

PRIEST DEFENDS FAITH IN MIRACLES

Drift of Agnostic Thought and Teaching Is Back Toward Paganism.

MUCH HARM BEING DONE

Father Thompson, in Christmas Sermon at St. Mary's, Declares Truth Will Triumph in Future as in Past.

That a popular agnostic philosophy today is degrading the men and women of the country by "uprooting Christ and his holy law from their hearts and minds," was the declaration of Rev. Father George B. Thompson in his Christmas sermon at St. Mary's Cathedral yesterday morning. The speaker said that, whereas some centuries ago the civilized world would have sworn fealty to the divinity of Christ, today the multitude rejects him as a savior. Father Thompson said in part:

"As we turn from the sun and Catholic faith in the redemption and divinity of Christ and consider the teaching of those who would make his divine sonship a metaphor, and his atonement a figure of speech, we are moved to deplore the blighting effects of an agnostic philosophy upon man's hopes for religious truth. Some centuries ago the civilized world would have sworn for itself and posterity eternal fealty to the divinity of Christ. Today a multitude who are indebted to the divine power of the Savior for the security and enlightenment they enjoy, deny him his divinity and reject him as a savior."

Apostasy Yields Fruit.

"If such apostasy were not already producing its bitter fruit, we could find in the story of humanity a full and faithful description of its inevitable woes. For the truth was and is, and always will be, that man cannot rescue himself from the corruption of his own nature. As he looks to the sun in the sky for light and warmth, so must he look heavenward for truth and help. Without a divine savior and a divine church continuing his blessed mission, there can be no rest for the questioning restless mind; no consolation, no sense of security, no peace for the anxious, troubled heart.

"The great misfortune which afflicts in part mankind today comes from having permitted a soul-shrinking philosophy to pass as an arbitrary judgment upon the person and works of Christ. For we cannot reject the Christ of the Gospels, the Christ of Christianity, and at the same time possess a savior. If we leave, then, to whom shall we go? That true sense of utter helplessness which formed the apostle's reply to the crucial question of the Savior must be the sad confession of every thoughtful man who has sought to find a possible substitute for Jesus the Son of God.

"When scholarship ceases to approach Jesus on bended knee, rejects his claims to divinity, assumes to sit in judgment on his teaching, then are our schoolmen working the destruction of an authoritative teaching, which human reason, by its own sense methods of reasoning which God has worked into the constitution of man at his creation are to be discarded, that a doctrine which may be away with, then men must be prepared for the full effects of their suicidal theories, and hold all groping after truth to be a systematic insanity. Men may destroy the temple of Christian truth, but they are doomed to perish in its ruins. Christianity is the most reasonable faith a man may embrace. If he rejects it as unproved, who is he to hold as well established, besides the confusion of his own mind and the utter sterility of his reasoning powers?

"But our rationalistic scholars artfully escape the direct force of their own doctrines. They take no mean view of their mental powers and their ability to lay hold of truth. Thus they confidently take up the engaging task of reconstructing a new Jesus of Nazareth. Having read into the Gospels, or out of them, whatever suits the exigencies of their preconceptions, they bring forth a new Jesus, conformable in word and work to their arrogant presuppositions of what Christ should be. The situation is humorous as well as tragic.

"For we have before us a galaxy of ambitious scholars who are overthrowing the traditional relations between Christ and man. By a peculiar perversion of right order, they no longer seek the approval of a Divine Master, but on the contrary, are reconstructing a Master of whom they can approve. For these sublime intelligences, God is now a questionable character before the bar, and not an omnipotent Judge, degrading judgment from on high.

"The drift of their thought and teaching is back to the ways and doctrines of the Pagans. The latter enjoyed the privilege of making their own Gods, and they have taken their relief for the kind of worship their corrupt minds were willing to render. When a man makes his own God, he will make him a very human God, and he will not expect him to contribute much to his moral betterment or his intellectual enlightenment."

"Now the fact is that the miracles of the Gospel are correlated to an event of supreme importance—the vindication of Christ's claim to a divine mission and a divine character. It is difficult to see by what other means than miracles Christ could have substantiated his teaching. A miracle evidences the co-operation of God, and the philosophic principle is that God does not co-operate in the spread of false doctrine. This is surely a sane view of the whole matter, and it has commended itself to more than one competent thinker, in whom the critical faculty had not been previously obliterated. There are 200,000,000 Catholics in the world today, besides some others whose attitude toward the miraculous is not entirely due to stupefaction.

Easy to Believe.

"Besides the possibility of miracles, there is the interesting fact that they have taken place, and are an integral part of the world's history. That the miracles which the Gospels record have actually occurred may not be denied, unless we are prepared to sink down into a condition of imbecility and give up all hope of historic truth. I make no pretensions to critical acumen or philippic depths, but as a normal individual, following the leading of my God-given powers of judgment, I find it easier, I confess, to believe that the great, worldwide, regenerating power called Christianity, triumphing over Paganism and the fortifications which human passion and sensuality throw around it, aggregating to itself a noble manhood and a redeemed

womanhood, with no constraining force at hand, save that of truth and moral loveliness, is the product of causes to which the Christians of all ages have referred it, than it is to believe that it owes its extraordinary and unnatural career to the barren womb of silly myths and fanciful legends. I like to believe that the man who were able to lift humanity out of its fetid corruption were also able to give a true account of their enterprise and its beginnings. It seems to me that intelligent men who willingly yielded their lives rather than part with Christ—men whose pregnant blood brought forth a world-wide posterity, must have had some real knowledge as the sufficient motive of their sublime heroism.

"A man like St. Paul renounced the cherished convictions in which he had been bred, compelled thereto by the irresistible evidence of a crucified and risen Savior. Surely the apostle who traversed the Gentile world by his preaching and his blood, was clever enough and deep enough to demand adequate motives for his world-conquering, self-sacrificing activities. I know in whom I have believed, thus does his heroic soul proclaim its faith in the Divine Master, for love of whom he is about to offer up his life.

"Let us not be disturbed, then, by the arrogant tone of anticipated victory, which characterizes the high-sounding manifestos of pseudo-critics, who, after age, are with solemn diligence planning the obsequies of the ancient faith. As to their contribution to the world's betterment, they are doing incomparably more harm than they will ever be able to repair. Pouring, oftentimes, their corroding errors into the ears of callow youths, they are dechristianizing and demoralizing the boys and girls who have saved the world through their reform men and women of prayer and virtue, they turn out libertines and scoffers. And all this in the name of learning.

"The scholarship which is degrading the men and women of the country by uprooting Christ and his holy law from their minds and hearts, had better look to its lamps. The contempt for all law, human and divine, which it so successfully fosters, the vile principles which it inculcates, the moral wreckage and mental cynicism which follow upon its constructive labors, are practical and obvious evidences of its peridy and emptiness.

"Christianity triumphed in the beginning because it was true. It has lived and achieved throughout the succeeding nineteen centuries for the same reason, and it will be victorious in the future, because the minds and hearts of men crave the tranquility and security of truth."

MUSICAL SERVICES GIVEN

Catholic and Episcopalians Commemorate Christmas Day.

Elaborate musical programmes were given at all the Catholic and Episcopal churches yesterday. In each denomination the order of services was uniform in all the churches in the forenoon. In the afternoon, however, a few of the Catholic churches had special services. The Catholic services included special Christmas features and elaborate music. The attendance at all the churches was unusually large. The decorations were a feature in all the Catholic Christmas services was the Christmas crib, symbolical of the manner of Christ's birth.

At St. Mary's Cathedral, solemn pontifical mass was sung by the most Rev. Archbishop Christie. The following musical programme was given:

Solemn Pontifical Mass—At the entry of the Archbishop, "Gloria Sacrosancti," Hymn, "The Mass of the Archdeacon," "Adeste Fideles," Novello; Introit, plain, chant from Vatican Gradual, Kyrie and Gloria; Mass, gradual and alleluia, Toner; Veni Creator, Gounod; Credo, Mendelssohn; offertory, Toner; solo, "O Mira Nox," Noel; Sanctus, Cyprien; Mass, Haydn; Benedictus and Agnus Dei, Massé; during receiving of the Archbishop, "Ave Maria," Mascagni; solos by Miss Irene Ryan, Miss Jean, Miss J. Williams, Mrs. Parrish, J. Flynn, R. A. Cernia, cellist; Mrs. Sorenson, Frederick W. Goodrich, organist and director.

Services at St. Patrick's Church, Nineteenth and Saver streets, with high mass at 10:30, were held yesterday morning. The sermon was delivered by Rev. E. P. Murphy. A special musical programme was prepared for the late mass. Leonard's Third Mass in B flat was sung in full by the choir. Frank Barret sang "O Holy Night," by Adams, and at the offertory Miss Alice Dougherty rendered a violin solo by Beethoven. The choir was composed of: Soprano, Mrs. Edward Harold; Mrs. Margaret Alexander; Mrs. J. C. Yager; Misses Ann Sherlock and Florence Gilmour; contraltos, Mrs. W. P. Bodway and Mrs. Collier; tenor, Frank Barret; bass, Mr. Starkey; Mrs. J. Z. DuPresne, organist and director.

Special musical programmes will be given at most of the evangelical churches this morning and evening.

PROMINENT PORTLAND WOMAN PASSES.

Mrs. Bertha Friedman, for 23 years a resident of Portland, died Friday at the Chetopa apartments, 354 Flanders street. She was the wife of I. Friedman, and is survived by her husband and two sons, Alex and Abe, both engaged in business in this city.

Mrs. Friedman was well known among the charitable women of Portland, and was one of the founders of the Sisters of Israel Benevolent Society. She was also an active member of the Council of Jewish women, the Hebrew Benevolent Society and the Jewish Ladies' Endowment Society.

Mrs. Friedman was 48 years old on December 24. The funeral will be from the Holman Chapel at noon today.

FAILING EYESIGHT RESTORED

If you are a sufferer from any eye trouble, consult Thompson before placing your case elsewhere. Non-residents are invited to call when in the city.



Thompson's ability has been recognized by the highest authorities in Europe. The foremost physicians of London, Paris, Vienna and Berlin declare his system of sight-testing a great aid to science.

Nine Years in Portland and the Largest Practice in the Pacific Northwest.

SOME SYMPTOMS OF SERIOUS EYE TROUBLES

Dimness of vision. Seeing spots, specks, etc., dance before the eyes. The atmosphere seems smoky and foggy. Seeing better some days than others. Seeing better sideways than straight ahead. Seeing better in the evening or early morning than at midday. Seeing objects double or multiplied. Seeing a halo or circle about a light. Pain in or about the eyes. Constant or periodic headaches.

THOMPSON FITS EVERY PAIR OF GLASSES HIMSELF

He does not leave the matter to other people. He considers that if you recommend a friend to him, the best he can do in recognition of your courtesy is to wait on your friend himself.

Most people cannot afford to pay high prices for their glasses, yet they should have the very best of good work, and here is where we can serve such people.

THOMPSON SECOND FLOOR CORBETT BLDG. FIFTH and MORRISON STREETS

REMEMBER THE NAME MEMBER OF THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF OPTOMETRISTS

RATES TO BE FIXED

Water Board Will Revise Its Schedule Tuesday.

METERS CAUSE PROBLEM

Minimum for Consumers Using Gauges Will Probably Be Put at 75 Cents—School Budget Also to Come Up.

Portland's water rates will be fixed this week, the charter requiring this action before January 1, for the succeeding year, and the Water Board and City Council will meet for this purpose, the board Tuesday afternoon and the Council Wednesday at 2 P. M. In fact, Tuesday will be a busy day in official circles, as the Executive Board will meet in the afternoon, and at night in Lincoln High school the taxpayers will consider the 1910 school budget, which is of great importance.

The Water Board has a hard problem with which to deal this year, in straightening out the tangle that has come about through the installation of meters in dwellings throughout the city. The question is, "How can the rates be equalized?" Those on meters are paying in many cases more than 60 per cent less than they did last year, before the meters were put in. Others, having no meters, are paying the old rates. It will thus be seen that an injustice is being done, and it is to harmonize this situation that the Water Board will meet Tuesday. It

has been virtually decided to make a minimum rate for meters of 75 cents a month, and there will very probably be changes in other respects.

The Water Board makes up its recommendations as to rates, the charter requires that the Council shall pass an ordinance, fixing the rates. The Council, under the charter, can increase the rates over the recommendation of the board, but cannot lower them. It is probable the Council will adopt whatever rates are reported on by the board.

The Board of Education has made up its recommendations to the voters comprising the district, and will submit them at the annual meeting, to be held Tuesday night. Included is approximately \$700,000 for salaries, there being a large force to pay each month, and a large sum for new buildings. It will be necessary, in order to keep pace with the rapid growth of the city, to have about 100 new rooms for 1910, and these are to be provided, if the budget that is to be submitted is adopted by the taxpayers.

The largest single item contained in the budget is a proposition to call an election for the purpose of voting on a bond issue of \$250,000 for a West Side High school. This is said by the directors to be necessary, as the Lincoln High school, which has been used for many years, is out of date, and there must be a modern building to take its place. It will also be the home of the headquarters staff, which is now located in the City Hall.

Early in the new year the Council committee on ways and means will consider the appropriations for the various departments for the year. The Council is required to appropriate for the items that make up the business of the city. Only the number of policemen for which the Council makes appropriation can be employed by the Executive Board, and this holds in every case unless the Council sees fit to make a general appropriation and leave the use of the funds to the Mayor and members of the various boards.

GROUNDS MAY BE ENLARGED

Two Blocks Desired for Washington High School Site.

A strong effort will be made at the taxpayers' meeting next Tuesday night to make provision for the purchase of two blocks north of the Washington High School building on East Stark street, for athletic grounds for the students. These two blocks are joined together by East Thirtieth street, which is not opened, and would provide grounds 400x200 feet.

All vacant lots about the Washington High School are being built up rapidly, and it is urged that if additional grounds are ever to be secured, now is the time to act. It is estimated that it will cost \$50,000 to purchase the two lots with the improvements. The high and grammar school buildings cover the two blocks on which they stand, leaving no space outside of the buildings themselves. If attendance at the High School are 1000 pupils and in the Grammar School are 800.

WIFE BEATEN, SCALDED

ACTIONS OF W. B. PENNYCOCK AROUSE NEIGHBORHOOD.

Not Satisfied With Pummeling Woman, Drunken Husband Pours Boiling Tea Over Her Head.

In response to a telephone call yesterday afternoon from 488 East Davis street, where it was reported a man was murdering his wife, Patrolman Gustafson arrested W. B. Pennycock, a bookkeeper for the St. Clair Packing Company, who lives at 474 East Davis street. In a fit of drunken rage, it is said, he had beaten his wife severely with his fist. Not content with this brutality, neighbors say, he grabbed a teapot containing boiling hot tea from the stove and poured its contents over her head and shoulders. Her cries of pain and her pleas for mercy were heard for a long distance and brought up the neighbors to a high pitch.

After an appeal to police headquarters to prevent further injury to the woman, Captain Bailey sent the patrol wagon and Officer Gustafson placed Pennycock under arrest. While the officer was telephoning to the station, the prisoner broke and ran in an attempt to escape. He got out through his back yard and then a race for several blocks ensued. The po-

OUR GREAT CLEARANCE SALE

Begins Monday, January 3rd, 1910
It will pay you to wait

WHEN YOU SEE IT IN OUR AD IT'S SO

MOYER

Third and Oak
First and Yamhill
1st and Morrison

liceman won at East Eighth and East Oak streets.

Mrs. Pennycock told the officer her husband had come home intoxicated the night before and had abused her and their little children all night. After sobering up Christmas morning he went out again and returned in the middle of the afternoon on a drunken rampage.

The back of Mrs. Pennycock's neck and her shoulders were badly scalded. At the police station, Captain Bailey instructed the police officer that if Mrs. Pennycock failed to file a complaint against her husband, a formal complaint should be prepared by the officer making the arrest, and that Pennycock should be sent before Judge Bennett.

In his report to Chief Cox Patrolman Gustafson says neighbors of Pennycock declare he has been raising a disturbance at his home nearly every night during the past month. Pennycock asked to be released on bail, but Chief Cox refused his request.

Cold Closes Sawmills.

LA CENTER, Wash., Dec. 25.—Tuesday night it was 21 degrees above zero. Wednesday night showed 14 degrees above zero. The rain and clouds were forced to close down sooner than was expected before the holidays on account of the cold snap. The continued freezing has caused the water supply to decrease to such an extent that discontinuance of work was necessary.

Frazier Detention Home Has Tree.

Twenty-six persons sat down to a Christmas repast yesterday afternoon at the Frazier Detention Home, Rosemount avenue and Halsey street. During the day many gifts were received. A Christmas tree was enjoyed at the home Friday night. Twenty visitors joined in the festivities.

It is believed that only 2000 buffaloes are now in existence.



Rigo and His Gipsy Orchestra

HAVE just opened a two weeks' engagement at the Louvre Grill. Rigo's fame as an interpreter of Hungarian music precedes him and the management of the Louvre considers itself fortunate to secure Rigo for the entertainment of its patrons during the holidays