

The Weekly Ontario

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 1915.

MINDING OUR OWN BUSINESS.

We congratulate Rev. Dr. Blagrave upon his able presentation of one of the most difficult problems in theology in his sermon,—"What it is to be Saved," a verbatim report of which appears in this week's Ontario. He has given us a reverent and scholarly resume of his views and opinions, which will form a valuable contribution to the discussion now going on.

With the majority of his conclusions we are in thorough accord. They are based on good scriptural authority and good commonsense. Where he has in our estimation, failed to make out a clear case, that result may be largely attributed to the fact that he adheres over closely to traditional lines of thought.

Dr. Blagrave employs very largely the language of mysticism which has been from time immemorial the characteristic language of theology. His conclusions and statements are in several instances hazy, because he employs nebulous expressions, which have not now, and never have had, a well defined meaning.

We can see no more reason for involved and indeterminate conclusions in theology than in matters of business.

What that is needed is courage and directness of method. Separate known facts from what are matters of faith and of speculation and the trouble vanishes. Theology then becomes as clear as chemical formulae.

We maintain that the Christian religion is a reasonable religion, and can best be promoted or defended by an unbiased recognition of what is reasonable.

We require courage to examine critically traditional views and recognise truth as we come to know it. Instead of hunting for reasons to bolster up preconceived opinions it is better to reverse the process, and, by honesty and straightforwardness of purpose, make sure that our opinions coincide with truth. The history of Buddhism and Mohammedanism shows that error may persist for hundreds and thousands of years, but it is none the less error because of its age. If we have been honest and true to our best convictions and have honestly and strenuously endeavored to arrive at the true goal, the Great Critic will scarcely find much fault, even though we sometimes fail to reach correct deductions.

In one of the paragraphs of his sermon Dr. Blagrave says,—"Let it be noted that conviction and belief are far more potent factors in life than any purely intellectual conclusions. Convictions infinitely transcend scientific conclusions" etc.

These statements will scarcely bear examination.

In our issue of October 26th we published a letter from ex-Ald. Robinson in which he proved positively by quotations from the Bible that there was no scriptural authority whatever for belief in a devil and a hell of everlasting torment.

A few days later there appeared a letter from Mr. D. A. Stewart giving an abundance of scriptural quotations to prove that hell and everlasting punishment were only mythical suppositions, but saying nothing about the retention of Satan.

Then in yesterday's issue Mr. T. Rich, evangelist, had a letter in which he established beyond doubt by scriptural quotations that a hell with material fire and eternal torment await lost souls in the hereafter.

We have no doubt that all three gentlemen believe and have a settled conviction that they have reached true conclusions, but if any one of the three is right in his opinions the other two must be wrong.

Belief and conviction can scarcely be put forward as reliable monitors, because they vary with almost every individual.

In previous articles we advanced the proposition that mankind is punished by sin, not for sin. Also that sin is punished inevitably in the present life.

Dr. Blagrave does not seem to have grasped our meaning clearly when he refers to the punishment of sin in this life as being merely physical. We placed no such limitations upon the retribution that overtakes the wrong-doer.

The man suffers more frequently in a spiritual than in a physical sense when he violates moral or divine laws.

Dr. Blagrave speaks of the man with a "deadened conscience" suffering but little here, "hence his awakening, if he persists, is bound to come in the other world." And then he goes on to speak of the condemned soul suffering "such a fierceness of burning torment that it will cry out in the bitterness of sorrow."

In other words Dr. Blagrave expresses his adherence to the doctrine of punishment after death, but he does not make it quite clear to us whether he believes the process to be temporary or eternal.

Has the man with a deadened conscience not suffered?

Suppose that we violate the Ninth commandment and circulate a false and malicious story about our neighbor, and that neighbor hears about it. He feels the wrong and shrinks from us as from a contagious disease. Where there was previously respect and confidence there is now distrust or hatred. We can no longer meet his eye on the level. We have by our own act bred up fear and cowardice in our own heart and bitterness and enmity in his.

If it is the first time we have told a malicious falsehood, and we are normal in our disposition, our conscience is pricked and we suffer an intensity of remorse. But if we disregard or bulldoze conscience and continue the process of repeating our knavish slanders, we inevitably arrive at that "deadened" condition of conscience, where we suffer no longer from any pang on account of our sense of guilt. The liar ends by believing his own lies, but his word is universally discredited and his associates shun him with loathing aversion.

Does the slanderer, the scandalmonger not suffer even though his conscience has become seared?

He does, just as certainly as effect follows cause. The deadened conscience is itself perhaps the most terrible punishment of all.

Crime and punishment grow out of the one stem. "The dice of God are always loaded," are the words of an old Greek motto. Every crime is punished and every virtue rewarded in silence and certainty. The specific stripes may follow long after the offence, but they follow because they are part of it.

We could elaborate these truths with an infinity of detail and illustration, but we presume we have said enough to make our meaning clear. Their correctness cannot be successfully challenged.

We would devote little space in our editorial columns to a discussion of the question of the punishment or the non-punishment of sin after death if that were all that is involved. In opposition to the views expressed in his letter yesterday by Mr. Rich, we regard that question as being one of very small importance. But we do regard the question, or rather fact, of the punishment of sin in the present life as one of supreme importance. The future life will take care of itself if we will but follow the example and teaching of the lowly Nazarene in the life that now is.

The theological problem of eternal punishment has only a borrowed importance when its contemplation obscures the clear vision and prevents our preachers and teachers speaking out to us with trumpet tones to avoid sowing the seeds of sin because we will inevitably reap the consequences of our folly in the present life.

The Ontario has been publicly told since the publication of previous articles that it would do well to mind its own business, or words to that effect, and not be offering advice or admonition where none was wanted or required.

We wish to state that it is very much our business. Church property enjoys exemption from taxes, and for that reason, if for no other, a public journal has the right to give public consideration to affairs pertaining to the church.

The Ontario is a newspaper, not a denominational organ. We have no denominational creeds to exploit, no doctrines to propagate. As a newspaper we devote ourselves to the interests of the general public.

We have the utmost sympathy and goodwill towards all the churches and clergy who labor zealously to make religious work a success. If we have offered suggestions and criticisms it has been done in the most kindly spirit, and with the hope that true Christian work would be promoted and extended, and that the clergy would become a far more potent influence for good in the community.

THE ARMENIAN HORRORS.

The recent discussion in the House of Lords in which Lord Cromer and Lord Bryce took part, emphasized once more the utterly unprecedented horror of the Armenian massacres now in progress. Lord Bryce mentioned, among other incidents, that attested by the Italian Consuls at Trebizond, where official orders having been received from Constantinople for the extermination of the Armenians, many thousands of the unhappy people were crowded into vessels, which were towed into the Black Sea and sunk in deep

water. American observers on the spot have asserted that German Consular representatives have encouraged the horrors; whether this is so or not, it is, of course, the case that Germany is now omnipotent over all questions of Turkish policy, and could stop the massacres by raising her finger.

Lord Bryce gave a heart-piercing account of the circumstances under which the Armenian people are being exterminated as the result of "an absolutely premeditated policy deliberately pursued by the gang now in control of Turkey." It is computed that since May last 800,000 Armenians, men, women and children, have been slain in cold blood in Asia Minor. An ancient Christian nation, as feeble as lambs, as innocent as doves, is being deliberately massacred by the order of Enver Pasha and his fellow-conspirators. In every case the instructions to kill came from Constantinople. There was no outbreak of religious fanaticism. In some provinces, Turkish Governors refused to carry out the orders to slay. They were promptly removed from office. In many cases the Moslem inhabitants sought to protect their Christian neighbors. It was in vain. The wretched people were hunted out and hurried to their doom.

This diabolical destruction of a nation was carried out with cold and methodical thoroughness. On a given day all the vigorous males among the Armenian population would be clapped into goal and there put to death. The old men, and women and children were gathered together and driven into the wilderness, accompanied by an escort of the lowest types of soldiers, frequently goal-birds. No food was provided for them by the Turkish Government. They were robbed by their own escort. Some of the women were stripped naked. Some of the mothers, unable to carry their infant children, dropped and fell exhausted. The dolorous procession marched on to unknown destinations, harassed by robbers and liable to murderous attacks by Kurds. Many of the women were driven mad by their sufferings. The routes of the mournful caravan was marked by a line of corpses. Very few of the wretched people reached their destination, and the plight of those who survived these horrors is pitiful beyond words.

This poignant narrative of the death agony of a nation is based on the statements of eyewitnesses and sufferers, Armenian refugees, who escaped into Caucasian territory, and is vouched for by American missionaries and by British and Russian Consuls. What happened at Trebizond is told by the Italian Consul at that town. One day last spring orders came from Constantinople to the authorities at Trebizond that all the Armenian Christians must be killed. Many of the Moslem inhabitants endeavored to protect their Christian neighbors but their kindly efforts were thwarted by the murderous officials. The whole Armenian population of the town was collected together, driven through the streets, and then placed on board sailing boats in the Black Sea, they were all thrown overboard and drowned. Between 8,000 and 10,000 innocent, unarmed people were disposed of in this barbarous manner in one afternoon.

The House of Lords is a very unemotional assembly, but we are told that it thrilled in every fibre at this story of horrors, compared to which even the atrocities of Abdul Hamid (that "assassin on the throne" as Gladstone called him in righteous anger) pale their ineffectual fires. Eight hundred thousand Armenians done to death since May! It is hardly credible, and yet the awful fact is indisputable. As Lord Bryce truly said, there is not a case in history since the days of Tamerlane where a crime so hideous and so gigantic a scale has been recorded. The ex-Sultan of Turkey is credited with saying that "the way to get rid of the Armenian question is to get rid of the Armenians." That horrible policy has, said Lord Bryce, been carried out far more thoroughly by the present Turkish Government than it ever was by Abdul Hamid.

Lord Cromer spoke with indignation of the callous comments made by Count Reventlow in a German newspaper on the destruction of the Armenian nation. Count Reventlow is true to type. Germany has always turned a deaf ear to the cries of outraged humanity. Bismarck was quite unmoved by the Bulgarian atrocities in 1876-7, and the present Kaiser, soon after the Armenian massacres of 1897, visited Constantinople and clasped the blood-stained hands of Abdul Hamid. Does anyone suppose that the devastators of Belgium will pay any heed to the unutterable woes of the Armenian people? As Lord Cromer pertinently observed, there is an almost incredible irony in the fact that Bulgaria, which was rescued from similar horrors by the eloquence of Gladstone and the armies of Russia less than forty years ago, should choose this very moment to clasp the red hands of the Turkish murderers.

RUDE AWAKENING COMING.

In a recent interview with the New York World's Berlin correspondent, Maximilian Harden, who undoubtedly reflects with accuracy the mental processes of a large section of the German people, complains that Great Britain, France, Russia and Italy, are already defeated, but have not yet realized the fact.

Commenting on this very roseate view of the situation, the World points out to Max Har-

den that some of the most troublesome leaders that military genius has produced have been subjected to this hallucination until the period when the rude awakening arrived, as it will assuredly arrive, for Germany, when Napoleon Bonaparte first went to Italy the Austrian martinet insisted that by all the rules of the game he ought to be in flight, but he was not. Mr. Harden's immortal countryman, Blucher, was greatest in action when he was supposed to have been defeated. It was often said of Gen. Grant that he never knew when he was whipped.

With due respects to Mr. Harden and all other good fighters everywhere, it must be said that nations and men are never whipped until they are conscious of it. So long as the slightest doubt of this subject remains among the Entente Powers, Germany's task is not finished, and conclusions in Berlin based upon theories as to what ought to be are certain to come into collision with what is.

QUEEN VICTORIA AND KAISER WILHELM.

Turning over the leaves of her scrap book the other day, a prominent lady, resident in Ottawa, came across some clippings which she had kept since the closing years of the last century, and which have a peculiar significance at the present time. In one article, lauding Queen Victoria, a paragraph reads:—

"How wondrous watchful she is of her people's interests; yet how wise in the way of peace—rebuking an irascible Kaiser, commending a Transvaal president, appealing to a savage Sultan, in close consultation with her own government, and quick with word of appreciation and thanks to those who serve the nation."

On the opposite page has been pasted the following poem:—

Kaiser Wilhelm.

"You are young, Kaiser Wilhelm," the old man said,
"And your knowledge of music is nil,
And yet you conducted that an ode that you made—
What gave you this wonderful skill?"
"In my childhood," the Kaiser replied with a smile,
"My own little trumpet I'd blow,
And as I continued the practice, I styled myself a musician, you know."

"You are young," said the Sage, "as I mentioned before,
And have never yet been in a fight—
But somehow you lecture your soldiers on war—
Do you think at your age it is right?"
"In my childhood," the Kaiser replied to the Sage,
"I sat on some soldiers of tin,
And the knowledge I gained at that critical stage
Has helped me my lecture to spin."

"You are young," said the Sage, "and your hands are unused
To drawing with pencil and paint,
Yet you knocked off a poster which greatly amused
The public—it seems very quaint."
"As a child," said the Kaiser, "I painted the door
Of my nursery, wasn't art, and green,
And if that wasn't arm, I have never before
Been told so—by artists, I mean."

"You are young," said the Sage, "and the ruling of men
Of course is a difficult task,
Although you are getting on nicely, but when
Will you govern yourself, may I ask?"
"I have answered three questions and that is enough,"
Said the Kaiser, "and if you assail
My rights as a heaven born ruler as stuff
And nonsense, I'll put you in jail."

READY FOR THE RECALL.

[Lines found under the pillow of an American soldier in a hospital during the Civil War.]

I lay me down to sleep, with little thought or care,
Whether my waking find me here or there.
A weary, aching head, that only asks to rest
Unquestioning, upon a faithful breast.
My good right hand forgets its cunning now;
To march the weary march, I know not how.
I am not eager, bold, or strong, all that is past;
I'm ready not to do, but rest at last.
My half day's work is done, and this is all my part,
I give my patient God a patient heart
And grasp His banner still, though all its blue be dim,
The "Stripes" no less than "Stars" tell me of Him.

With His stripes we are healed—Isa. 53:5.
I am . . . the bright and morning star
—Rev. 22:16.
They that turn many to righteousness shall shine as the stars forever—Dan. 12:3.

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"FRUIT-A-TIVES" has been one of the great successes of the century and the sales are enormous, both in Canada and the United States. 50c. a box, 6 for \$2.50, trial size 25c. At all dealers, or sent postpaid on receipt of price by Fruit-a-tives Limited, Ottawa.

Cheese Board.

Cheese on Belleville Board sold on Thursday at 164 (1222 boxes) and 16 3-16 (370 boxes). The factories boarded as follows:—

Shannonville 40
Bronk, 65
MacIsaac, 40
Silver Springs, 30
Union, 50
Bolles, 32
Holloway, 36
Hyland, 50
Sidney, 90
Acme, 40
Wookey, 45
Sidley Town Hall, 80
West Huntingdon, 35
Melrose, 60
Zion, 63
Forbes, 50
East Hastings, 25
Thurlow, 60
Platfield, 25
Mora Valley, 30
Premier, 25
Rosie, 47
King, 40
Mountain View, 50 colored
Pice Grove, 30
Morin, 40
Kingston, 25
Roblin, 29
Stoco, 45
Tweed, 44
Cedar Creek, 75
Wicklow, 110
Codrington, 45
Grafton, 100

Horticultural Society Held Annual Meeting

The Belleville Horticultural Society held its annual meeting Thursday evening in the office of the Secretary-Treasurer, Mr. W. J. Diamond. The financial report was as follows:—

RECEIPTS	
Balance on hand last year	115.91
Legislative grant	95.00
Municipal grant	50.00
Subscriptions	103.00
Interest	3.15
	\$367.06

EXPENDITURE

Amount spent on civic improvement and school grounds	73.12
Periodicals	12.00
Purchase of seeds, bulbs, and plants	120.15
Salaries	25.00
Working expenses	62.44
	\$292.71
Balance in bank	\$ 74.35

Officers were elected as follows:—

Pres.—A. E. Walker
1st Vice—W. R. Vallance
2nd Vice—Harry Wedden
Sec-Treas.—W. J. Diamond

Directors:—
S. J. Wedden
H. J. Clarke
John Harris
Geo. H. Harris
Josie Harris
F. D. Diamond
W. J. Diamond
A. E. Thrasher
A. C. Wilkin

Auditors:—
A. E. Thrasher
A. C. Wilkin
Delegates to Toronto
John Harris
H. J. Clarke
W. J. Diamond
Proxy—W. R. Vallance

Revive the Jaded Condition.—When energy flags and the cares of business become irksome; when the whole system is out of sorts and there is general depression, try Parmelee's Vegetable Pills. They will regulate the action of a deranged stomach and a disordered liver, and make you feel like a new man. No one need suffer a day from debilitated digestion when so simple and effective a pill can be got at any drug store.

SURGEON GENERAL MAGNIFICENT CITIZENS VICTORY

(From Saturday)

One of the largest gatherings in Belleville General G. Sterling has addressed "What Griffin's opera houses der the aspects of Quinte Chapter, 100 the Red Cross. The before eight o'clock, before.

Mr. Col. D. Barragar come up from Barry the chair at the speaker of the with him on the platform, M.P.F.

The name of General household word in Canada his work in South France in the Red Cross. The chairman of the ladies of Belleville endeavored of mercy in work. Touching upon of the war, he said it form a vague idea of caused by the struggle this as in all conflicts suffer most. Nearly been called upon to many to make the of loss of loved ones.

Mr. Dan A. Cameron, lyric by Edward Song.

The gathering was upon to honor a Belleville has labored ceaselessly of sending necessities to the soldiers in the Balkans. Col. Barragar, E. Guss Porter and come to the platform General Ryerson.

Miss Falkiner, said, "pleasure in presenting document of the Red Cross is a certificate of life given as an evidence you and your work."

The recipient of a certificate replied, "I am proud of the gift. I do not appreciate as this."

The audience extended prolonged applause. Miss Anna Ponton sang "The Death of Trooper."

"It gives me a greater pleasure to come to Belleville to address and men who are so to the front and are the Red Cross. I bear of the splendid work of the efforts of of the Empire."

Many of you have hearts at the front of liberty and civilization had not stood loyal. Many of you have wiped out with one of the Empire. We did destroy we in Canada to become a free man the United States. They are fighting as a result of the fight at Waterloo. I am cheeringfully.

"Let me tell you that not having more than 12,000 Canadians at a back 80,000 Germans more glowing page in our men, some 1200, being without carriage, men of war will of body must be taken men are going to live experiences."

The enemy is the at the bottom of all cause he is inspired by King of Prussia. His "World Power or De Prussia" was to in culture. But the Kai-

OUR daily news letter from this thriving town furnished by The Ontario's special representative.

TRENTON, Nov. 8. Here attended the of late Mrs. Harry De nerville, yesterday.

R. Bourret has en- viled. He expects to the pioneer regiment.

G. R. Mowat, son of of Toronto, and a ne M. Mowat, of this town, recently while on active gium.

Mr. Jack Hawley, of the week-end with rel Mr. A. W. Hawley, town in connection with interests.

The rummage sale at the town hall will three days. It is expected there will be a surplus of patriotic pur suit of their efforts."

Mrs. Ireland, widow of George Ireland, died residence of her son, land, River Road. The boys this Hall-