

SHORT SERMONS.

NO. VIII.

BY A LAY PREACHER.

Now, therefore, let Pharaoh look out a man discreet and wise and set him over the land of Egypt.—Gen. xli. 33.

MY FRIENDS,—You will readily recall the story of the Egyptian King's vision—how he dreamed that seven kine, well-favored and fat-fleshed, came up out of the river and fed in a meadow; and seven other kine, ill-favored and lean-fleshed, came up after them out of the river and did eat them up. He sought among his court counsellors, politicians and magicians, for an interpretation to his dream, some lesson from it, but they could give none. But a servant of the Keeper of the Prison—a man of earnest piety, close observation, good judgment and clear reasoning—was brought before Pharaoh, who showed the King that the vision was a warning by the Spirit of God of an extraordinary prosperity throughout the land during seven years, to be followed by seven years of extreme famine; and he advised the King to "look out a man discreet and wise, and get him over the land of Egypt," with authority to gather the surplus production of the fruitful years while it could be bought cheap, and store it up till the years of the famine, when a double benefit would result to the State—the Treasury would be filled and the people would be saved from starvation, (for population is wealth.) Pharaoh not only saw the economy, but saw, too, that one who had the perception to discover and wisdom to devise so good a remedy for the great evil threatened, and who had experienced the evils of poverty and the weight of toil, would be the right man in the right place; he said to the wise servant: "Forasmuch as God hath shewed thee all this, there is none so discreet and wise as thou art; according unto thy word shall all my people be ruled." And Joseph became head of "the Administration." His success is a historic wonder. The people came to him as the dark days of the second seventh annual drew to a close, saying: "Thou hast saved our lives."

My friends, our politicians prove themselves betimes to be fearful failures in statesmanship. It is not economy for us to divide ourselves up into factions, as they often seek to have us, and spend our time discussing whether the fat kine were red or white, whether the lean kine were or were not heavier after eating up their fat friends. We need good, wise "apprentice laws;" laws shortening the hours of labor on public work and wherever practicable; we need a just and good disposal of our convict labor, putting its results into open market by first hands (Government), so that honest taxpaying workers may get the benefit of cheap production—not having the difference between honest men's work and convict labor go into the pockets of contractors; we need provision securing public lands to actual settlers, and if public enterprises need help, give them the avails of the land only as it is settled; we need—

My friends, the lean cattle will make away with the "well-favored and fat-fleshed," while men who should be protecting them are discussing the "right to legislate" on these questions. Let us follow the wise example of the ancient Monarch. Let us, when we look out our rulers, look out men discreet and wise—men who give proof that they understand that great question which often embarrasses politicians and speculators, "the finances," by paying their debts; proof that they understand the law of supply and demand, by earning their bread before they eat it; proof that they are prepared to build up the State by building up over against their own house; proof that they can sift and settle the weighty matters of the law by the good counsel evolved when God leads them to "think upon these things."

THE ENGLISH PARLIAMENT.

The English Parliament is dissolved by Royal decree. Mr. Gladstone has issued an address to his constituents at Greenwich, asking for re-election, announcing that the Queen had been pleased to accept the advice of her Ministers and to dissolve the present Parliament immediately, and summon a new one to meet on the 5th day of March, 1874. In his address Mr. Gladstone gives as a reason of this measure, that since the defeat of the Government upon the Irish Higher Education question by the concurrent effort of the leader of the Opposition and the Catholic prelate in Ireland, the Government had not been possessed of sufficient authority to carry out great legislative measures; its experience during the recess of Parliament has not indicated that any improvement in its position was probable, the chief of the Opposition having refused to accept office at the defeat of the

Government. The Cabinet feeling that they had not that support which every Ministry ought to enjoy, an appeal to the people was the proper remedy for such a state of things. The advantage of dissolution at this present moment is, that the estimates are so far advanced that the Government is able to promise a surplus of £5,000,000, with which it intends to abolish the income tax, and to relieve local taxation. Among matters likely to come before Parliament are the readjustment of the Educational Act, the improvement of local Government, and of the land, game and liquor laws. The address promises a large measure of relief from duties on articles entering into general consumption, and expresses the hope for the speedy assimilation of the county with the borough franchise.

THE BENGAL FAMINE.

The *Times* holds that it is not possible to read with any attention the successive letters and telegrams from Calcutta without a fearful misgiving that we are on the eve of a terrible and irreparable disaster. There appears to be such a distrust of native statements, as alarmist or interested, that the best heads of the Government are devoting themselves to the task of divesting them of exaggeration. Were it not that we must remember how statesmen at home used to talk about a state of things in Ireland certain one day to break out into a famine, we might suspect a sort of Imperial or Oriental apathy to prevail over our Indian administration. We are quite aware (the *Times* says) that such extraordinary measures as the public storage of grain, public works undertaken not so much for their own sake as to check distribution and economise the store, and, more than all, the prohibition of exports, cannot but have some injurious results. But let it be granted that the prohibition of exports would be a very great evil, even to the extent of permanently menacing that freedom of trade which is the best security against a recurrence of the present disaster. The answer is that the very mischievousness of the remedy to which we are driven will be a standing incentive to legislation. There has always been a widespread feeling in India that dangers from without are imminent, and to be met at once and at any cost, but that internal improvement, and even the cure of internal evils, can afford to wait for a convenient opportunity. If the Government establishes the precedent that millions are to be rescued from famine and death at any cost, any inconvenience to private interest, and any disturbance of trade, then it will find that it has more voices and a stronger opinion in favor of internal improvement than against schemes that look beyond the frontier.

MR. JOSEPH ARCH IN LIVERPOOL.

On Tuesday night Mr. Joseph Arch attended the anniversary of the Liverpool Liberal Working Men's Association. Mr. James Samuelson presided. The meeting was but thinly attended. The Chairman stated that the object of Mr. Arch in visiting Liverpool, namely, to facilitate the passage of his emigrants through that town, had been practically accomplished, and that an influential committee of philanthropic men had been formed to promote that object. The Chairman then moved a resolution welcoming Mr. Arch as the advocate of the suffering farm laborer, and Mr. Pickard, as the friend of the miners, to Liverpool. The resolution was seconded by Mr. Hope, and carried unanimously. Mr. Arch, who was heartily cheered, said that there never was a time in the history of this country when the wealth and labour which produced it required so much sincere and faithful legislation as at present. Alluding to his own movement to aid the farm laborers, and to the sympathy which it had evoked, he said that working men must now study their own interests more seriously than they had ever done before. With regard to strikes, he believed they would soon become things of the past, but never unless working men brought the result about themselves. They must acquire and assert political power, so that the statesmanship of the future might be conducive to the elevation, and not to the depression and humiliation, of the working classes. The present farm-laborers' union would result in something very serious to this country if honest and fair legislation were not brought to bear upon it. Lord Derby had estimated that the lands of England did not produce more than one-half of what they ought. There was in England but one man to every thirty acres of so-called cultivated land. What could one man do to develop the produce of thirty acres? ("Hear, hear," and cheers.) If the farm laborers of England found themselves still left out in the cold by legislation, they would emigrate to other countries where

they could be respected and treated as men. (Cheers.) The Contagious Diseases Act, which a landlord Parliament had passed, was the real cause of dear meat in this country. Landlord legislation was content to see game eating up the land and the peasantry starving upon ten or twelve shillings per week, and only a pauper's grave to look forward to at the last. One essential element of reform for the agricultural districts was that the laborer should have some land to till for himself, and to secure this they must send to Parliament men pledged to demand a Royal Commission for the inspection of land. Mr. Pickard had obtained such an inspection for mines, and he (Mr. Arch) declared that he would have it for the land. The agricultural laborers were willing to pay an honorable and fair rent for the land, and to pay it six months in advance if necessary. They would convert the wilds of England into fruitful fields, but they would knock the rabbits and hares over as hard as they could. (Laughter and cheers.) Mr. Arch denied that the climate of Canada was too cold for the English laborers, and declared that the arrangements which he had made for his emigrants were in all respects satisfactory and hopeful.—Mr. Pickard afterwards addressed the meeting, chiefly in connection with questions affecting the mining interest. He urged all working men to aim at securing a labour representation in the House of Commons.

GERMANY'S REORGANISED ARMY.

A hand-book recently published at Leipzig gives the first complete resume that has appeared of the newly reorganized army of the German Empire. The most important increase in this of late appears, of course, in the cavalry, which can now put twelve complete divisions into the field in place of the six employed during the late war, and independent of the regiments attached to the divisions of infantry. Including Bavaria, there are eighteen army corps in the Empire, of which seventeen (that of Elsass-Lorraine is presumably the exception) have every component element perfectly complete. Each corps has, of course, its divisions, and the most striking change in the method of organization as compared with that in use in 1870 is the far greater independence given to each division, this body being no longer regarded as only a fighting, but a marching unit, with its equipment and other special service complete. There is still, however, a special service of artillery and engineers belonging to the corps headquarters. The number of combatants in the field army is given at 578,000 bayonets, 68,000 sabres, 2,080 guns, and 13,000 engineers; but the ration lists of the army, including train and non-combatants, amount to 347,000 men, with 230,000 horses. These figures are, of course, entirely independent of all the troops of the reserve.

DISRAELI'S ADDRESS.

The Right Hon. Benj. Disraeli, in his address to his constituents in Buckinghamshire, asking re-election to Parliament, says the dissolution of Parliament was not necessary, and was resorted to to avoid the humiliating confession that the Premier has violated constitutional law by persisting for several months in the occupation of a seat to which he was no longer entitled, or else it was to evade the day of reckoning for the war conducted without communication with Parliament. It suffices to point out that if the unprecedented course of summoning and subsequently dissolving Parliament could be justified, there is no reason why it was not adopted six weeks earlier. The Premier has addressed a prolix narrative to his constituents, in which I find nothing definite regarding the policy of the Government, except that it intends to apply a large surplus to the remission of taxation, which would be the course of any party or any Ministry. What is remarkable is the disquieting information that this surplus must be made adequate by adjustment, which must mean an increase in expending the tax. The principal measures of relief promised by Mr. Gladstone are the diminution of local taxation and the abolition of income tax, free measures, which the Conservative party have always favoured, and this Premier and his friends opposed. I will support all the measures for the improvement of the condition of the people, but this end cannot be attained by incessant harassing legislation. The English are governed by customs as much as by laws, and dislike unnecessary interference by meddling administration. It would have been better for the country, if, during the last five years the foreign policy of the Government had been a little more energetic, and its domestic policy a little less so. By an act of folly and ignorance rarely equalled, the Government has relinquished the Treaty granting the freedom of the Straits of Malacca to our commerce, and has involved us in the Ashantee war. Honour requires a vigorous prosecution of the latter, but it will be the duty of Parliament hereafter, to enquire into the origin of the costly and destructive contest. Argument for the extension of the

household suffrage to counties in fallacious, and no one has argued more strongly against the contemplated assimilation of franchise than the Premier. Such a measure will involve the disfranchisement of the smaller boroughs. The impending elections are most important for the future of the kingdom. Though there is reason to hope that the Premier is not at present opposed to national institutions, yet his adherents include the assailants of Monarchy, those opposed to the independence of the House of Lords, and the partisans of Home Rule; some even urge the disestablishment of the English Church. His most trusted colleagues openly concur in the desire to thrust religion from the national education. Mr. Disraeli concludes as follows:—There are solemn issues claiming decision, when Europe is more deeply stirred than since the Reformation, when civil and religious liberty mainly depend upon the strength and stability of England. I ask re-election to resist the impairment of her strength and to support her Imperial sway.

CURRENT EVENTS.

Between 300 and 400 were discharged from the Brooklyn Navy Yard last week. Other discharges will follow.

The friends of John Stuart Mill propose to erect a statue in his honor at the western end of the gardens on the Victoria Embankment.

The hardware factories in England have lately received large orders for hoes to be used in giving employment to the famine-stricken people in India.

Three tons of beads and three hundred pairs of handcuffs are part of a very miscellaneous consignment just shipped in the Elizabeth Martin for the seat of war in West Africa.

Upward of eighty millions of pounds, or forty thousand tons of grain, were delivered by the Erie Railroad at Jersey City during the month of December, 1873, being 112 per cent more than in the corresponding month of 1872.

An enquiring sort of man has been looking into the building of the new water tunnel in Chicago. He found at each of the three shafts five city inspectors superintending the work of seven workmen. The fifteen inspectors were drawing an aggregate of \$90 a day, and the workmen \$42.

The National Agricultural Laborers' Union intend starting a co-operative farm, and a committee has been appointed to examine some 300 acres of land in Warwickshire, which is now in the market.

A young German Prince, the cousin of Prince Louis of Hesse, recently lunched with Queen Victoria, at Osborne. He is in the German naval service, and is a suitor for the hand of the Princess Beatrice, and, it is said, a successful one.

In the Albany House of Legislation, Mr. Wright introduced a bill providing for the incorporation of a company to construct a ship canal around the Niagara falls, the United States Government to endorse the construction to the extent of eighty per cent, of the undertaking, and to reserve the right to regulate its tolls.

It was resolved, at a meeting of the Midland Arbitration Union in Birmingham, that the arbitration of some friendly potentate, such as the King of Holland, be sought, in order to settle the difference between England and Ashantee without further bloodshed. Copies of the resolution were to be sent severally to Mr. Gladstone and Mr. Bright.

A mill has been recently started in England in which flour is made by crushing the grain by small trip hammers instead of grinding it. It claimed that a pounding mill, costing \$1,000, will produce as much flour in the same time as a grinding mill worth \$5,000.

Some of the leading journals of the Dominion observe the Quebec *Budget*, join in the expression of a hope that Hon. Mr. Cartwright will signalize his administration of the Dominion finances by securing the abolition of the odious newspaper tax.

The marriage of the Duke of Edinburgh to the Grand Duchesse Maria was solemnized at one o'clock on the afternoon of the 23rd January. The day was observed as a holiday, and the streets were crowded with people. The festivities in celebration of the event continued several days.

The Russian monitor, *Novgorod*, resembles a huge circular kettle of more than one hundred feet in diameter, and only rises a foot and a half out of water. In its turret are two 11-inch steel guns fitted to a moveable platform. It cost 2,500,000 roubles, and moves at the rate of six and a half knots an hour.

The Pacific Iron Works, San Francisco, are turning out one of the largest pieces of engineering ever made on that coast. The engine is an upright one, and is being made for the Pacific Rolling Mills, to run an additional set of rolls. The cylinder is 30x32, and will weigh about 7,000 pounds. The frame weighs 24,000 the bed plate 26,000, and the fly-wheel 50,000 pounds.

A deputation of workmen, headed by Joseph Arch, waited upon Mr. Gladstone on the 21st January, and urged the propriety of extending the elective franchise to agricultural laborers. Mr. Gladstone expressed himself in favor of their object, but advised them to be patient, pointing out the magnitude and weight of the measure, and the brief duration of Parliament.

Shrewsbury after the Boston fire, the employees of a large firm in that city, of their own motion, proposed a reduction of salaries. Their generous offer was accepted. Last week the partners presented a check of \$10,000, and announced that the salaries had been put back to the old figure.

There is intense feeling in San Francisco about the attempt of the School Board to force negro children into the schools for whites. The laws of California require that negroes shall be educated in separate schools, but a majority of the School Board of San Francisco has decided that such a discrimination is against the spirit and meaning of recent amendments to the Federal Constitution.

The foreign commerce of Philadelphia for the past year has a favorable look. The exports to foreign ports were nearly fifty per cent in excess of those of the year preceding; in other words, the total of \$20,484,003 in 1872, has swollen to \$29,033,186 in 1873—an increase of \$9,148,381. The increase is chiefly attributable to the establishment of direct trade with Europe by steamship, though there is also a noteworthy extension of trade in other directions.

Geo. H. Whalley, member of Parliament, appeared before Lord Chief Justice Cockburn in the Court of Queen's Bench on the 23rd to answer a charge of contempt of court in writing to the press, persisting in the truthfulness of the testimony of Jean Luie on his examination as a witness for the defendant in the Tichborne case. He was adjudged guilty, and sentenced to pay a fine of £250, and be imprisoned until paid. Mr. Whalley refused to pay the fine, and left the court in custody of the officers. There was great excitement in the room when he departed.

A letter from Tabris in the *Mshak*, an Armenian paper published at Tiflis, says that great excitement has been produced there by the execution of Mirza Yussuf Khan, one of the ablest and most popular of the statesmen of Persia. During the famine the Shah directed Yussuf to go to Astrakham to purchase provisions for his starving subjects, at the same time supplying him with a considerable sum of money out of the public treasury for that purpose. Yussuf went to Astrakham, but he only spent a portion of the sum entrusted to him in the purchase of provisions, and kept 16,000 toman for himself, thereby causing the death of thousands of people whom the money might have provided with food. When the Shah returned from his tour in Europe, he at once ordered an enquiry into Yussuf's conduct, and, his guilt having been clearly proved, sentenced him to death.

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TORONTO.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that the Confederation Life Association will apply to the Parliament of Canada, at its next session, for an Act to amend the Act incorporating the Association, by changing the time of holding the Annual Meeting and other amendments.
W. P. HOWLAND, President.
Toronto, Jan. 20th, 1874.

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