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LA GRANDE, OREGON.

CELEBRATE GOOD FRIDAY TOMORROW

La Grande, March 20.—(To the Editor.)—If Christmas day is the brightest and happiest day of the Church year, Easter the most triumphant and joyous, and Ascension the most resplendent and glorious, Good Friday though the most sorrowful, is also the most comforting.

Because it throws light as nothing else does, on the baffling problem of human suffering and misery. True, it does not solve all the mysteries concerning this, for evidently it is such a problem, which is beyond the scope of human intellect, but it does reveal enough to enable us to endure what ever suffering may fall to our lot, with confidence and even elation. Let us see how this is:

The cross stands for the suffering of the whole universe, and He whom Good Friday reveals hanging on that cross becomes thus partaker of that universal suffering. All the sorrow, distress, tribulation of the whole human race, past, present and future, is fastened on to Him, when nailed to the cross, so that there is no pang which wrings, has wrung or will wring the human heart but vibrates likewise through His heart causing it the intensest anguish.

Now He who thus suffers, is the God Man, so God is touched with the sufferings of all mankind, and can sympathize to the utmost. In acting thus, He shows that suffering is no arbitrary thing which He could do away with by a word, otherwise He would have long ago spoken that word, but something which under the existing conditions, is unavoidable. To understand how this is, would require a knowledge and understanding on our part, of the universe and ourselves, which only a universal mind could grasp and possess, so God does not attempt to explain where it is impossible, but gives instead an astounding revelation of Himself, as Love, which will inspire us to have confidence in Him and have patience to await the final outcome, which He tells us will make up for all present pain and show us the reason why.

Good Friday reveals that none of

us suffers alone. If we are deserted by our companions, we are not by God. The outcast who is despised and rejected of men, and looks in vain for human sympathy in the misery his sins have brought on him may know that God understands and sympathizes with him, having been touched with that selfsame feeling, and because of this knowledge, God is all the more ready to save him and forgive him. So he need not despair, if only, he is in earnest to repent and forsake his sins.

But space, however, will not permit me to go much farther into the matter and point out, how all kinds of suffering whether vicarious or brought on ourselves by our own fault, may derive comfort from Good Friday, so will take but one more instance. No more trying situation a clergyman confronts than that of comforting bereaved parents, when the darling or the pride and hope of the family and home has been snatched away by death. Words seem powerless to afford any balm to their bleeding hearts. God apparently forgot to be gracious and His ears were deaf to the agonizing prayers of the father and mother. What can I say to them, to relieve their anguish? Why I can show them that God spared not His own Son from death, and so their grief has wrung the heart of God Himself, and the Father in Heaven sorrows with the father on earth. Thus the situation is relieved for it is no act of a tyrant which took away their child but of One who cannot act but in love, no matter how severe His actions at times may seem. The comfort of Good Friday is inexhaustible and infinite and so becomes

"Joy of the desolate. Light of the straying. Hope, when all others die, fadeless and pure.

Here speaks the Comforter, in God's name saying— Earth has no sorrow that Heaven cannot cure."

UPTON H. GIBBS.

IMPROVEMENT BONDS

(Continued from Page 1.)

Grande has subjected the city to inferior material from cement makers who could unload second-class stuff and not be caught up. Resolutions covering all these phases will come up in due time.

Long debate was occasioned over the matter of transcripts of bonding legislation for bond buyers. It was prompted by a request to furnish transcripts for John L. Mars, in a specific case, but the matter fell through as it was deemed too broad.

A resolution was passed authorizing and instructing the city recorder to collect all delinquent improvement assessments. This is a serious proposition and is going to lead to trouble for those who are delinquent.

Lively war between makers of two well known street flushers is likely to mean that the city of La Grande will obtain a modern flusher "dirt cheap". The bid of the Sanitary Flusher company was recommended accepted by the street committee

consideration for a week or two, but with a counter proposal. The latest bid presented by this company since the war started, was \$1025 f. o. b. Portland. Knowing that the conflict between the two companies was a warm one the street committee made a counter proposal of acceptance if the price be made \$1025 f. o. b. La Grande. The matter was laid on the table when the Studebaker flusher representatives present had telegrams read alleging that the Sanitary company was not quoting its lowest rates and also the reading of telegrams showing that adverse criticism of the Studebaker flusher by the street superintendent at Vancouver, Wn., was not the opinion of the majority of the council there. The matter has many side issues and the situation was finally laid on the table, that the entire council may become

letter acquainted with the complicated situation. It is probable that final action will be taken at the next meeting of the council.

The matter of public weighing scales on paved streets, has come up again. D. M. Clark, acting for Clark & Snook, produce dealers, has petitioned the council for the right to install a scale and to purchase the discarded city scale, in front of the Jefferson street property. As that street is to be paved this summer, the street committee will look into the advisability of installing such a scale at this time. Mr. Clark offers to do the weighing and collect fees for the city. As there is one in front of the La Grande brewery that will either have to be removed or have paving constructed about it, the entire question of scales on paved streets will be threshed out with this problem.

An opinion from the city attorney on the legality of the proposed ordinance more specifically defining the duties of the mayor, which ordinance is the one that has been termed "Get the mayor" ordinance, was read. City Attorney Rusk held that the measure was in violation of the city charter in various phases, he pointing out the several reasons why he holds it to be invalid. The opinion was put on file.

It is probable that the document will die for want of lifting from the table, or may be taken up and killed. When told that it was illegal, Councilman Davis, who introduced it, withdrew his support of the measure.

Bids for the purchase of \$50,000 improvement bonds were opened last night and one accepted. One from the Warren Construction company being about par, and the other from a Toledo firm offering \$150 premium. The latter bid was accepted.

The ordinance fixing the salary of the city physician and prescribing his duties, was read the third time and passed. The wage is \$15 monthly. Another ordinance covering the duty of the poundmaster requiring him to do all the fumigating neces-

sary, has also been put before the council.

The snow ordinance is passed. It requires that six hours after the snow falls or ice is formed, in daylight only, the property owners must clear the walk. This refers principally to the business streets and the more centrally located residence districts. Agents for lots owned by non-resident people are held responsible. The fine for violation is \$5 to \$25, and the chief of police must enforce the law.

No Doubt.

Ohio now has a stringent corrupt practices act, which aims to do away entirely with the use of money in politics. In speaking of the emancipation of prominent men from the necessity of making contributions to every public enterprise and selfish person, Judge William E. Scofield of the Buckeye State tells this story:

"It reminds me of Jim Fisk, the railroad king of the seventies. Jim always gave freely to the institutions in the little town from which he came. His name was on every subscription list, but he balked one day when he was asked to send \$100 for putting a new fence around the village cemetery. In denying the request he wrote:

"I don't see any use for a fence around a graveyard. Those on the outside don't want to get in, and those on the inside can't get out."

"I told this story to an Englishman last year when I was abroad. After ruminating a few minutes he said:

"Aw, I think your Mr. Fisk was about half right; really I do."—The Popular Magazine.

Zoological Myths.

Certain creatures oft heard of, pray who ever saw?

There's the camel whose back broke beneath the last straw.

There's the wonderful goose that laid eggs of pure gold.

And the bull that got in where the china was sold.

There's the ass that the skin of a lion doth wear.

And the wrong pig we frequently get by the ear.

The wild horse that never—no, never—could drag There's the cat we let out of the bag.

There's the bird that goes whispering secrets around.

Whoever has seen it, whoever has found There's the oft mentioned dog in the manger that stands

And the elephant some one has got on his hands.

There's the ravenous wolf from our doors that we keep.

And the wolf that goes round in the clothes of a sheep.

There's the nightmare that somebody tells us they've had.

There's the cat with nine lives, and the March hare that's mad.

And the fox that declared that the high grapes were sour.

And the grim dogs of war. It would take quite an hour Just to list all the odd, freakish creatures that we Nearly every day hear of, but never once see.

—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

The Sport Dangerous.

Miss Eleonora Sears, the athletic young Bostonian, was visiting recently at a country house where a good deal of flying is done.

Miss Sears, one cold and brilliant afternoon, appeared on the terrace of the mansion in a new and charming aviation costume.

"How do you like my new rig?" she asked as she approached a party of young men and women who were taking tea in the open air behind a glass wind screen.

One of the young men answered with a look of admiration:

"Beautiful! You are always dressed to kill. Today, though, you are dressed to be killed."—Minneapolis Journal.

Sonnet.

I've sometimes had a hunch that sage
Clydes
When, all his trappings done, he'd gone
to farming
In Ithaca, remembering the charming
Calypso. Circé and those other misses
Whom he'd been wont to spoon with of
course, this is
Purest conjectures, often thought that
surely
He'd signed the pledge a trifle prema-
turely.
No joys compare with those we term
"amissas"
So oft we think the very best Havana
Don't come up to the born nusk ciga-
rettes
We smoked behind the barn and have
regrets
(When buffed at Genevieve) for pigtaild
Anna.
Ah me, the Fortunate Isles of golden
youth

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—Langfellow.

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