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A JOYFUL BOOK.

Sermon by Rev. W. Harrison, GAGTOWN, N. B.

"Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice."—Psa. lxxv. 4.

One of the most striking features in the New Testament is found in the tone and spirit of joyfulness which run through it from beginning to end. Of all the books that have been laid upon the table of the world for the instruction and elevation of mankind, not one carries in its pages the record of such triumphant suffering, and of such pure and indestructible joys, as that Book which is the standard and embodiment of the Church's faith, and the ground and foundation of the world's best hope.

No wider contrast can possibly exist than that which is found between the religious books of a mere human make, and that Book which made its appearance in our world nearly nineteen centuries ago. To account for the joyous and triumphant strain which sounds and rings through its pages, and which has inspired countless millions of earth's population with its own spirit and tone, is a work worthy of the most earnest consideration of every student of the sacred word.

The composition and creation of such a Book in the age in which it was produced, is a feature of the most striking character. The most honored sages of antiquity, and the vast number of men of noble build who knew anything of the "peace that passeth understanding" or "the joy unspeakable and full of glory";—the goblet of happiness was soon, very soon drained, and a deep and burning thirst was ever theirs, which no wine of earth could satisfy or quench. An agonizing doubt was in the very air, and the giant efforts of those kingly men to find the rock of certainty were vain, and their best defeat filled them with a darkness which could be felt. The unspeakable dreariness of worn out religions and "the eternal majesty of dilated hopes" were a source of oppression and disappointment to those minds that were craving for the light. Marcus Aurelius, we are told, was "wise and studious, but he was agitated and ever stretching out his arms for something beyond." "What torments," exclaimed Tacitus, "is not the tempt, but the nausea." "Give me new consolation, great and strong, of which I have never read or heard!" was Pliny's earnest prayer. "All that I have ever heard or read," he says, "comes back to my memory but my sorrow is too great." "The philosophers of the academy" says Cicero, "affirm nothing, they despair of arriving at any certain knowledge." "Those whom you regard as happy," says Seneca, "if you saw them—not in their externals, but in their hidden aspects, are wretched, sorrowful, and base." Another says, "The dew of blessing falls not on us, and our fruits are tasteless." These expressions indicate the well nigh universal spirit which prevailed when the victorious documents comprising the New Testament were produced and given to the world. Looking at the spirit of doubt and unbelief, and the moral midnight which spread their pall of gloom over mankind. It was a simple and utter impossibility for such an age to give existence to a book which was infinitely in advance of its own condition, through whose pages there runs a strong and undisputed certainty and around whose brow is found a crown, distinguished by a bright and fadeless joy. Men do not gather grapes from thorns nor figs from thistles; no more can a world, dominated by a wide and universal dreariness and doubt, and in a condition of moral wreck and desolation, give birth to such a Book as constitutes the priceless treasure of Christendom to-day.

If this immortal Book had been of mere earthly origin—the production and outcome of a lengthened process of human development—then the world would have loved its own; but because it is not of the world, therefore the world hath hated it; and long ago, if it had been possible, would wicked and unbelieving men have taken this volume and left it in ashes the wide world o'er, and with maddened hands and brain would have quenched this only lamp.

By which the bark of man can navigate the sea of time, And gain the coast of bliss serenely.

The exceptional and singular feature of the New Testament to which attention is called is not, and cannot be explained by the age in which it appeared, or found an existent in the world.

Another peculiarity connected with the spiritual tranquility and joyfulness which pervades this wondrous book, is found in the themes which inspired and sustained their elevated and imperishable joys. Heathen or man-made religions have always been systems stricken through and through with more or less of sadness and of gloom; many of them which enslaved vast multitudes of the race in the past, have been the centre of a cold despair, the "muffled moan of

solennities of the dying hour. From the persecuted thousands, during the three first centuries, from the bloody arena of ancient Rome, from the vast wilderness of tombs in the Catacombs, where the pious millions after the battles and storms of life were laid away to rest, from the glorious martyr throng, the Christian multitudes of all the past, there comes a blessed repetition and reproduction of that inward moral peace and spiritual victory which radiates and crowns the sacred book. Nothing less than a Divine and supernatural factor can explain the creation and construction of this most wondrous book. To talk about that sweet Galilean vision, "religious fanaticism," and so on, is nothing more than a foolish and base mockery. In nearly three hundred languages are the teachings of this book found to-day; and so vast is the hold that these inspired revelations have on the heart and mind of mankind, that no man has the madness to say—"I will sweep this book and its religion out of the grasp of human thought and affection, and it shall be no more." Never can such a work of desolation have any prospect of success until the spiritual consciousness of Christendom is annihilated, and the moral atmosphere of this nineteenth century is shattered into hopeless ruin.

Thank God for a religion in which is found the elements of a deep and abiding joy, which can sing through the darkness and the fury of the storm. May its power comfort and sustain us here, and fit us for that larger world beyond, where the saved shall rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory.

SUNDAY SERVICES.

FREDERICTON.
CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL.—The Bishop of Fredericton, Metropolitan of Canada, Rt. Rev. J. Medley, D. D.; Bishop Coadjutor, Rt. Rev. H. T. Kingston, D. D.; sub-dean, Rev. Finlay Alexander. Services on Sunday—Celebration of the Holy Communion, 8 a. m.; Morning service, 11 a. m.; Evening service, 6.30 p. m. Throughout Lent there will be daily services during the week—each morning at 9 a. m. and each evening at 4 p. m. On Wednesday the evening service will be at 7.30 p. m., when a lecture will be given. On Saturdays the afternoon service will be at 3.30 p. m. On Friday, February 24th (Saint Matthias day), and on Saturday, March 25th, (Lady day), the morning service will be at 11 a. m., with celebration of the Holy Communion.

CHRIST CHURCH (St. Ann's).—Rev. G. O. Roberts, rector. Morning service at 11 a. m., with the celebration of the Holy Communion at 8 a. m. on the 1st Sunday and 11 a. m. on the 3rd Sunday of the month; evening service 3.45 p. m. Sunday school at 2.15 p. m. at the Holy Sepulchre Room. During Lent—Morning Prayer and Litany at 11 a. m. Wednesday and Friday. Special service on Friday evenings at 7 p. m., with addresses on English Reformation. Consecration of Oil—Friday evening service. Daily service in Holy Week.

St. Demetrius's Church.—Rev. J. C. McDevitt, Parish Priest; Rev. C. Preclius, Curate. Sunday services—Low Mass at 9 a. m.; High Mass at 11 a. m.; Vespers, at 3 p. m. Sabbath school at 2 p. m. The Ladies Branch of the St. Vincent de Paul Society meets in St. Demetrius's Hall immediately after Vespers. The male branch of the Society at 6.30 in the same place. Mass at 9 a. m. Sabbath school service at 5 p. m. every day during the week.

METHODIST CHURCH.—Rev. E. Evans, Pastor; Rev. L. W. Wadman, Assistant. Morning service at 11 a. m. Mr. Wadman will preach in the morning and the pastor in the evening. Sabbath school at 2.15 p. m. The pastor conducts a Bible Class at 2 p. m. During the week there will be prayer meetings on Monday and Friday evenings at 7.30.

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH.—Rev. A. J. Mowatt, pastor. Morning service at 11. Evening service at 6.30; sermon by the pastor at both services. Sabbath school at 2.30 p. m. Prayer meeting on Wednesday at 7.30 p. m. Bible Class Monday at 7.30 p. m. City Hall—Rev. F. D. Crawley, pastor. Morning service at 11 a. m. by pastor; subject, "Eternal life the gift of God"; evening service at 6.30; subject, "Cloak for sin." Sabbath school at 2.15 p. m. Week night social services on Monday and Thursday evenings at 7.30. Prayer meeting every Sabbath morning at 9.30.

FREE BAPTIST CHURCH.—Rev. J. McLeod, Pastor. Prayer meeting at 9.30. Morning service at 11 a. m. The pastor will preach at both services. Sabbath school at 2 p. m. Prayer and social meeting Monday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings of next week at 7.30.

A young man in a country town having been refused a liverly team because he was intoxicated, bought the best horse and buggy in the stable for \$300 cash down. The liverly man, elated at the bargain, said in an excess of generosity: "You bring the team back all right and you can have it again. In three days he returned, had the team looked over, pronounced all right, and the money handed back. As he was walking away, the liverly proprietor called out: "You owe me \$12 for the use of the team." "Never pay for using my own team," remarked the young man as he departed never to return.

A full band—Jack Falstaff's belt.

questions. Such for instance as—where are the tall chimneys which the N. P. was to build? Where are the 500 factories it was to bring into operation? What have you done to justify the imposition of a tax on fuel, breadstuffs and other necessities of life? Why did you consent to hand the future of Canada over to a syndicate of foreigners? Why did you support a ministry which contains Sir Charles Tupper at the head of its great spending department? These and a host of other questions will be asked and the answers are not ready. Therefore these gentlemen press Sir John to give them one more year's grace; but the wily chieftain will not tell them what he will do. In consequence the whole Tory camp is unmovable.

At home here in Fredericton there is a good deal of talk, but much uncertainty as to who is to be their candidate. Mr. Fisher would like to take the field again, but the great lights of the party think he is not a strong enough man. They would prefer to get Mr. Fraser to offer for them say "He is the strongest man among us, and if he should be defeated his loss would after all be our gain, for some one of us could step into his shoes in the Assembly." A little programme has been arranged but has not yet been finally adopted. It is that Mr. Fraser shall endeavor to carry his government safely through the next local elections and shall himself run for York. If elected he is to resign and face Mr. Pickard, and when defeated he will press his claims for a Judgeship, while another gentleman, whom we could name but do not wish to just now, will come up under his patronage and demand the vacant seat in the Assembly. In this programme no reference is made to Mr. Fisher, who is to be "sat upon" after the fashion so popular with "the party of gentlemen." The Sunbury Tories are at sixes and sevens for a candidate, and if the local elections come on first we imagine the terrible defeat that is in store for them then will incline them strongly to let the Dominion election go by default. Queens is in very much the same satisfactory condition, that is satisfactory to the Liberals, and as for Carleton it is hardly necessary to say that "no Tories need apply." In Victoria it is not unlikely that Mr. Costigan, if he again offers, will meet with a powerful opposition. Although his absence from the County has weakened his position there somewhat, his personal popularity is yet very great and he will be a hard man to beat, nevertheless we are not without strong reasons to believe that his seat will be taken by a Liberal. But to come back to where we started, the rank and file of the Tory party don't want an election next summer for they are entirely unprepared for it.

MARRIAGE LAWS.

We hope we do not do the Rev. Dr. Kingston an injustice in accepting the articles in the *Capital*, referring to his sermon on the marriage laws, as authorized by him. From the last production of our contemporary we gather that, although Dr. Kingston made a statement similar to that imputed to him by us, he did not desire it to be understood in the sense in which it was taken by his congregation. This statement, as taken down by a gentleman present at the time, who handed it to THE HERALD yesterday, was, "But it is well known that these letters patent do not always convey the powers they are supposed to confer." This was spoken in reference to the power conferred upon the Lieutenant Governors of New Brunswick by Her Majesty, to issue marriage licenses. Nearly every person who heard the sermon understood this as an intimation that, in the preacher's opinion, the marriages solemnized in New Brunswick under license from the Lieutenant Governor were invalid, and a profound sensation was created thereby. We are glad to learn that Dr. Kingston did not mean this, and have only to express our regret that he should have allowed himself to make a remark which was capable of being so misconstrued. As we promised on Monday, we shall not enquire what else he could have meant, or what other possible construction can be put upon the words. Our readers must form their own opinions. It is sufficient for us that the claim of clerical supremacy is repudiated by the gentleman who was understood to make it.

It would have been greatly to be regretted if a clergyman occupying so high and important a position should signalize his entrance upon his work by claiming for the distinguished prelate, whose coadjutor and probable successor he is, a power transcending the law of the Province; and we repeat that we are glad to learn that no such claim was intended to be advanced.

THE EUROPEAN SITUATION.

It is admitted on all sides that the political situation in Europe is such as to excite grave apprehensions. In Russia a most intense feeling of hatred exists towards Germany and Austria. Gen. Skobeleff recently, referring to the first named

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CHARLES H. LEONARD, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.
FREDERICTON, N. B., MARCH 16, 1882.

THE PUBLIC ACCOUNTS.

"Language," says Talleyrand, "was given to man to enable him to conceal his thoughts; and we may add that the Auditor General's Report is a creation of the Government to enable them to conceal the state of the Provincial finances. So much has been said about warrant accounts and check accounts lately, that those who have followed the discussions in the House must find themselves involved in almost inextricable confusion. It is therefore perhaps necessary to say that the law does not recognize what have been called the check accounts, and that all sums paid out of the public treasury ought to be paid by warrant. The check account was an invention to enable the Government to carry on the public service when it was short of money. Under it the departments check out of the bank such sums as they require from time to time, and afterwards when the Province is in funds, warrants are issued to cover the checks. This is a mischievous system, for it permits of extravagance and renders a full presentation of the financial condition of the Province at the close of each fiscal year an impossibility. But what we propose to deal with to-day is the financial statement laid before the House by the Provincial Secretary, showing a balance to the credit of the Province on the 31st day of October last of \$25,688.25. Mr. Adams, in his speech on the budget, did not accept these figures, and stated that the balance was \$29,097.72. We propose to show that neither of these amounts is correct, and that there was a deficit of about \$75,000 at the close of the last fiscal year. A supplementary statement was laid before the House by the Secretary, showing that between October 31st and February 16th warrants to the amount of \$140,000 had been issued. An inspection of this will show that of this amount fully \$100,000 were for services performed during the last fiscal year. On the face of the return, warrants to the amount of \$77,509.48, appear to have been for services rendered previous to the 30th October, for they are so expressed, and of the remainder, one who knows anything of the method in which public business is transacted, will easily select more than enough to swell this statement to \$100,000. These expenditures for services performed during the fiscal year ending 31st October, 1881, do not appear in the accounts of that year, for the reason that the warrants to cover them were not issued until this year; but this is only justifying one wrong by another. This \$100,000 was paid by the \$25,688.25 balance to the credit of the Province in the Warrant account, and by a sum of about \$75,000 taken out of the revenue of the present year. The House has been told, and will be told again, that the services paid for since the close of the year are so paid in anticipation of the amount to be voted when supply is gone into; but this is shown by the above statement to be the case, because the amounts to be voted are to meet the expenses of the public service for the current year. The Provincial Secretary requires that the demands of the public service during this year. He estimates upon an income made up of the alleged balance on hand and the receipts from subsidies, of \$625,296.21; but we have shown that this year's income fully \$100,000 has gone to pay last year's accounts, therefore the House only has at its disposal this year about \$525,000 to meet an estimated expenditure of \$97,296.99, without drawing upon the income for the year beginning November 1st 1882. The objection to this state of affairs is not that the system of booking is pernicious, but such an administration of public affairs is almost certain to lead to disastrous consequences. By the extravagance of the Government the Province is expending in advance of its income every year, and this in the face of the fact that the revenue is stationary, or nearly so, because we will soon reach the limit of our subsidy, and the receipts from our Crown lands must shortly diminish. The House is brought face to face with a very serious state of affairs. If a halt were called to-day and accounts balanced, the Province would be found to be in debt, with nearly half its income for the present year gone and less than a tenth of the expenditures of the present year paid, we mean paid by warrant, and that because until the July subsidy comes in, there is no fund against which the warrants can be drawn.

"THE UNCOMFORTABLES."

The rank and file of the Tory party don't want an election next summer. They can shout hurrah when Sir Leonard talks about the glories of the N. P., but their faith in it is not so strong as to make them feel safe in going to the people any sooner than they can avoid. When these gentlemen go back to their constituents they will be asked some ugly

power, said it had been "founded by blood and iron and must be destroyed by Russian blood and iron." He had already been mildly reproved by the Car for his intemperate utterances respecting neighboring powers, and this repetition of them shows, either that there is an understanding between him and his sovereign, or that he is disposed to defy the wishes of the Car, and by appealing to the passions of the people at a time when their Emperor is hiding from his Nihilist persecutors, gain for himself the first place in the Empire. Not the least dangerous circumstance in European politics is the opportunity presented in Russia for a daring man to so inflame the popular mind, and promise of glory on the battle-field and a system of popular government at home, to wrest the crown from the last and feeblest of the Romanoffs. To see Austria reaping the fruits of the Russian victories in Turkey must be galling to the soldiers and diplomatists of the great Northern power. It is well known that she has been able to do this, principally, because Germany has stood by ready to aid her by force against any nation which might interfere. Under these circumstances the Emperor of Russia can well be imagined, and the Emperor finds himself powerless to resist or even to direct it. Some well informed correspondents say that war is inevitable between the powers we have named, and may break out at any time. The latest advices from St. Petersburg which we have seen, are of a more pacific character, being to the effect that the success of Austria in quelling the insurrection in her newly acquired provinces, have postponed the outbreak of hostilities.

THE GRAND SOUTHERN.

A correspondent asks us in what position the Local Government stands under the decision of the Supreme Court in the case of the Grand Southern Railway. Until the case is finally decided on appeal it will be claimed by the apologists of the administration that the ultimate decision may be in favor of the Grand Southern charter; but the fact remains that the highest Court in the Province has declared that the Company had no legal status to receive the \$300,000 subsidy paid since the expiry of the Act of Incorporation. The issuing of these debentures being therefore illegal, it will be necessary to have an Act of Assembly to legalize them, and this the House will not hesitate to pass if, as is probable, the bonds are held by persons who have paid value for them in ignorance of the Company being under any legal disability. The position of the Government before the country is to be judged by a very different rule. If, as appears to be the case, they have issued this large amount of bonds to a Company having no legal existence, except for the purpose of winding up its affairs, they have been guilty of an act which cannot be justified, and one which, if we had anything more than the form of responsible government in New Brunswick, would cost them their position. Our correspondent asks also, "What is to prevent Col. Greene, if he cannot get the connections he wishes, from taking up the rails on the road, and for which the Province paid in hard cash, and carrying them and the rolling stock off to the realty market, leaving some eighty miles of graded roadway alone to represent the debentures, upon which, for all time to come, the people will have to pay interest?" We know of nothing to prevent him. The contract with the Government can scarcely be invoked to restrain him. He is absolute master of the situation. This Grand Southern matter has been a wretched blunder all the way through. It seems fated to bring trouble to the Province. The electors will not forget that the present Government is responsible for the whole difficulty.

THE NEW RECORD OFFICE.

We understood Mr. Beckwith to state to the Committee of the House Wednesday that the City Council opposed the setting apart of one end of the lower flat of the Court House for a Record Office and County Council Room, on the ground that the proposed change would be an interference with the original grant; that one of the stairways in the front of the building was very offensive as it was used as a water-closet and that the double occupation of the building might lead to disputes between the City and County. These are simply excuses, not reasons, for opposing the bill. In answer to the first it may be said that experience has shown that the whole of the lower flat is not required as a market. The second objection ought never to have existed and can easily be obviated. The third is purely imaginary. As the building would be divided by a brick wall there is no more danger of a disagreement arising than there is between the occupants of houses adjoining each other, or that there is now what the dreaded double occupation already exists. We would like to see the whole lower flat converted into offices as proposed by the City Clerk; but since that cannot be done there is no reason whatever for opposing the utilization of a part of it for the purposes proposed by the County Council.