NO RESPECT FOR CREED

DR. HILLIS' DENUNCIATION OF THE DOCTRINE OF DAMNATION.

How Plymouth's Pastor Put Himself Out of Fellowship of the Church He Began In.

Beginning his sermon, Sunday morning, March 25, with a statement of the great importance that ideals of the future life have for men, he quickly made the assertion that until evolution came the world had no data for an adequate discussion of the problems of right and wrong and penalty. He placed himself fairly and squarely upon the ground that both Nature's penalties and God's punishments represent, not anger, but medicinal love, that they are not to break the bruised reed, but to bring growth and victory.

He showed out of what partial and garbled materials the mistaken genius of men had erected ideas of everlasting hell and of cruel and vengeful punishments, pointing with sorrow both to Michael Angelo's artistic ideas and at Calvin's and Jonathan Edwards' dogmatic assertions and passing to the Presbyterianism of today.

From this background rose, like the finale of a rich and glorious symphony, his concluding apostrophe to the deliverance of man out of the very sternness of Nature:

"Know, then," he said, "that there is a deliverer. With confidence that is absolute and with certainty that is unyielding and immovable, I point you to Jesus Christ."

Dr. Hillis' sermon in part follows:

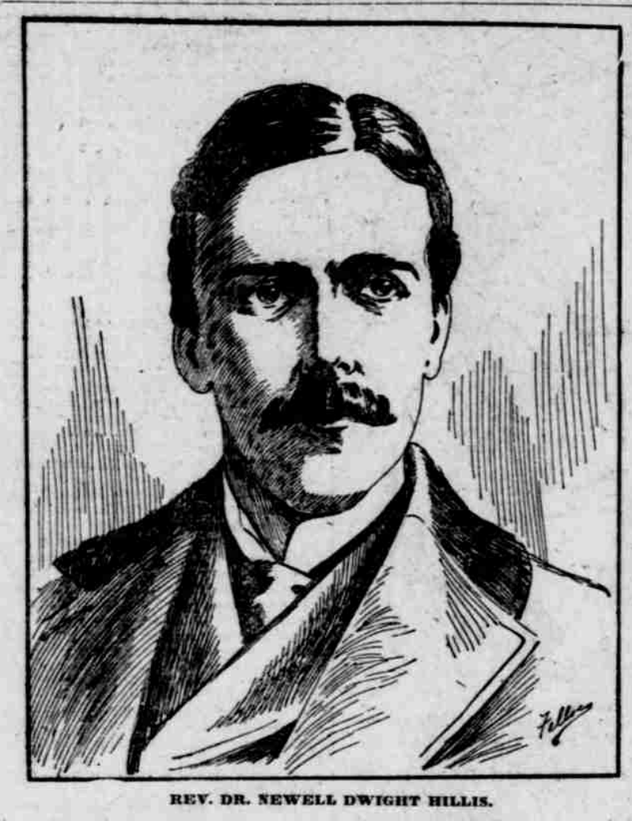
"Among life's gravest problems let us include the problem of the life to come, with its penalties and rewards. No other question has so fascinated man, no other problem is so big with wonder and mystery, and none has so fully occupied the thought of the common people not less than of the poet and the philosopher. For when man has toiled long with his tool, his law, his friendship, and made ready for his old age, it remains for him to become good friends with his past, with his conscience and his God, and to prepare for his admittance into that court of universal love into which the good and great of all ages have been garnered. Perhaps, after their many and long inquiries, the wisest of men can never know with certainty what is the nature of that future life, what occupations and duties there await them, but certain it is that nothing educates man like the forecast of and preparation for a future that confessedly must remain unknown. All will admit that no child can know beforehand that wisdom, wealth and influence may belong to three-score years and 10, yet it is to the last degree important that the boy should wonder and dream as to what manner of home shall be his, what tool or task he shall take up; whether glory and honors shall await him or poverty and neglect discourage his labors. And if man in his youth prepares for an unknown career this side of the grave, man grown gray and old does well also to forecast that realm beyond the horizon where mortal law must also reign. If in this life vices and sins journey on attended by harvests of unhappiness, perhaps beyond the grave those who love truth and goodness will find the angels of God ever upon the wing.

"Now our intellectual trend will be the firmer if we note what evolution has to say as to the laws of life, growth and continuance of any organism. Reduced to its simplest possible terms, Mr. Spencer tells us life depends upon correspondence with environment. The stone is dead. It has no nerve of connection with air or soil. A plant lives a little. It has one nerve down to the soil and another nerve up toward the sun. The lark has more life. It has mouth for food, feet for walking, wings for the air and song toward its fellows. The savage adds yet more life. He is related to soil, to seeds, to fruits, to flocks and herds, to fire and stone and metals. The civilized man adds to his life. He runs one nerve toward the kingdom of beauty, one toward the kingdom of color and one toward the kingdom of truth; while for man in his noblest state, there are relations toward the invisible realm, where hope and love and conscience dwell. Cut off any nerve of relation and to that extent death has taken place. Cut the root nerve of the plant, and it dies. But for the bird, death involves more. Remove the wings, it still has feet. Remove the feet and it has the mouth for food. But remove the head and life is gone. Because man has a thousand nerves relating him to the universe, death is more difficult. Cut the optic nerve, the kingdom of beauty goes, but man lives. Cut the nerves of hearing also and of speaking, man still continues his life. Cut the nerve of conscience and friendship, and the moral realm goes. Many men who are alive physically have been dead for 20 years toward the kingdom of love and conscience. Cut the nerve of memory and intellect, and the body still lives. Cut off hands and feet, the pulse still thrives. But touch the heart—life is gone. In man, therefore, the measure of life is the measure of relation and correspondence. Obedience to the laws of exercise and nutrition for strengthening the nerves of correspondence increases the life. Contrariwise, disobedience to these means death. This is natural law. Tears will not change it; groans and shrieks will not interrupt it. God's world is one world. The laws that reign today will rule tomorrow and tomorrow's tomorrow. Now this law is big with destiny.

"But evolution makes much of another law—the law of the conservation of energy. A natural law is God's thought organized, and these think and work for God and under him. In accordance with this principle, God governs rocks by force, animals by fear, savage men by self-interest, good men by reason, the best men by love. The law in the lowest realm is the law of force, and the weak go to the wall, the strong survive. But as man approaches the realm where God dwells he finds the law reversed. There the strong go to the wall, while the weak survive. In the low animal stage, the weak perish and strength survives and multiplies. But when the savage mother identifies her babe with herself for reasons of self-interest, she wishes every part of herself to survive, and so lifts the shield to protect her babe. In the cold and rain she makes her body a shield above the child. Soon the babe in its weakness survives, and the strong mother perishes. But when men saw that this was after all a form of progress, then all fathers and mothers, named the state, made a law to preserve, not simply babes, but to cause the weak slave and serf and debtor to survive. A law was made to give the slave his freedom after seven years, so the serf survived. A law was made forbidding the creditor to take the sleeping blanket from the debtor, or to take his spade or sickle when these were his only means of life. At length the state lifted the shield above the blind, the deaf, the aged, and weakness survived more and more. Finally Christ came, declaring that the law of force never blossoms until the strong perish that the weak may survive.

"With these principles in mind, what has Christianity to say of the future life and its penalties and rewards? First, life's great problem is to keep the soul that has been achieved for you by your ancestors and by your God. This is Christ's question: 'What shall it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his own soul?' The problem of the bad man is: Given a body fearfully and wonderfully made, given a soul fully equipped with faculties, rational, affectional and moral, given nerves running out into the earth beneath and the heavens above, how shall I through sin most quickly cut the nerve toward truth and the nerve toward beauty and the nerve toward friendship and the nerve toward all immortal realms, until I stand alone, without a single nerve of relation—a mere lump of flesh, as truly dead as a stone that has no nerve toward soil or sun? And the problem of the good man is this: Given a soul, no matter from whence it came, that now seems the image of God, how shall I exercise and strengthen the nerve of reason toward truth, the nerve of memory toward a noble past, the nerve of hope toward a great future, the nerve of aspiration toward the immortal life, so that I shall be as immortal through faith and love as God and Christ, with whom I am in communion?

"Now this automatic judgment also explains the awful warnings of God's word. What terror and alarm in this divine book! What separations and descriptions that blanch the stoutest heart! Listen! 'Because I called, ye refused; I stretched out my hand and no man regarded; therefore, I will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh—when fear cometh as desolation—and destruction as a whirlwind.' Misunderstanding for centuries, men have thought this was the voice of God speaking. From this scripture Dante and Milton created their pictures of lurid, fiery torment. But this voice of warning comes from the throne in man, and not from the throne of God. It is the voice of Nature. Proverbs is the book of wisdom. Wisdom is here personified and speaks to us. The glutton lives for stalled ox and highly seasoned foods. The drunkard lives for fiery stimulants and spiced wines. The lecherous man lives for pleasure, and his kiss of passion sets a blister on the forehead that



REV. DR. NEWELL DWIGHT HILLIS.

hitherto was white. And when this evil life has been persisted in, Nature ascends her judgment seat. The brain exclaims: 'I have called to ye, oh, ye gluttons, and ye refused.' The exhausted nerve exclaims: 'I have stretched out my hands, oh, ye drunkards, and no man regarded it.' And the weakened heart cries out, 'Ye would none of my counsel; ye mocked my reproof, and now I'—the injured brain, or nerve, or stomach, exclaims—'I will laugh at your calamity; I will mock at your desolation. When the agonies of sciatica and dyspepsia and all forms of physical anguish shall desolate your life, ye shall eat the fruit of your own devises.' It is the voice of physiology. It is the voice of intellect. If the scholastic theologians have substituted God for Nature, there is no scholar but knows that the book of Proverbs represents Nature and wisdom warning man. And though the wrongdoer, when it is too late, pours forth his tears, though he send forth prayers and exceeding bitter cries, the laws of God will move on. Nothing can stay the penalties. 'He that sows to the flesh, shall of the flesh reap corruption.' 'Whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he reap.' This is natural law. This is true today and tomorrow, and shall be true on the morrow's morrow.

"Another partial and hideous view was taught and is by Jonathan Edwards and the Calvinistic theologians. They took the words of Solomon, where brain and nerve and stomach speak, saying to the glutton and the drunkard, 'I will laugh at your calamity. I will mock when your fear cometh,' and constructed a form of future punishment therefrom. Adam and Eve represented the race. For their sin all mankind were doomed to eternal punishment. Christ came in with a lifeboat to save a few of the lost wretches; as Edwards said, 'the bigger part of men who have died heretofore have gone to hell; the whole heathen world is hopelessly doomed; against the non-elect the wrath of God is burning, the furnace hot, the flames rage and glow and devils are waiting for their coming like lions restrained and greedy for their prey.' On one page, Edwards writes: 'God holds the unconverted over the pit of hell, as much as one holds a spider or a loathsome insect over the fire,' 'and from time to time the generations in darkened lands, without temple, without Bible, without religious teacher, are swept into hell as the housewife lifts the lids from the glowing coals and sweeps flies into the flames.' And today one of our greatest denominations still includes that awful statement in its confession of faith, saying that certain men and angels are foreordained to everlasting death, being 'particularly and unchangeably designed, and their number is so certain and definite that it cannot be either increased or diminished.' And every young man who enters the Presbyterian Church has to solemnly swear to believe and teach this frightful view. Yet every attempt to revise and expel that statement from the creed has been successfully combatted by a majority that wishes to retain the doctrine. It would seem that if men believed it, reason would be shaken to its foundation. It would seem as if a man would prefer to be burned at the stake rather than hold and charge such infinite cruelty upon the all-merciful and all-loving God. The day the scholastics wrote that chapter in the confession of faith they got the devil confused with God. What, read the story of Christ's life—love, sufferings and death—and then charge God with 'particularly and unchangeably designing' the majority of his children to eternal torment? I would rather shake my fist in the face of the Eternal and fling every vile epithet toward that stainless throne, where eternal mercy sits with the world's atoning Savior, than lift my hand with that creed toward God's throne and affirm that I taught or believed it: For the man who does believe that hideous doctrine the hour of judgment has already come. His sun is already darkened; his moon is turned to blood; his stars have refused to give their light. But for the common people driven toward utter denial and atheism by such false theology, there has risen the light of science to reconcile contradiction, to enforce righteousness, to convict of sin and to recover men unto belief in and love for God revealed in our Savior, Jesus Christ.

"Equipped with this automatic judgment seat, knitted in by ties of friendship and association with our fellows, responsible for influence, how solemn the thought of that coming judgment day. For wise men science, with its new emphasis of the permanence of character, has taken away the dreams of Dante and Milton and Edwards, but has substituted realities that are a thousand-fold more impressive, stern and rigorous. The old scholastics only skimmed the surface of Nature's dark flood, over which the mariner sails. Ours is a moral universe. It is keyed to righteousness, and not happiness. Dreams become thought, thought becomes habit, habit becomes character, character becomes destiny. This voice of the sage is also the voice of Nature and of God. Conscience never takes a vacation. The judge is ever on the bench. Every hour the testimony comes in. Laws hem man in on every side; God never slumbers nor sleeps. Many there are who dare not trust themselves out under the stars that blaze and, like flaming lightnings, burn and sear. For them the heavens are brass. For them the earth is iron and ashes. But for these broken hearts and wrecked lives is there no place of recovery?

"And when I see Christ stretching pitying hands toward sobbing Peter and whispering, 'There is joy in heaven over one sinner that repenteth'; when I see Christ's tenderness toward that weeping girl, concealing her tragedy as she wets Christ's feet with her tears and wipes them with her hair; when I behold Christ's mercy toward Saul slaying Stephen, and then himself assuming the responsibility of Saul's sin, raising up a new leader in Stephen's place, and so bearing and atoning for Saul's transgressions, and then going on to meet Saul in a vision hour and transform him to Paul, then I understand that glorious deliverance that Christ brings to each wicked courtier like Francis Xavier; to that wicked thinker, John Bunyan, to the criminal Jean Valjean."

WILCOX TROPHY CONTEST.

Close Scores on Waverly Links—Coming Tournament.

The contest for the T. B. Wilcox trophy cup at the Waverly golf links yesterday afternoon was exceedingly lively, and the scores were well bunched, there being but a difference of 15 between high and low man. F. G. Wheeler won the contest with a score of 108 and 10 handicap, making a net 98. P. B. Gifford (scratch) and R. L. Macleay, with two plus opposite his name, each made 105 gross. F. S. Wheeler and Dr. H. E. Jones qualified for the finals, and the cup will be contested for every Saturday afternoon from now until the end of June.

Yesterday's scores follow:

PLAYERS.	Gross score.	Handicap.	Net score
F. G. Wheeler	108	10	98
H. E. Jones	111	12	99
J. K. Kollock	111	10	101
N. E. Ayer	112	8	104
C. E. Ladd	114	10	104
J. E. Young	109	4	105
T. B. Wilcox	117	12	105
P. B. Gifford	105		105
R. L. Macleay	105	*2	107
J. Bourne, jr	113	6	107
W. J. Burns	121	12	109
W. M. Whidden	120	10	110
D. C. Lewis	122	12	110
C. H. Lewis	119	7	112
Thomas Kerr	115	2	113

*Plus.

The Pacific Northwest Golf Association will hold its second annual championship meeting in Portland next Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday. There will be five contests each day, beginning at 9:30 A. M., and continuing until 5 P. M. Visiting competitors are expected from Vancouver, Victoria, Seattle, Tacoma, Spokane and also some from California. Entries to all championship events must be in the hands of the secretary of the association, P. B. Gifford, of Portland, not later than Thursday evening. Entries for all other events may be made with the committeeman acting as starter at the links. Only amateur golfers belonging to clubs on the Pacific Coast can compete in the open championship events.

H. M. MONTGOMERY'S GREAT DANE PUP, "BLUE JACKET."

The other events are open to all amateurs from any part of the United States or Canada.

"66 HOURS TO ST. PAUL AND MINNEAPOLIS"

Via the Great Northern Railway.

Train leaves Portland daily at 6:20 P. M. Connects at St. Paul Union Depot for Chicago, St. Louis and all points east and south. For tickets, rates, etc., call at City Ticket Office, 122 Third street.

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PROPERTY ASSESSMENT

REMEDIES SUGGESTED FOR EXISTING CONDITIONS.

Precinct Assessors Favored in Crook County—Judge Bird Stands by Present Law.

The questions of assessment and taxation and revision of the assessment laws continue to be discussed with interest throughout the state. There are as many remedies for existing conditions as there are persons to advocate them. Judge Wills, of Crook County, favors Precinct Assessors and a State Board of Equalization. He considers it useless to urge County Assessors to perform their duty under the present law. Judge Bird, of Yamhill County, thinks the present law is sufficient if Assessors would enforce it. Judge Potter, of Lane County, offers as a remedy an inheritance tax and direct levy upon railroads and telegraph lines and upon counties, according to population, for the purpose of raising state revenue.

PRECINCT ASSESSORS.

Crook County Plan for Getting a Full Assessment.

PRINEVILLE, Or., April 21.—The liabilities of Crook County were, according to our last semiannual statement, including interest on outstanding warrants, $18,04 75; estimated resources, $17,979 50. Of the last amount, $5029 was cash on hand, applicable to the payment of county warrants. The balance consisted of uncollected taxes due. The tax levy for 1899 for general county purposes was placed at 10¾ mills, and will bring in a revenue of $18,441 48, if all is collected, but we expect to fall short of this amount about $500. All warrants against this county registered prior to October 14, 1898, have been paid. The actual expenditures of this county during 1899 were approximately $13,000. The indebtedness has for the last year and one-half been reduced about $10,000. Our revenues from all sources in 1900 will be nearly $20,000.

How mines should be taxed is a question that up to the present time has not been considered in this county, but indications are that it soon will be. We have no patented mines as yet, but have prospects that apparently will develop into properties of great value. I am of the opinion that mining improvements and machinery can only be taxed as personal property, and their values should be governed by their earnings for the year they are taxed.

Having served the state for four years upon the State Board of Equalization, and having become familiar with the manner in which assessments are made by Assessors in this state, and knowing the oath Assessors take before entering upon their duties, it seems to me that suggestions for the benefit of Assessors would be sweetness wasted on the desert air.

What do I think would be a remedy for existing evils? My answer is: Compel every individual or corporation owning property within any county in this state to deliver to some person in each precinct, who shall have been previously appointed by the County Assessor, to receive the same, a full and complete list of all of his or their property, personal and real, within the precinct of the person so appointed. Listing of property should be as of March 1. Such a law should be backed by heavy fines or by forfeiture of a large per centum of such property as was not so returned. Thus we would find all the property, after which it would be only necessary for the Assessor to visit each precinct and, in conjunction with his deputy in the precinct, place an appraisement upon the property, when such lists would be complete and ready for entry on the county roll. The Assessor's blanks and assessment rolls should be furnished by the state, and should correspond as to classification of property, and the Assessor should be compelled by law to use blanks so furnished and none other. All classes of property should be placed upon the rolls in a uniform manner, and no two classes of property should be merged under one heading. Summaries of each roll, giving the classes as they appear on the rolls, with the number in each class, and of total valuation, along with the average valuations in each class, should be sent to the Secretary of State by a given time or fixed date, under penalty for neglect or refusal to do so. There should be a State Board of Equalization of not less than five persons, representing as many districts, who should have power to sit as long as 30 days. Such board should be allowed a reasonable compensation, a part of which should be for traveling expenses, while the individual members are in search of information outside of their own districts. It should be their duty to equalize the valuations of each class of property found in the summaries as between counties and return the same to the Secretary of State, who should then charge each county with its just amount of state taxes, according to the report of such Board of Equalization. Such equalization should apply only to state taxes. By some such means only will we ever know the true valuation of the property in this state. Low valuations make high rates. High rates breed liars and cause concealment of property. Low valuations are bad for the state. High rates are bad for the locality.

WILLIAM C. WILLS,
County Judge.

Bryan's Lead-Pipe Cinch.

New York Commercial-Advertiser.

There are two sufficient reasons why escape from Bryan's nomination by the Democratic party is hopeless. The first is that there is absolutely no other candidate to be found. The second is that he has unshakable possession of more than enough votes to nominate him. To prevent his nomination, 311 votes, or more would be sufficient, and would be cast by the delegates from the states and territories which would be lost to the party by the nomination of any other man than Bryan. Of course, the nomination of Bryan would be followed by the loss of many states, but the delegates from those states would be in the convention, and would be able to control the action of the convention. Bryan's nomination is therefore a foregone conclusion. The only way to prevent it is to defeat the election of delegates to the convention. Any other man than Bryan would be defeated by the delegates from the states which would be lost to the party by the nomination of Bryan