We all understood from the start of hostilities the cause that had led up to the declaration of war by Germany. The constant menace of France as a Republic, to the head of the house of Hohenzollern and the growing feeling in Germany that the military party should either justify itself or cease to call for such expenditures for military purposes.

In other words, owing to high taxation, German militarism had reached the topmost notch, so to speak, and seized the opportunity of the Austro-Servian incident as an excuse to test the efficiency of their highly perfected war machine and—does any one now doubt the fact—by a bold swift move place Belgium and France under the rule of Germany.

Looking back now we wonder that they did not succeed, and we marvel much at the heroism and devotion of the intrepid Belgians and their noble king, who held at bay, until France and later, England, could mobilize, that vast Germany army of invaders, and then fell back broken and bleeding, unable to save themselves, yet still able to save their neighbors.

We understand all these things now fully as well as if from the outset Germany had declared her intentions of annexing all captured territory and we would have thought just the same of the German Emperor had he issued an order similar to that issued by Frederick the Great on starting on the conquest of Silesia' "Strike from our banners," said Frederick "the words 'For God' and let the words 'For Country' remain."

But what we do not understand is the brutal treatment of the people in the territory overrun by the Germans. We had always thought better of the German people. We had placed them among the foremost in matters of education, of high sentiments, and of morals, and we find them lacking in all these things.

Their methods of warfare are positively barbarous and brutal and proved from a diplomatic point of view, to be terribly blundering.

It seemed to be the object of the German soldiers to ill treat and abuse—yes and murder innocent civilians and women and children, that their enemies would be literally scared and on the run continually. Imagine an Englishman or any other kind of man for that matter, running away and leaving his family and home in the possession of a foe. Rather his blood would boil and he would become an enemy more to be dreaded than ever. And such has been the case in fact in Belgium, in France, and in England.

By way of contrast remember our own Kitchener's famous address to the army for service in France.

Among other things he said, "Your temptations will be varied and many, but remember and always conduct yourselves as men and British troops," or words to that effect.

We believed all along that the British standard of true chivalry and nobility has never been surpassed and we are now sure that the deeds of our soldiers of the British Empire, will stand out in glorious contrast against the dark background of German vandalism and brutality. Altogether as we compare the British way with that of the German, we are inclined to speak our thoughts aloud so that all the world may hear, and say "We're glad we're British," and that alone is loyalty and unity of the mightiest kind.

—J. H. K.

Do it Now.—Disorders of the digestive apparatus should be dealt with at once before complications arise that may be difficult to cope with The surest remedy to this end and one that is within reach of all, is Parmelee's Vegetable Pills, the best laxative and sedative on the market. Do not delay, but try them now. One trial will convince anyone that they are agreeable to the most sensitive stomach.

Military Notes

SAW SEVERAL ENGAGEMENTS.

A letter received by Mr. Bruce Tullock from R. W. Felstead, who left this city to join his old regiment at the outbreak of war, reports that he has been through several severe engagements in Northern France, but has so far escaped unharmed and is in excellent health.

The first of this week will see the mobilization of the various detachments of the 39th Battalion at Belleville.

A Recruiting Rally will be held in the Town Hall on Friday, March 26. Rev. C. G. Williams, who was on active service in the British navy for over ten years will give an address that all should hear.—Marmora Herald.

On Monday evening Mr. Robert Hiscock, who has been employed at Deloro for some time and is leaving for England to enlist, was presented with a gold watch and a purse containing $20 together with an address of appreciation. On Sunday, St. Paul's Sunday School presented his sister, Miss Hiscock, with a handsome club bag. Mr. and Miss Hiscock left on Tuesday for Toronto, where they will spend a couple of days before sailing for England.—Marmora Herald.

Yesterday afternoon the Women's Institute served afternoon tea at the home of Mr. F. S. Pearce. The proceeds were in aid of the Red Cross fund and the affair should have been much more largely patronized than it was. The Women's Institute deserve the greatest praise and encouragement in the work which they are doing. The refreshments were delicious and delightful music was provided during the afternoon. The proceeds amounted to a little over $10.00.—Marmora Herald.

All soldiers of the 39th parade tomorrow morning to church at 10.30 for Protestants and 9.30 for Roman Catholics.

The officer on duty tomorrow will be Lieut. L. W. Hopkins and Lieut. G. E. G. Craig.

The 57th Peterboro has 120 men for 39th Battalion, Belleville. The following statistics in regard to the composition of the Peterboro detachment of the 39th Battalion are interesting. Of the 120 men on the roll up to this week 73, or 61 per cent. are English born, 36 or 30 per cent. Canadian born; 5, or 4 per cent. are Irish; 3, or 2 per cent. are Scotch, and the other nationalities are one Welshman, one American, and one Russian. 38 of the men, or 32 per cent. are married. In religion 108 are Protestant; 10 Roman Catholics, and 2 Jewish. Six of the Company are over 40 years of age, twenty-nine between 30 and 40, fifty-nine between 20 and 30, and 26 under 20 years of age.

FAIR WARNING about

YOUR EYES

You CAN abuse them.

You CAN trifle with Nature.

But listen!

You CAN'T handle soft pitch with bare hands without smirching them.

You CAN'T take a diet of poison and expect to live. Can't be done!

You CAN'T see comfortably without glasses if your eyes are defective — the more you try, the more discomfort.

The wearing of scientifically constructed Glasses will end your eye troubles. And we construct them on the premises.

Angus McFee

THE GOVERNMENT AND THE WAR.

It is to be noted that none of the estimated expenditures for 1915 include war items. As a matter of fact the Government have now passed all their estimates for the fiscal year of 1915 and have not secured from the Legislature a single dollar for war purposes. Any money they have spent this year has been obtained under special warrant.

In view of the fact that the Dominion and Imperial Governments did secure big votes from their parliaments for war, it rather confirms an idea which is becoming prevalent that the Ontario Government does not intend to use all the proceeds of the war tax for war purposes.

In spite of the arguments of Mr. Rowell and his colleagues, the Government, led by Mr. Hearst, refused the leader of the Opposition's amendment to the War Tax Bill stating specifically that all the proceeds from this special tax should be applied for war purposes only. The Government did accept one or two Opposition proposals, among them their proposal that exemption of industrial concerns from taxation should not apply in this case. There will be no exemption except statutory ones such as tutions.

Roslin's New Rector

Rev. R. H. Boulteel of Coe Hill has accepted the rectorship of the parish of Roslin, and held his first services throughout the parish on Sunday last.