

The Free Forum

Truth is Discovered in Mutual Controversy
Error Will Die in the Light of Reason

OPEN TO ALL STRONG PEOPLE WITH STRONG VIEWS

LIVING LIKE JESUS

R. A. FILLMORE, ALBERT, N. B.

The Daily Press informs us that in Cleveland, Ohio "10,000 people are living as Jesus would." What a monstrous hypocritical farce! Imagine Jesus who said: "Come unto me all ye that labor, and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest," as owner of a factory, railroad or mine!

Imagine He who delivered the scathing arraignment found in Matthew 23rd, smoothing over and white-washing the shallow hypocrisies of the present business world! Would he grant or accept a rebate or "tip"? What would he think of a people who teach beautiful platitudes on the first day of the week and step down into the business world Monday and proceed to oppress their brothers for the next six days or as He puts it "They bind heavy burdens and grievous to be borne, and lay them on men's shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers" and "Woe unto you, Scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye devour widows' houses, and for a pretence make long prayers; therefore ye shall receive the greater damnation."

This experiment in Cleveland is no doubt, merely a scheme on the part of the master class to do away with the effect which the revolutionary teachings of Jesus are having on the minds of the working class. They wish to persuade the people that Christ's instructions can easily be carried out under present conditions and thus make them content. Man is very susceptible and is easily persuaded that that which ought to be, is, and many may be brought to believe that because it should be possible to apply the Golden Rule to every day life therefore it is possible.

The rulers would have no content with that portion of Christ's teachings which, it is alleged, promised us a future life whose beauty and depth no human mind can fathom. In order to attain this higher sphere we must humble ourselves before those who hold the keys, the clergy, who, instead of going out as commanded with "Nothing for their journey, save a staff only; no scrip, no bread, no money in their purse," are paid princely salaries for leading us astray.

I would echo the cry of comrade Debs "Arouse! ye slaves." I would that I could thunder it from the platforms of the world. Arouse yourselves ye who are the very mud-sills of human society. Arouse! ye who have been so long robbed by the priestly hypocrites and their masters the capitalists of the world. Take possession of the government which has for countless ages been used against you and make it a government of the people, by the people and for the people. Nothing is easier if but you take the right step. Nothing is nearer the meaning of the Nazarene carpenter when he said "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you." Seek ye to establish the kingdom of God on earth that is a perfect political and industrial democracy and you will then have all the food, clothing, etc., that you need.

This is a glorious work, dearer to the heart of the Creator than is all the so-called worship tendered by churches of millionaires. What cares He for marble churches, golden altars and \$25,000 per year ministers, when millions of those whom He created in his own image are cold, hungry, miserable and degraded? Did not He say "Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me?"

My reader, if you are tired of being merely a cog in the machine which grinds out profits for your Master; if you are sick at heart at the monstrous cruelties and oppressions carried out in the name of Christ, come in with us and help us make this old earth worth living upon. Come into the great International Socialist Party and we will greet you as Comrades, Brothers in the great fight for freedom. Vote and work for the party which stands for the ownership by society of the tools of production, distribution and exchange. Vote for economic freedom, the key-stone, the "open sesame" of all liberty. If there are no Socialist locals in your vicinity, send your name to D. G. McKenzie, at Vancouver, B. C., together with 10 cents and you will be enrolled as a member of the revolution.

ary Socialist Party of Canada. Straighten up, be men and you will be surprised how easily the masters may be shaken off your backs.

MR. MABEE THE FEARLESS

F. C. MEARS

Canadians have reason to render thanks and praise to Hon. Mr. Blair for the influence he brought to bear to bring about the appointment of the Railway Commission. They are under deep obligations to the late Minister of Railways. The only cause for complaint is that such an admirable institution was not established years ago when the transportation corporations were in their infancy. Had the Railway Commission existed thirty years ago its services in directing and guiding the evolution of these 'after all' estimable and indispensable corporations would have been invaluable.

Justice Mabée, of Stratford, Ontario, is now chairman of the Railway Commission, and a less fearful, a juster chairman is difficult to imagine. The present writer attended a four days enquiry conducted by the Railway Commission in Montreal, early in January. He was struck with the Commission's expedition in its business and with the indisputable justice of its rulings. By common consent the Railway Commission is now recognized throughout the Dominion as one of the, if not the, most needed and most efficient judicial organization within our domains.

The Railway Commission is an institution born of the circumstances of the day. Corporations are still on the rampage, and it is well that they should occasionally be reminded that they are still amenable to our country's laws and still really subject to the approval of the public. Not that they are eternally infected with moral turpitude or that they are always seeking to wrong the public whom they serve and from whom they get their recompense. No man is so bad but that he possesses some virtue. No institution is so depraved but that it retains some admirable features. Nor would we say that Canada's transportation companies are depraved. We will say, though, that they are just as liable to error, if not more so, than individuals.

In Montreal, Chairman Mabée, with his three colleagues, listened to complaints against the Dominion and Canadian Express Companies from shippers throughout Quebec and Ontario, to the effect that the Express Companies were charging exorbitant rates for the carriage of parcels, and that the new classification which the Express Companies endeavored to establish, amongst their things, would impose impossible obligations upon the shippers. The counsel for the Express Companies advanced some pretty forceful arguments. But Chairman Mabée saw farther than they. He saw that if the new classification were ratified it would involve an average increase in tollage of nearly ninety per cent. Of course, this wouldn't do. Mr. Mabée fully appreciated the serious responsibility he assumed in abrogating that classification. But the responsibility could not and did not daunt him. He annulled the new classification in the presence of bitter clamorings from the officials and counsel of the Express Companies. The latter must revert to their old tariff. In the meantime chairman Mabée has greatly enhanced the estimation in which he is held by Canadians.

A PROBLEM FOR CONSERVATIVES

Among the many epigrammatic generalizations which enliven Prof. Ferrero's history of Rome, perhaps the following is most likely to startle his less cautious readers:

Order, even in the best-organized State, is only a smooth and specious fiction in place of justice and wisdom. An ordered society is like a field which has periodically to be touched by the plow (of revolution) before the soil receives the virtue to renew its creative power.

This looks at first glance like condemnation of order, and, by implication, like the exaltation of disorder and lawlessness, but as the Italian historian is a civilized and intelligent person, of course that is not his real meaning. What he does mean, perhaps, is that

order is the result of observing certain arrangements and regulations fixed at a certain time and in certain conditions. As the years go on conditions change, and the arrangements and regulations get slowly incompatible with them. Hence arises the necessity for new laws, and if they are not provided betimes—and they usually are not—more or less disorder becomes inevitable; and even desirable.

Matthew Arnold saw the difficulty of maintaining order in changing conditions and thought it could be met by making revolution itself orderly. Right reason, he said, "has the testimony of conscience that it is establishing the State on behalf of whatever great changes are needed, just as much as on behalf of order; establishing it to deal just as stringently, when the time comes, with our Baronet's aristocratical prejudices, or with the fanaticism of our middle-class Dissenter, as it deals with Mr. Bradlaugh's street procession." That sounds well, but somehow order tends strongly toward rigidity, and revolution as strongly toward lawlessness, and the golden mean has always been hard to find. Perhaps society, like a clock, would stop if its pendulum ceased to swing between one limit of its motion and the other.

N. Y. T.

IS THIS HYPOCRISY

The Carnegie fund for colleges has developed a peculiar and most unwelcome state of affairs in certain quarters. "The Interior" deals with the matter in the following vigorous fashion: "All over the United States college trustees are begging off from the formal charter stipulations that bind them to this or that church, always pleading that by such loosening of the legal bonds they can get advantage of the Carnegie fund without in any way changing the actual religious character, church affinity, spiritual tone or even administrative policy of their schools. Laws requiring all or a majority of trustees to be of a certain denominational connection are being erased, but with the strongest private assurances to the churches interested that as a matter of fact the old rule will be rightly observed and the old relation continue unaffected." Surely this is something greatly to be regretted. It cannot but strike the ordinary man that the type of ethics taught in these different schools, if fairly represented by the action of their trustees, must have a most peculiar twist in it somewhere. We confess that to us it seems a most unedifying spectacle to see these higher institutions of learning which have been church institutions for so long content to lay aside all denominational affiliations, not only readily, eagerly, in order to secure a share in Mr. Carnegie's benefactions. But this is the least of the evils. To set aside technical denominational affiliation, while at the same time pledging the church that the denominational spirit will still be maintained, seems to savor all too much of what, in other things, we would call hypocrisy.—Christian Guardian.

DRIVEN TO DEATH

No greater indictment can be drawn by any individual against the society in which he lives than that life in it is no longer worthy of maintenance. That is the index which is being drawn by the increase of suicides that is now so noticeable in all the great cities of this country.

It should be cause enough that all of the waking hours of the great mass of mankind must be devoted to the mere work of getting a living. That is the purely animal phase of life. It is worse than that, for few indeed are the animals that know no time for leisure and enjoyment.

But when that opportunity to get a "living" is taken away is it any wonder that men and women decide that the slender thread that still attaches life to the body might as well be severed?

The system that drives these men to death is maintained by votes. Did your vote help?—Chicago Daily Socialist.

Isolation for Sufferers

A powerful movement for protection from sexual contagion has begun in Iowa. It is led by the Women's Christian Temperance Union. Following are among the introductory declarations of the petition to the legislature upon which the movement proceeds:

More deaths in this State may be traced to gonorrhea and syphilis than to smallpox, yellow fever, diphtheria, scarlet fever and measles combined. From 10 to 20 per cent of the blindness in this State results from these diseases. From 50 to 90 per cent of the inflammatory diseases of the pelvis for which women are operated upon in this State result from these diseases.—The Public

CLIPPED OPINIONS

A college professor of English is out in a denunciation of the term "pants." We should always say "trousers," he declares. After this we shall be careful not to sing it "As pants the hart," but "As trousers the hart," and all such words as "occupants" we will reform into "outcrousters," etc. This ought to satisfy the most fastidious.

"Does advertising pay?" is a question that is being constantly asked. Judging by the advertising rates charged by the Ladies' Home Journal it certainly must pay—at least pay the publishers. All you have to give for an inch of space one time in the said periodical is \$48, and if you want the back page it will only come to \$7,000 an insertion. Any one desiring to try a flier in the advertising field can thus do it with the assurance that it will pay—the publishers.—The Pathfinder

A magnate is a man who is expert at getting hold of things and never letting go. It is he that discovered the perpetual franchise. When conditions are prosperous and industries are running full tilt, he takes all the credit and all the prosperity, but not all the industry. When affairs might be better, he gives us to understand that, were it not for him, they might be worse. When affairs are in bad shape, he tells us whose fault it is, making it very clear that it is not his own. When they get better again he emerges from the scrimmage on top of the pile, and explains the resuscitation is due entirely to his infinite ability and resourcefulness.—Life.

There is plenty of evidence that the weekly newspaper of general circulation is gaining in influence in this country. Only a few years ago it was predicted that the great dailies would crowd the weeklies out of existence, but such is not the case. It is significant that President Roosevelt, after retiring, will take up editorial work not on a daily but a weekly—the Outlook—and also that Mr. Bryan, Mr. Watson and others who want to reach the thinking people have chosen the weekly through which to do it. The daily newspaper has its province and it does a great work, but it is too hastily thrown together, too confused, too bulky to fill the need for a well ordered chronicle of the times. The weekly is gaining in prestige and influence every day, for it avoids alike the diffuseness of the daily and the staleness of the monthly.—The Pathfinder

Causes of Indian Famine

The Rev. Jabez T. Sunderland, whose fine article on the new nationalist movement in India appeared in the Atlantic Monthly for October, explains the causes of famine in India, in a pamphlet bearing that title, much more satisfactorily than this is usually done. He reasons away the common explanation of rain failure by showing that the agricultural possibilities of India with reference to water supply "are greater than those of almost any other country in the world." Scarcity of food is not the cause of famines either, for "there is never a time when India as a whole does not contain food enough for all her people." Even in her worst famine years she exported food. The theory of over-population fares no better. It is exposed as an absurdity. The real cause of famines in India, writes Mr. Sunderland, "is the extreme poverty of the people—a poverty so severe that it keeps a majority of all on the very verge of suffering, even in years of plenty; and this terrible poverty exists because the people of India are exploited by bad government.—The Public.

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CUT PRICE GROCERY LIST FOR WEEK COMMENCING MONDAY, JAN. 25

22 lbs. Granulated Sugar this week, \$1.00.
35c Ceylon Tea, regular 3 lbs. for \$1.00, this week 4 lbs. for \$1
35c Black Tea, regular 3 lbs. for \$1. This week 4 lbs. for \$1
10c Selected Raisins, regular 3 lbs for 25c. This week 4 lbs. for 25c.
2 packages Gold Bar Raisins this week 25c
13c packages Wethey's Mince-meat this week 10c a package
7 bars Strachan's Gilt Edge Soap, regular 5c, this week for 25c
Quaker Brand Peas, Corn, Pumpkins all this week 7c per tin
Empress Brand Canned Salmon all this week 15c per tin
3 tins British Columbia Salmon, Harlock Brand, for 25c
Large bottle Toilet and Household Ammonia this week 10c
Laing's Anchor Brand Lard in 3, 5, 10 lb. Pails, this week 15c

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