



CHURCH OF THE FUTURE.

By George C. Lorimer
Ezekiel 13: 10. When the ship is in a leaky condition, or when an army is in a precarious state, or when there is a sense of insecurity in business, the first thing to do is to find out the extent of the damage. Know your problem and then you may do something for its solution. Don't walk up and down the deck calling out that the vessel's all right when you can tell by the water line she's slowly sinking.

We have tried to state the true condition of things religiously in cities, and we have pointed out the disturbing and disquieting features as they are. But we are no alarmists. I have not the least idea that the ship will sink or that the Lord's army will be defeated. I have confidence in God and the future. But he works by means and not without them, and if we let things drift we shall surely go on the rocks. What we need to do is with all courage and confidence undertake to remedy the evils that exist and arrest the tendencies which every serious thinker recognizes.

What shall we attempt? The prophet in our text exhorts us not to build with untempered mortar, but to do thoroughly what we set out to perform. Superficial remedies will not meet the needs of the hour. More robes for the clergy, vestments for choirs, stereopticons for preachers, orchestras for worship and similar appliances will not change the situation. There are churches where these things exist and where preaching has been minimized to the vanishing point, both in length and in strength, and where the congregations notwithstanding are meager and the spiritual gains imperceptible.

Such details are purely a matter of taste or of ecclesiastical tradition. It was not the surplice that made Phillips Brooks a spiritual force, and the lack of a Genevian gown did not impair the pulpit power of Spurgeon. And the people are too intelligent to be drawn to church by the rustle of silk or the gleaming of lawn, and they are not likely to stay away because the minister prefers to wear an ordinary frock coat. No; the efficiency of clergy and churches, believe me, is not an affair of dress or of special rites and ceremonies.

We know that in the physical world a great deal depends on atmosphere. If the air is close, impure, overheated, we suffer. So also, the dominant spirit of a church goes far toward her real influence for good. Let doubt, cheerlessness and general depression prevail, and let the members be cold, stiff and exclusive, and naturally the outside public will be repelled. Why carry our perplexities, sorrows and trials into an atmosphere surcharged with superciliousness, apathy and gloom? But let the representatives of religion be bright, joyous and by their manner make the stranger feel that he is welcome and that religion is really worth having, and the sanctuaries will be thronged.

Remember the world progresses not by the extraordinary but the ordinary; not by a coup de theater, but by the natural and commonplace. The resuscitation of evangelical religion in America does not really call for scenic displays, frenetic extravagances, fantastic, erratic or erotic beliefs, but simply for the realization of the generous, warm-hearted, sympathetic and brotherly spirit which it professes to inculcate.

Its power will likewise revive if its real purpose is kept clearly before the community. Many persons are asking, for what real work does the church exist? They have been told that the church declines, but religion grows. Naturally they are perplexed. They read of increase in divorce, increase in crime, increase in boozing, and when they have read the confessions of a Lieutenant Governor and the reiterated charges of misrepresentation and misappropriations on the part of decent combinations they naturally wonder if these things co-exist with the advance of religion with a declining church. The best thing for the community would be for the church to revive and give us a purer social and public life.

The church has a real mission. She ought to bring God and man closer together, and man with man into fellowship, so that justice and righteousness may prevail. Never has she taken herself seriously and brought things to pass without crowding her pews and blessing the whole community. But she can never meet the new age with small churches open about six or seven hours in the week. Fifty years

from now the drawing room and Sunday houses of worship will belong to the past. There will come in their stead a new order of things. The predominant type will be something like this: A massive building, large enough to be hospitable and where pew rents will be so reasonable that persons of modest means can enjoy the best, and social discriminations cease, and where also many pews can be free and open to all. The church room itself will be dignified, simple, cheery, and will be open every day in the week for rest and prayer, and with competent persons in attendance to give counsel or show sympathy for those who may need help. Sunday services will command the best in the way of music and scholarship, and yet the music will not degenerate into concerts or the scholarship into pedantry and dullness. The afternoon will be given up to children for social instruction, aided by the stereopticon and singing, and where the lectures shall deal with natural as well as revealed religion.

There will be a church house in connection with the church itself, and not, as now it generally is, away in some squalid and dark neighborhood, and in it there will be guild rooms for young women, with every comfort, and similar rooms for young men, and every evening in the social hall some form of entertainment or means of instruction. This kind of cathedral church, not off in the slums, but in the best neighborhoods, would go far toward removing the impression that religion is aloof from our common life, and would deepen the interest of all classes in its progress.

While in this way religion builds up itself, as a social factor, it must concern itself with civic matters. She must stand for municipal purity and efficiency, and not withhold her outspoken support from those who are legislating to protect women and children from the ravages of commercial greed. Never should she forget that she is dealing with human nature and not with angelic nature. Here she stands on her own ground and demonstrates her value to society, and when the church is thus primarily the guardian of humanity, humanity will see to it that her influence shall never decline.

SERMONETTES

Weakness and Strength.—It becomes us to know our weakness as well as our strength. The man who feels that he can do more than he has the strength to do often fails. So we see the necessity of preparing ourselves in our special weaknesses. In order to accomplish anything in life we must exert our strength, but we must not overestimate it. We must be true to ourselves, to accomplish all the tasks before us.—Rev. G. F. Miller, Episcopalian, Brooklyn, N. Y.

Spiritual Living.—Spiritual living involves a careful and painstaking obedience to all that is right in dealings with men, but goes further and recognizes the existence of the living Christ, and the reality of another and superior life, into which all believers shall pass at death. As this spiritual life is obtained through Christ, it is logical that all that the Christian represents in the way of station, talents, or property should come under the control of the law of Christ.—Rev. A. S. Gregg, Methodist, Worcester, Mass.

The End of Life.—There are those who confine their ambitions to the life of the world and think the grave "be all and end all" of life. But we cannot think thus. If it were, why all our suffering, striving upward and battling for the right? If we are convinced that the grave is not the ultimate goal of life, but that we have been created by the Eternal Father to return to him in the end with love and loyal service, and through them to be happy in the next world, then our struggles have reason.—Rev. Father Hayes, Roman Catholic, New York City.

Sunday Laws.—The Sabbath laws of many of our older States, enacted when ideas of Sabbath observance were more strict than now, remain unchanged, and, therefore, for the most part, unenforced. There would seem to be a prevalent feeling among the friends of Sunday laws that it is almost sacrilegious to modify them; and as the laws of earlier generations are not sustained by the public sentiment of to-day they, in many cases, are become dead letters. But as Sunday laws rest on a basis wholly secular and find their origin and authority in the will of the people, they are, of course, as open to amendments, which shall keep them in harmony with the intelligent popular will, as any other laws which the people enact.—Rev. Joseph Story, Congregationalist, Brooklyn, N. Y.

INJUSTICE TO ANIMALS.

Undeserved Criticisms Involved in Popular Adages.

"As stupid as a donkey." When one boy tells another not to make "an ass" of himself, or says that the other is as stupid as "a donkey" or as obstinate as "a mule," he does not mean the remark for a compliment, and the other boy never accepts it for one. But is the donkey really a stupid animal, is the ass anything like so great a fool as the human being who is supposed to behave like an ass, and is the mule only obstinate or has he a "firm character?" Ask any one who associates with the donkey beast. He will tell you at once that the little animal is as intelligent a creature of its class as you can find. There are donkeys that seem to show a contempt for the human understanding by not always caring to do what a human being asks of them, but make a donkey love you and you will find him docile enough. There are stupid donkeys and intelligent donkeys, as there are stupid and intelligent horses, dogs, and—persons. An ass has never been known to do anything so absolutely silly as to make it excusable to give the poor creature the bad name he has borne for ages. He is patient. He is long-suffering. Much abuse makes him appear indifferent to the treatment he receives.—It is, however, a little too unjust to suppose that he is originally stupid because his inhuman master is cruel.

"As silly as a goose." What is there particularly silly about a goose? Does it follow its animal instincts in caring for itself and its young? Before you accept the adage about a goose's silliness watch it for yourself. The common barnyard geese need not be ashamed to be studied with the ducks and the chickens of the poultry house; they bear the comparison very well indeed. The wild geese, however, which never associate with human beings in or about a barnyard are remarkably intelligent birds. No one is called "as silly as a wild goose," while to lead one "a wild-geese chase" is to lead him one knows not where, so cunning is the bird in its strong, untrapped flight.

"As wise as an owl." If ever the appearance of wisdom was mistaken for the quality it is in the extraordinary intelligence attributed to the owl. Why a it, do you suppose, that the owl looks so much wiser than other birds, not to particularize some other animals? Science can tell you the reason. In the frontal bones over the brain of the owl is an immense number of air cells. They give the forehead that imposing appearance which has commanded the respect of human beings from the days of the worship of Minerva down to the more prosaic present. To look wise when one makes as little fuss and noise as the owl is no mean accomplishment. Looking wise and being generally silent is one way to make yourself respected. It may make you rather tiresome in general company, but think how much more tiresome you are if too noisy! The quiet of the owl is an example some boisterous young people might do well to imitate. It has a wisdom quite its own. We have not a word to say against it.—Our Animal Friends.

LIGHTING SWINDLE.

Is Being Worked in Ohio by Smooth Electrical Fakers.

A new swindle it is reported is being worked on the rural population of Northern Ohio. A man bearing the card of an electric lighting company, supposed to be located in New York City, calls on the farmer. He has a small box bearing on the top a closed lamp with a frosted globe of the exact appearance of a large size incandescent electric light. The turning of a button serves to light the lamp, which burns brilliantly. The solicitor goes on to tell the farmer that his company is the proprietor of a patent electric light plant occupying a very small space and which they will install at the small cost of \$2 per light. The lighting of the average sized farm house will cost but little at this rating and the farmer is only too willing to make the purchase. A contract is produced and signed. This is sealed up in an envelope and left with the farmer until another representative shall come and install the plant. A few days later this man appears. The contract is produced and read. To the farmer's surprise and consternation it calls for \$54 per light. Of course a refusal to have the plant installed follows, the agent threatens suit, and in order to avoid trouble the matter is compromised by the farmer giving his note for \$200, which the agent takes to the nearest town and sells. The light exhibited is an acetylene one, and a clever substitution of contracts completes the deception, at which so many are biting. It is said.—Electrical World.

Keeping Her Good Ear on Watch.
"You should sleep on your right side, madam."
"I really can't do it, doctor; my husband talks in his sleep, and I can't hear a thing with my left ear."—Town Topics.

Every great talker thinks other people talk too much.

HAPPENINGS HERE IN OREGON

CLACKAMAS FIFTY YEARS AGO.

Old Records Give Interesting Figures on Wages and Assessments.

In rummaging about his office a few days ago County Clerk Sleight unearthed some official records that contain some interesting statistics with reference to Clackamas county in the early '50s. They consist of some statistics compiled by Joseph T. Meek, who was then territorial marshal for Clackamas county in June, 1850. In that year the assessable value of property in this county was \$1,020,344, classified as follows: Real estate, \$836,660; personal, \$183,684. The schedule of wages paid at that time was remarkable. The average monthly wage to farm hands, including board, was \$80; the average wages paid day laborers with board was \$4, without board \$6; average daily wages for carpenters, \$12; board per week for laboring men cost \$8.

There were published in the county at that time two weekly papers, namely, Oregon Spectator, Territorial; and Western Star, Multnomah. An idea of the value and profit in the lumber business at that early date may be gathered from the statistics which show that Benjamin Simpson from 400 logs, for which he paid \$3 each, manufactured 100,000 feet of lumber, which had a salable value of \$75 per thousand.

COLUMBIA COUNTY FILLING UP.

Recent County Seat Election Shows Large Increase of Voters.

The returns from the late special election indicate that the voting population of Columbia county has increased several hundred since the general state election held a little over a year ago. While it is true that much of this increased vote is due to the employment of an increased number of hands in sawmills and logging camps, many of them single men, it also is evident that there is a considerable increase in the number of families which have become actual residents.

County School Superintendent Copeland has received complete returns from almost every school district in the county, and now estimates that there are 250 more children of school age than were shown by the census of last year. Reports from every section of the county indicate that newcomers from the East are arriving, and the majority of them expect to become permanent residents.

Heavy Sales of Live Stock.

The sale of sheep, cattle and horses from the Oregon ranges this fall will be the heaviest in years. This is the opinion of C. J. Mills, who has charge of the stock department of the O. R. & N. He has been over a large portion of the ranges and reports that feed will be scarce this fall. Large shipments of cattle were made from this district last spring and Mr. Mills expects that still larger shipments will be made this fall. He says a large amount of stock will have to be sent out of the country in order to even up for the shortage of the feed crop. The shortage of feed in some parts is probably due to a lack of rain.

Wool Prices are Climbing.

Owing to the shortage of wool in Montana and Utah the prices of wool in Eastern Oregon will be higher than had been anticipated. At the large sale held at Ontario a short time ago wool sold at from 13 to 14 cents. Many did not sell and since that time some have sold at 15 cents. The prices are still going up. Some of the leading sheep and wool men say the range is exceptionally short this season, as there has been scarcely any rain since spring. Everything is dried up. There is lots of stock in the district, and it is feared by the owners there will be large losses this year if a wet season does not start soon.

To Build Big Fish Hatchery.

Within a few days Fish Warden Van Dusen will call for bids for the construction at Ontario on the Snake river of one of the largest fish hatcheries in the world. Plans have been drafted in Portland for the building, which will be 217x260. It will be equipped with all the latest conveniences. There will be 320 troughs. At first they will be constructed so as to care for 20,000,000 fish, but in case a large number is required 40,000,000 eggs can be hatched without overcrowding. F. C. Brown will be in charge of the institution.

Great Boom to Ontario.

The contract for building the new steel bridge across the Malheur river, near where it empties into Snake river, about two miles below Ontario, has been let. The price is \$4100. This bridge will supply a long-felt need. It gives an opportunity for the people living on Dead Ox Flat of coming to Ontario to do their trading without going about ten miles above Ontario to the Halliday bridge.

Surveying Soil of Baker County.

Charles A. Jensen, of the department of agriculture, bureau of soils, has been sent out to make a survey of the soils of Baker county. He has established his headquarters at Haines, and is now actively engaged in the work. It is thought this is one of the preliminary steps to government-aided irrigation.

LOG BOOM ON NORTH UMPQUA.

Franchise Granted for Extensive Improvements by County Court.

One of the most important steps made in the development of the lumbering industry in Douglas county was taken when the county court voted to grant a franchise to the Oregon Boom & Timber Company for cleaning out the obstructions in the North Umpqua river and preparing that stream for the floating of logs and timber. This franchise gives the company the right to use that stream in the manner mentioned from the west boundary line of the Cascade forest reserve to the main line of the Southern Pacific railroad at Winchester, five miles north of Roseburg. After the improvements are made the company is given the right to collect a maximum toll of 50 cents per thousand feet for floating logs for other persons in compensation for the outlay in improving the stream. The estimated cost of the improvements is \$200,000.

Besides improving the stream, the company expects to erect a sawmill of 100,000 feet daily capacity at Winchester, to be ready for use as soon as logs can be floated, and other parties also expect to erect sawmills and woodworking plants at the same place. New York capitalists are backing the enterprise, their representative, F. J. Blakely, having been here most of the time for the past two years.

PUBLIC LAND STILL OPEN.

Nearly 600,000 Acres Remain in Oregon City District.

The annual report of the United States land office at Oregon City has been completed. Fourteen counties are embraced in the Oregon City district and the report gives the following statistics as to area in acres unappropriated and unreserved:

Surveyed, 455,048; unreserved, 141,600; total, 596,738 as against 537,379 surveyed; 161,150 unreserved; 898,469 total, as shown in the report a year ago. The 14 counties constituting the Oregon City land district are: Benton, Clackamas, Clatsop, Columbia, Crook, Lincoln, Linn, Marion, Multnomah, Polk, Tillamook, Wasco, Yamhill and Washington. The total area of the land surface of these counties is 7,468,250 acres. The area in acres appropriated last year was 5,675,115, while the acreage under the same classification this year is 5,629,846.

Map of State Institutions.

Secretary of State Dunbar is having a map made showing the location of the state institutions at Salem. Blue prints of the map will be kept at each of the institutions and the original will be kept in the Secretary's office. Although located "at Salem," the institutions are a long distance apart. Visitors can get but a vague idea of their location by such directions as are usually given, but by referring to the map, which shows all the roads and distances, a stranger would immediately understand the direction to take in going to any one of the institutions.

Union County Cherry Crop.

The cherry crop is just coming on in Union county. There were reports early in the season that this crop would be very short, but, as with the other products of this county, the prospects get brighter as harvest time approaches. The indications now are that the yield will not be far below the average. There will probably be about 15,000 boxes of the fruit handled there this season.

PORTLAND MARKETS.

Wheat—Walla Walla, 70@74c; valley, 77c.
Barley—Feed, \$20.00 per ton; brewing, \$21.
Flour—Best grades, \$3.95 @ 4.30; Graham, \$3.45@3.85.
Millstuffs—Bran, \$23 per ton; middlings, \$27; shorts, \$23; chop, \$18.
Oats—No. 1 white, \$1.10 @ 1.15; gray, \$1.05 per cental.
Hay—Timothy, \$20@21; clover, nominal; cheat, \$15@16 per ton.
Potatoes—Best Burbanks, 50@55c per sack; ordinary, 35@45c per cental, growers' prices; Maroon sweets, \$3@3.50 per cental.
Poultry—Chickens, mixed, 10@11c; young, 13@14c; hens, 12c; turkeys, live, 15@17c; dressed, 20@22c; ducks, \$7.00@7.50 per dozen; geese, \$6.00@6.50.
Cheese—Full cream, twins, 15½@16c; Young America, 15@16½c; factory prices, 1@1½c less.
Butter—Fancy creamery, 20@22½c per pound; extras, 22c; dairy, 20@22½c; store, 16c@18.
Eggs—17@20c per dozen.
Hops—Choice, 18@20c per pound.
Wool—Valley, 12½@17c; Eastern Oregon, 8@14c; mohair, 35@37½c.
Beef—Gross, cows, 3½@4c, per pound; steers, 5@5½c; dressed, 8½c.
Veal—7½@8c.
Mutton—Gross, \$3.50 per pound; dressed, 6@6½c.
Lamb—Gross, 4c per pound; dressed, 7½c.
Hog—Gross, 6@6½c per pound dressed, 7@8c.