

CON

by Ambrose Fierce

"C'n I offer you a testimony a what *Jeeesus* did fer me?"

"My good man, you may, certainly."

I was in downtown Edmonton (far from the endless and ethereal debate of the university); I was willing — eager — to learn from this humble educator, Rev. Frank Cebuliak, Gospel Minister; consequently, I *did* glean from this honest fellow's pamphlet ("A Testimony of What Jesus Did") many insights which are to me priceless. These insights I mean to share; following is a random selection of simple yet elemental quotations, glossed by myself, from this worthy person's timeless tract. To Mrs. Torrance particularly I recommend this pious wisdom. Daily I see her sweep grandly up in her dazzling Rolls Silver Cloud, dismount from her exercycle bolted to the floor where the back seat used to be, and alight from her heavenly vehicle to the common pavement, on the arm of her handsome old chaffeur, her own arms full of household economics texts and herself ready to begin grappling anew with the prodigious wealth of Home-Ec. lore, and I think, "Lydia, I bet you are giving insufficient heed to those things not of this world."

"If we confess our sins (contends Mr. Cebuliak, stoutly) he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and cleanse us of all unrighteousness, 1 John 1:9, here is no reason why a person should take chances and end up in eternal hell to go on forever in outer darkness wailing and crying and nashing (sic) in torment (Amen! You tell it brother. Hell is bad enough without having it be eternal, and if it is to go on forever as well, then it must be well-nigh intolerable.) because I could have let Jesus have all of my heart (Right! You tell it! Give Jesus your whole heart!), to end up where there will be no God, only satan and his angels. (Oh.) He will reprove the world (Will He ever! And soon!) of sin and righteousness and judgement (I believe it! Amen, brother! But I cannot help wondering why, sin and righteousness being mutually exclusive phenomena, they should suffer the same horrible ("reporvation" is not even in the dictionary) fate; it is, however, fitting that "judgement" should fare no better.) . . .

"For God so loved the world that he gave His only begotten Son (Tell it! Tell it! Brother, you just tell it like it was! Amen. Boddy.); He did not give a Mohammanadan (That's right! That's right! I know that's right, brother, because, for one thing, a Mohammanadan, however you spell it, always means the practitioner of a religion, not its founder.), nor Buddhism (Right again, Frank! Dead on, brother, since Buddhism is the religion itself, not its founder.), not any of these,

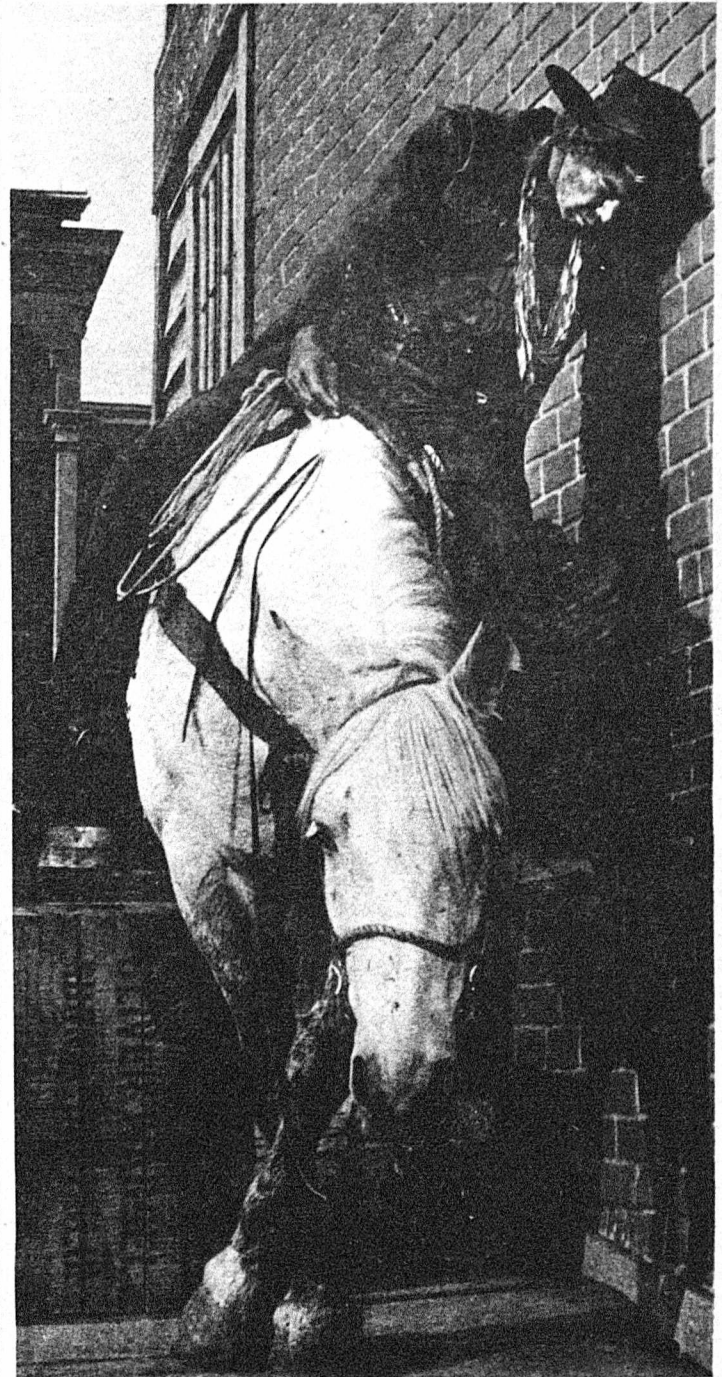
Allah (Hundred per cent! Right on, brother Frank! Why indeed would God be so silly as to furnish a rival deity?), Karma (Right again! To hell with karma, it being such a complex concept involving metempsychosis and temporal accountability — the sort of concept that Hindus and Buddhists think about when they are not thinking about Alberta real estate. Karma! No indeed, God did not send a karma, and I would be astonished if he had. Such an action would have just muddled things.), Bauhaullah (*Bahia*) (Bauhaulla! Bahai! Are you ever right! God did not send either of those because the former is a heathenism rival prophet, and the latter is a tiresome little state in eastern Brazil.), Hinduism (I know that my Redeemer liveth!), Moslem (Moslem indeed! The day God starts sending Moslems, that's the day I leave Alberta. Scratch a Moslem, you'll find a Mohammanadan.), Sun Goddess (Best believe it! Best believe it!), nor those that call themselves Jehova (Amen, I'm your witness!), nor those that compromise God and evolution (Tell it! God has never and will never send a Darwinian of any sort as a savior for mankind; the notion is offensive and preposterous.). Jesus has prepared a lake of fire, eternal hell, for all these and their angels (It's true! It's the truth you're telling — God's truth!) because they are sponsored by the devil to deceive (Amen! Amen! Tell it! Whooooo! Glossolalia! Lord Goddy.).

"During a collection for an overseer minister, Jesus spoke (To you, Frank! God Almighty talking right into your ear! What did he say?) give twelve dollars . . . (Oh.) . . . 'In a ministry if you have need of money ask of men,' (Amen! The words of the risen Christ! Tell it, Frank, how much did you get?) I asked and did not receive, the Lord spoke (again!) 'They are not born again' (Born again! I should say not. Had they been born again, they would have been generous to a minister of the gospel, which you have obviously decided some time in the past, that you more or less are.) Again I asked four born again men and they did not give (What! They did not give? Then I seriously question whether they had been born again at all.) The Lord said 'they will heap rocks unto themselves (And they will. We have the word of God for that. We have your word for God's word for that.)

" . . . If you want it to, it can be you (Me? Me! I am not worthy. Besides, I do not have twelve dollars either. But bless you, brother.), Jesus can make flaming ministers (He can! He can! He can do it! I know He can do it! I know He can, Frank, brother, because you are yourself, from the larynx downward, living proof Praise God.) out of the least on earth."



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