

THROW DOWN BARS

Some Methodists Want to Amuse Themselves.

BITTER FIGHT MAY RESULT

Proposed Abolition of Ban on Worldly Pleasures Will Stir Quadrennial Conference-Increased Number of Lay Delegates May Affect Result.

One of the most important matters which will be brought up at the quadrennial general conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church at Los Angeles next May will be the proposed elimination of the amusement phase in the church discipline. This question, which is contained in paragraph 246 of the discipline, has long been a matter of bitter discussion between different factions of the church, and the specific mention of the various amusements prohibited, such as card-playing, dancing, partaking of intoxicating liquors, etc., has ever been a thorn in the side of younger members of the church who are inclined to be just a bit worldly.

Ministers all over the country have been receiving hints that the question of leaving these prohibited amusements catalogued in the paragraph, as it now stands, will be seriously discussed at the coming conference, and many have been told that the church absolutely must rescind the law which puts a ban upon card-playing, theater-going and dancing. This cry comes mostly from the large cities, the country clergymen maintaining that the law should stand as it is—that it is easy for all good Methodists to follow—that a good Christian does not want to indulge in these amusements, and that there is, therefore, no necessity of repealing the law.

Hot Fight Four Years Ago.

When this conference met in Chicago four years ago, there was an exciting debate on the amusement question, and never before have the delegates been stirred up to such a pitch. But the fight which is looming up on the Los Angeles horizon promises to eclipse anything of the kind in the past. The sentiment in favor of taking a more liberal view of the amusement clause is large, but another element which is against it is also large and will stubbornly fight any proposed change in paragraph 246.

It is claimed by many that the former sentiment has been steadily gaining ground since the last conference, and that the majority of Methodist ministers are becoming broad-minded and are taking a more worldly view of these things—that the so-called Puritanical spirit of the church should in a measure be broken down.

This amusement paragraph in the church discipline has been enforced for many years. Since 1873 it has been a strict law of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and since 1873 it has been regarded by a certain element of clergymen and laymen as too stringent, too narrow, while others have regarded it as exactly the thing the church needed. Both elements, however, agree that it has always been lived up to by church members and that it has never done them any harm. This law is as follows:

Text of Law in Dispute.

Impudent and Un-Christian Conduct.—In cases of neglect of duties of any kind, impudent conduct, including sinful tempers of words, the buying, selling or using intoxicating liquors as a beverage, signing petitions in favor of granting license for the sale of intoxicating liquors, becoming bondsmen for persons engaged in such traffic, renting property as a place in or on which to manufacture or sell intoxicating liquors, dancing, playing at games of chance, attending theaters, horse races, circuses, dancing parties or patronizing dancing schools, or taking such other amusements as are obviously distasteful or questionable moral tendency, or disobedience to the order and discipline of the church—first, let private reproof be given by the pastor or leader, and if there be an acknowledgment of the fault, and proper humiliation, the person may be borne with. On the second offense the pastor or leader may take one or two discreet members of the church. On a third offense let him be brought to trial, and if found guilty, and there be no sign of real humiliation, he shall be expelled.

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More Laymen and Some Women.

The general conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church is probably the largest gathering of churchmen in the country. This year it will exceed in number any previous conference from the fact that the number of lay delegates now equals that of clerical delegates. There will also be ten or 12 women delegates this year—for the first time in the history of Methodist conferences. Just whether this addition of the extra number of laymen and the women will have any effect upon the outcome of the debate on amusements is a matter of speculation. That the world of today wants to attend the theaters is no doubt behind the spirit of "broad-mindedness" which is being pushed to the front.

One minister in Chicago states that he is strongly opposed to rescinding the law or eliminating the catalogue of worldly amusements from the paragraph, and yet in speaking of the opera, this divine says: "The opera is a matter that has never been discussed. It depends largely whether it is sung in a theater. I suppose they have a lobby and the greenrooms and other accessories of the modern theater, but the opera is not mentioned in the paragraph. If it is given in a theater, it comes within the inhibition."

This gentleman's distinction between the theater and the opera seems drawn only by the name of the building in which it is given, and it is probable that such sentiment, were amusements not catalogued, would soon reach as far as the theater itself.

That This Question Will Create Profoundest Interest at the Coming Enlarged Conference is Not Doubted, but the Question is a Grave One and the Outcome is Problematical.

ALASKA INDIAN TO LECTURE.

Edward Marsden, College Graduate, to Address Sunday Club.

Edward Marsden, the Alaska Indian, a graduate of Marietta College, who has captivated audiences in all parts of the United States by his story of the social and religious experiment on the island, Metlakatla, will address the men at the Sunday Club at the Y. M. C. A. this afternoon.

Mr. Marsden has a steam launch, in which he views his different points, and has done some splendid things for his people, commercially as well as along missionary lines.

C. Cutler, the Indian basso, will be on the musical programme. W. N. Livingston, cornetist, will play.

A reception will be tendered Mr. Marsden at 3 P. M. in the gymnasium, while Driscoll's orchestra plays.

ANNUAL CLEARANCE SALE.

Special discount on china dinner sets, roast sets, salad sets, odd pieces of china to close out. Art goods, lamps, cut-glass, etc. Prall, Haggle & Co., retail department, corner Third and Stark streets.

Have you friends coming from the East? If so, send their names to the Denver & Rio Grande office, 124 Third street, Portland, Or.

HE DEMANDS HIS BABY

ANOTHER HILLSBORO PREACHER FIGURES IN COURT.

Rev. G. H. Phelps, While Suffering From Nervous Prostration, Attacks His Sister-in-Law's Character.

Hillsboro seems to be having a lively time with its ministers of late. One is now in court charged with burglary, and Tuesday a second one will be the complainant in a suit which promises to prove most sensational. Rev. G. H. Phelps, of the United Evangelical Church of Hillsboro, has entered suit against his sister-in-law, Mrs. S. W. Anderson, of 735 East Madison street, Portland, for the possession of his 18-month-old baby, which has been in Mrs. Anderson's care since its birth. Mr. Phelps has been suffering from a severe attack of nervous prostration for the past few months, and is alleged to have employed threats and scandal to force Mrs. Anderson to give up the child.

Mrs. Anderson's side of the story is that she has cared for the little girl since it was one day old, and that the father has frequently visited her home and expressed himself as much pleased at its treatment. One day the past week a message came from Mr. Phelps ordering her to deliver the child at the home of his mother in Portland by 1 o'clock the next day. She insisted that he come to the house and talk the matter over or give her some reason for this sudden determination to take the child from her care, but could get no satisfaction from him. Realizing that the father was the natural guardian of the baby and that she would have to give it up at his command, the next morning she began packing the little one's clothes and getting it ready to follow the father's orders. While she was engaged thus the postman delivered a letter from Mr. Phelps which caused her to change her mind. She states that in this letter he attacked her character in a vicious manner and declared his intention of securing the child, "dead or alive."

"To have turned the child over to him after such charges would have been practically admitting them, so I consulted a lawyer, who advised me not to give him custody of the little girl until I had vindicated myself in court," said she. "I regret the turn matters have taken most keenly, on her account as much as my own. I am fully prepared to protect my own character when the matter is brought up before the court, but such an affair will always be a cloud hanging over my head."

It has been intimated by many that Mr. Phelps' nervous troubles have affected him mentally. If this proves to be the case, Mrs. Anderson feels that it would not be proper for him to have charge of an infant daughter.

SCHOOL FOR GIRLS IN SPAIN.

Appeal is Made for Funds to Endow Educational Institution.

An appeal is being made to the men and women of Portland to aid in the work of the International Institute for Girls in Spain, the specific object being the continuation of the school founded by Mrs. Alice Gordon Gulick, the former director of the institute, who a short time ago was called from her labors forever.

Every effort is being made to complete the \$60,000 required for building the Alice Gordon Gulick Memorial Hall before the coming anniversary of the going of Mr. and Mrs. Gulick to Spain, December 19, 1904.

Intellectually, morally, religiously, Mrs. Gulick has created in Spain a college of equal standing with Harvard, Wellesley,



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Columbian University and Mount Holyoke in this country. It is pointed out that these institutions are obliged to have classrooms, laboratories and assembly halls, of which the Spanish college is destitute, but money could not purchase the fine character and high rank already gained by its students. Cardinal Borden, one of those interested in the school, writes: "Shall this rich achievement be longer left to struggle on in this destitution for want of a few thousand dollars to build the Alice Gordon Gulick Memorial building, which will supply the needed rooms? For this the corporation must have help, and may it speedily be given. The plans for building are ready, a gift of \$500 from Mount Holyoke College is waiting to furnish the assembly hall in the building; in addition to this a fine organ, the gift of a lady, is ready to occupy its place in this hall. The sum of \$2500 is waiting to furnish the Catharine Barbour laboratory. Shall the sacrifice of Mrs. Gulick's life and these gifts wait longer for the rich fruitage which they would yield in this building?"

Funds may be sent to the treasurer, Edwin H. Baker, Greenwich, Conn.; also to Miss Caroline Borden, 283 Commonwealth avenue, Boston, Mass.

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Prominent Citizens Incorporate With Capital Stock of \$25,000.

Dayton, Or., is to have a savings bank. On January 15 nine of the most prominent and wealthy citizens of Dayton and vicinity met and organized the Dayton State Savings Bank, with a paid-in capital of \$25,000. The articles of incorporation have been filed with the Secretary of State and the County Clerk, and as soon as the charter is granted the bank will open for business. There are six other banks in Yamhill County. The incorporators and board of directors of the new bank are the following: Arthur C. Probert, president; John M. Crawford, vice-president; Oliver P. Sackett, cashier; Leonard A. Rosner, assistant cashier; John R. Forrest, John C. Nichols, Mayor of Dayton; Duncan Ross and Frank R. Wilson.

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FEES REASONABLE

On the above date a beautiful Gasoline Launch and Boathouse will be given away free of charge.

By Dr. B. E. Wright. This is done for the purpose of showing, in a measure, my appreciation of the immense patronage enjoyed by me during the past year. Without egotism I think it is safe to venture the assertion that the thousands of patients throughout Oregon and the Northwest who have patronized my dental office are fully as well satisfied with the results as I am. My constantly increasing business bears me out in this statement.

A COUPON

Will be GIVEN with every dollar's worth of dental work done between now and February 22, 1904. The fortunate possessor of the proper coupon will receive this beautiful launch and boathouse, or if the holder does not care for the boat, a check for the amount of \$300.00 on the U. S. National Bank will be given instead.

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