

Vital Points of Congregational Creed

BY GEORGE NELSON EDWARDS

The spirit of truth... shall guide you into all the truth. John 16:13 or 1 John 3:2.

One of the achievements of our late National Council in Kansas City was the adoption of a short statement of belief vibrant with faith, glowing with hope, and warm with love; a creed that is broad enough to grow in, purposeful enough to work in and one that has a vision both of this world and the next. It might be called a prophetic working creed because it proclaims a faith that must be worked out in the ages before us. It is also a creed that rests the heart on God and expresses the soul's confidence in the life eternal. It was the subject of an editorial in the Kansas City Journal the day after it was adopted in which it was called "A Creed with a Soul."

Listen then to this declaration of faith made by the Congregational churches of America in council assembled. "We believe in God, the Father, infinite in wisdom, goodness and love; and in Jesus Christ, his Son, our Lord and Savior who for us and our salvation lived and died and rose again and liveth evermore; and in the Holy Spirit, who taketh of the things of Christ and revealeth them to us, renewing, comforting and inspiring the souls of men."

We are united in striving to know the will of God as taught in the Holy Scriptures and in our purpose to walk in the ways of the Lord made known or to be made known to us.

We hold it to be the mission of the church of Christ to proclaim the Gospel to all mankind, exalting the worship of the one true God, and laboring for the progress of knowledge, the promotion of justice, the triumph of peace, and the realization of human brotherhood.

Depending, as did our fathers, upon the continued guidance of the Holy Spirit to lead us into all truth, we work and pray for the transformation of the world into the kingdom of God and we look with faith for the triumph of righteousness and for life and glory everlasting.

This is simple enough for the way-faring man, broad enough for anyone who calls himself Christian. The editorial referred to above says of it: "The statement almost leads one to regret that any human being should be excluded from membership in an organization working for such consummate ends. On that broad and lasting foundation, it would seem, all mankind should stand and for that shining, God-like goal all humanity should toil and pray."

This creed of the Council it should be understood does not become the creed of any Congregational church unless that church chooses to adopt it, but it stands to the public as the platform which affirms nothing but what any Congregationalist would assent to and which our most representative body has thoughtfully and prayerfully adopted. We can make it our own if we choose to.

Suppose now we study this creed a bit to see what it says and why it is good. Notice first the simplicity of its language and the reasonable length of its sentences. The longest words in it are "transformation" and "realization" and "righteousness" and these are such common words that every intelligent person knows their meaning. It is first of all the creed of a church, not of an individual. The ancient Apostles Creed begins "I believe," this begins, "We believe." It presents the great historic ground of the church's faith. It tells why Christians are united in a church, it declares the mission of the church, its goal and des-

tiny. It is therefore the voice not merely of one, nor of multitudes, but the great unition of an organic soul, the voice of an assembly that knows itself. It stands in the stream of history looking forward and back but moving on. It stands in the light of revelation and speaks for the future with a faith that rises out of the Word of God. It is the voice of the modern church confronted by its present problem yet confident in the possession of a new world vision.

Looking at the creed then as the corporate voice of the church notice that it first declares the foundation of the church, next the method of the church, third the mission of the church and finally the goal of the church.

The foundation of the church in God the Father, in Jesus Christ his Son and in the Holy Spirit. Strictly orthodox trinitarianism you say, but nothing is said about three persons and substance as in the Nicene Creed, but each clause simply amplifies our conception of God. Where the Apostles' Creed emphasizes the power of God as the "Father Almighty maker of heaven and earth," this describes the Father as "infinite in wisdom, goodness and love." It means that the soul of the universe is good and manifests itself in righteousness and love, the judge of all the earth shall do right; more than that we believe in the divine life and work of Jesus who for our salvation "wrought the creed of creeds in loveliness of perfect words" and lives forevermore; and once more the Holy Spirit reveals the things of Christ to us, is God present in the human spirit to renew man's heart to comfort and inspire him. The church is a permanent institution because of the ever-present God. Man is redeemed not by his deeds but by the grace of God. The church that is not rooted in God is like the foam of the sea, ephemeral and helpless. The ancient revelation of God is but a moment in the continued manifestation of God in the lives of His children. There is no echo of controversy here, simply the voice of the Christian conscience, not of the individual only but of age-long Christian experience. However unintelligible a metaphysical theory of the Trinity may be, the Christian church owes its existence to the fact that it has believed not only in God the Father and Creator, but in Jesus Christ, His Son, manifesting God's redeeming love to us and not only in the historic life and work of Jesus but in the presence of the Spirit of God in the mind of the church, in the hearts of men convicting, converting, controlling our unregenerate human wills till we find peace in obedience. Such a creed is a confession of real faith in God, God at work in human history and in our life.

Find, following, keeping, struggling. Is He sure to bless? Saints, Apostles, Prophets, Martyrs, Answer, "Yes."

The second important proposition in this creed is the expression of the working method of the church. How do we learn of God and link our lives to His? Note here the vital attitude taken toward the Scriptures. It is not a declaration of our belief in them as infallible or inspired or a statement of how they were written but simply this: "We are united in striving to know the will of God as taught in the Holy Scriptures." This is a dynamic relation to the Bible. We are committed to the study of the Scriptures in order to know the will of God. As the scientist sits down before the facts of nature to discover the truths of the physical universe so the Christian comes to the Bible to find for himself

the great truths of the spiritual universe. But it comes not alone. We are united with other Christians in reverent effort to know the will of God through the interpretation of the Scriptures. The church is a great school of religion where truth both new and old is sought for the spiritual life of the church.

But study is but half of the method of linking the church to God. We are united in our purpose to walk in the ways of the Lord. The church is a union of those who walk the divine ways, the people who by daily obedience seek to do the divine will. The Savior condemned again and again those who say and do not. They are the real heretics. A creed should put no barrier to thought and investigation but should be a bond of union for all who stand for righteousness. "To him that knoweth and doeth and doeth it, not to him is sin." What the will of God is will be progressively revealed to us. Here this creed adopts its language from the ancient covenants of the First Church of Plymouth, Salem and Boston. "The ways of the Lord" are those "made known to us or to be made known to us." More light is yet to break from the pages of Holy Writ. More light is yet to break from the pages of human life. The womb of time has not delivered all its secrets. The young Christian knows not all the ways of the Lord although well instructed. The Christian life is an endless development. Jesus had many things to tell His disciples which they could not then bear.

These words of the new creed point us to the great human fact that we grow strong by serving, that we learn the larger truth by living the truth we know.

We commit ourselves to the divine quest of truth. Growth in grace and the knowledge of God is no new principle but the fine thing is that we here commit ourselves to striving to grow.

The third great feature of this creed is its statement of the mission of the church. It has been said that all creeds to emphasize the ground of the faith of the church and the warrant for its authority and to declare the hope of its members for eternal life and their belief in God's ultimate conquest over evil.

More recent creeds have declared for the "advancement of the kingdom of God." This statement of the mission of the church introduces the vital purpose of the whole body of believers as the agency of divine love in the world. First of all it is the mission of the Church of Christ to proclaim the Gospel to all mankind, thus obeying the express command of its Lord and performing the work for which he commissioned it. This means that the church is to tell abroad the secret of its life, that all may live. It is to make its own living experience of God the seed of life for the world. It shall be the sender and the agent.

How beautiful are the feet of them that bring glad tidings of good things. And now we can be more specific about the Gospel. To proclaim it is, first to "exalt the worship of the one true God" and second to labor for the progress of knowledge, the promotion of justice, the triumph of peace and the realization of human brotherhood. This is the "great forward step" of this little creed, to put these great human ends before men as the practical part of the gospel. The motive power that arises from contact with God and manifests itself in a new personal life goes out to establish righteousness in the world. This slogan, not of a lonely prophet but the standard of a living church. It is not the war cry of few radicals. It is the official platform of a great ecclesiastical assembly; it is the creed of an historic body of Christians who have already wrought their faith into the bone and tissue of the Republic. The church cannot stand aside from education for it seeks it; the church cannot neglect social justice, it is here to promote it; the church cannot be indifferent to strife among men or war between nations, it is committed to peace, absolute and universal; the church cannot be selfish, it cannot ignore any neighbor or neglect any man, or class or nation, for it is pledged to make human brotherhood a reality. The hope of the ages it is the mission of the church to fulfill.

If this be our program what is our goal? Nothing less than "A Kingdom of God" into which we pray to be led by the Holy Spirit; nothing less than "the transformation of the world into the kingdom of God," for which we pledge ourselves to labor. We trust in God for "life and glory everlasting" but now we work with God for the kingdom of heaven on earth. With faith we look for the triumph of righteousness. The church rises to fling a challenge in the face of all pessimism, to deny the ultimate power of evil and its present possession of the earth. In the name of our God we shall go up and possess the land. In the spirit of the Protestant reformers we shall sing: And though this world with demons filled Should threaten to undo us We will not fear, for God hath willed His truth to triumph through us. God's truth abideth still, His Kingdom is forever.

What isn't well paid for is worth nothing.

A Cosmic Reflection. "Here," said the man of pensive mien. "is something that I dashed off in an idle hour." "Well," said the man beside the waste basket, "that's no reason" for printing it. There is no use of idly consuming both time and space."—Washington Star.

The Principal Thing. Mother—Katherine, what are the intentions of that young man you are permitting to call on you so often? Daughter—Never mind that, mother; I know what my intentions are.—Boston Transcript.

Strawberries. A great many people are under the impression that the strawberry is of European origin. As a matter of fact, it is derived from the Chilean berry, which is native to the Pacific coast.

Bamboo Lighthouse. A lighthouse of bamboo which is in use in Japan is said to have great power of resisting the waves and does not rot like ordinary wood.



This Set is Yours

If you send in a year's subscription to the OREGON CITY ENTERPRISE. It makes no difference whether it is yours or your neighbor's, or whether it is new or old. Send in the subscription and we will send you the set by return mail. We have only a limited number of these and the offer will close December 31 unless we run short before that time.

SPORT DOPE

BUD IS THE FAVORITE GIRLS, TOO, HAVE TEAM

FANS BELIEVE APPENDICITIS DID NOT HURT FIGHTER

LOS ANGELES, Cal., Dec. 8.—Los Angeles fight fans apparently do not believe that Bud Anderson of Medford, has been marked for the retired list because of his recent election to the Appendicitis club.

This is indicated by the preponderance of opinion that has established him a 10 to 6 favorite over Frank Barriere of Victoria, B. C., whom he meets in a scheduled 20 round match tomorrow night at Vernon.

Anderson has not appeared here since his knockout by Leach Cross on the eve of an operation for appendicitis. Barriere subsequently bested Cross in a no-decision bout at Vancouver. For this reason, many season ticket holders declared the price was a false one.

The boys will weigh in at 135½ four hours before the bout. The winner probably will be sent against Jack Britton of Chicago.

PORTLAND BALL SEASON WILL OPEN APRIL 14

PORTLAND, Ore., Dec. 8.—President McCredie, who returned from San Francisco yesterday, confirmed the announcement made Saturday that the local season would open here on Tuesday, April 14, and that the rejuvenated Oakland team would be the first attraction.

After opening the season at Sacramento, Portland goes to San Francisco to play the following week, and then comes home for a three weeks' stay, playing Oakland, Venice and Los Angeles before leaving for the south again.

FIGHTERS READY

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 8.—Weighing exactly 135½ pounds, half a pound above the mark at which he is to battle 20 rounds here Wednesday evening with Harlem Tommy Murphy, Willie Ritchie was pronounced by Manager Harry Foley to be in the best condition today of his career.

"Ritchie probably will drop to 134 pounds," said Foley today. "That will enable him to eat a good meal on the day of the fight and still enter the ring at weight."

Murphy also is fit and ready. The Harlemites let up in his training today and will take things easy until he enters the ring.

BIRTH

Born to Mr. and Mrs. M. McCrokey, of Astoria, a boy. Mrs. McCrokey was formerly Miss Jones, of Oregon City.

EAT LESS AND TAKE SALTS FOR KIDNEYS

Take a glass of Salts before breakfast if your Back hurts or Bladder bothers you.

The American men and women must guard constantly against kidney trouble, because we eat too much and all our food is rich. Our blood is filled with uric acid which the kidneys strive to filter out, they weaken from overwork, become sluggish; the eliminative tissues clog and the result is kidney trouble, bladder weakness and a general decline in health.

When your kidneys feel like lumps of lead; your back hurts or the urine is cloudy, full of sediment or you are obliged to seek relief two or three times during the night; if you suffer with sick headache or dizzy, nervous spells, acid stomach, or you have rheumatism when the weather is bad, get from your pharmacist about four ounces of Jad Salts; take a tablespoonful in a glass of water before breakfast for a few days and your kidneys will then act fine. This famous salt is made from the acid of grapes and lemon juice, combined with lithia, and has been used for generations to flush and stimulate clogged kidneys; to neutralize the acids in the urine so it no longer is a source of irritation, thus ending bladder disorders.

Jad Salts is inexpensive; cannot injure, makes a delightful effervescent lithia-water beverage, and belongs in every home, because nobody can make a mistake by having a good kidney flushing any time.

For Sale by Huntley Bros. (Adv.)

SPORTING BREVITIES

Word comes from San Antonio that "Rube" Waddell is not a sufferer from tuberculosis after all. His trouble is nothing other than a slight affection of the throat and he can be relieved by an operation, which will be undertaken as soon as he is strong enough to undergo it.

Harry Heilmann, Eddie Hallinan and Eddie Buras are working in a San Francisco department store. Krause is working in the gentlemen's furnishings department, while Heilmann is

having the time of his life, playing with the rest of the kids who come to purchase toys.

Only three pitchers in the American league worked in more than 300 innings last year. Walter Johnson led with 346, Red Russell was second and Jimmy Scott was third with 312 innings to his credit.

Although House, Detroit's young twirler, allowed only 10 hits in 54 innings, 57 runs were scored against him. Twenty-one of the runs were earned. He walked 17 batters.

John Peters, of Wilsonville, spent Monday in Oregon City.

Milton Trullinger, of Molalla, spent Monday in this city.

CLOGGED NOSTRILS OPEN AT ONCE, HEAD COLDS AND CATARRH VANISH

In One Minute Your Stuffy Nose and Head Clears, Sneezing and Nose Running Cease, Dull Headache Goes.

Try "Ely's Cream Balm."

Get a small bottle anyway, just to try it—Apply a little in the nostrils and instantly your clogged nose and stopped-up air passages of the head will open; you will breathe freely; dullness and headache disappear. By morning! the catarrh, cold-in-head or catarrhal sore throat will be gone.

End such misery now! Get the small bottle of "Ely's Cream Balm" at any drug store. This sweet, fragrant balm dissolves by the heat of the nostrils; penetrates and heals the inflamed, swollen membrane which lines the nose, head and throat; clears the air passages; stops nasty discharges and a feeling of cleansing, soothing relief comes immediately.

Don't lay awake to-night struggling for breath, with head stuffed; nostrils closed, hawking and blowing. Catarrh or a cold, with its running nose, foul mucus dropping into the throat, and raw dryness is distressing but truly needless.

Put your faith—just once—in "Ely's Cream Balm" and your cold or catarrh will surely disappear.

For Sale By HUNTLEY BROS. CO. (Adv.)

The latest standing of contestants will be found elsewhere in this issue of the Enterprise.

You Should Worry About the Tango

—but get busy and save the Huntley Bros. Co. Popularity Contest votes.

Are You Afraid of "Thirteen"

—don't let that bother you because the winner of the "Twelve Day Contest" receives twice thirteen or twenty six pieces of silverware.

Did You See The Cabinet

of silverware to be given the lady who receives the largest number of votes between December 6th and December 17th? This special contest is limited to those who did not enter the Popularity Contest prior to December 6th.

Huntley Brothers Co. The Rexall Store

TRY IT! SAYS SAGE TEA DARKENS AND BEAUTIFIES FADED, GRAY HAIR

Mixed With Sulphur Makes Hair Soft and Luxuriant and Removes Dandruff

The old-time mixture of Sage Tea and Sulphur for darkening gray, streaked and faded hair is coming in vogue again, says a well-known downtown druggist. It was our grandmother's treatment, and hundreds of women, and men, too, are again using it to keep their hair a good, even color, which is quite sensible, as we are living in an age when a youthful appearance is of the greatest advantage.

Nowadays, though, we don't have the troublesome task of gathering the sage and the musky mixing at home. All drug stores sell the ready-to-use product called "Wyeth's Sage and Sulphur

Hair Remedy" for about 50 cents a bottle. It is the most popular because nobody can discover it has been applied. Simply dampen a soft brush or sponge with "Wyeth's Sage and Sulphur" and draw this through your hair, taking one small strand at a time. Do this tonight, and by morning the gray hair disappears, and after another application it is restored to its natural color.

What delights the ladies with Wyeth's Sage and Sulphur is that besides beautifully darkening the hair they say it produces that soft luster and appearance of abundance which is so attractive; besides prevents dandruff, itching scalp and falling hair. Here, you, gray-haired folks, get busy; you, years younger. (Adv.) HUNTLEY BROS. Co.

Christmas Suggestions for Her

- WARMER TOASTER
- FLAT IRON
- TABLE LAMP
- PERCOLATER
- CHAFING DISH
- CURLING IRON
- TABLE COOKER

All these and many other Electrical Appliances are on display at our Main St. Store. Help lighten her work by giving her one of the many labor saving electrical devices that we carry.

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