AN AWFUL PRAYER

Subject of Sermon by Rev. Ralph Gilliam Last Night.

AN INTERESTING APPLICATION

The Methodist Church Crowded Last Night and Two Services Were Held, Showing That the Interest in the Revival Meetings Is Increasing.

The Methodist church was crowded last evening and increasing interest was manifest in the meeting. Several selections were sung by the large choir and audience, Rev. Herbert H. Brown offered an invocation and Mrs. Watkins sang a solo. Rev. Ralph Gilliam announced as his text part of the 19th verse of the 14th chapter of St. Luke: "I pray Thee have me excused."

It seems a thing increditable, almost impossible to make us believe that any man or woman would offer up such a terrible prayer. There are people in this audience tonight saying to God I pray Thee have me excused. Preachers are constantly telling their hearers that if they pray to God He will answer their prayers. If men and women pray to be excused God will certainly answer their prayer, and excuse them.

We are living in a day of dishonesty on the part of men and women, when speaking of the religious life and men and women are making excuses to get out of doing their duty toward God. It seems to be a very easy matter on the part of a large majority of the people to make an excuse when called upon to perform some service for Jesus Christ. There is a tendency among some people to cling to what is wrong rather than to follow what is right. The first excuse ever offered in this world happened in the garden of Eden. When the Lord asked Adam what he had done he offered the excuse when he said: "The woman she did it." And Eve offered an excuse when she said: "The serpent did it." People in the churches are not unlike the people in the garden of Eden in making excuses.

How many times have people asked to be excused when they have been asked to accept Christ. Some people make the excuse. I am afraid I can't hold out. I have yet to meet that man who relied upon his own strength that ever succeeded. Those that put their trust in God make a success of the Christian life. If you quit falsifying, if you quit your foolishness and become God's property, God will take care of His own. The blessings you think you have been deprived of is because you have been excused from accepting them. The Jewish people offered an excuse when they brought their king Jesus before Pontius Pilate and demanded that he be crucified.

When Pilate asked them if they wanted to crucify their king, they answered: "We have no king but Caesar. That excuse has followed this race from that day to this. They have been driven out of Jerusalem; they have been driven into exile in Russia; they are followed on the streets and taunted of their nationality, and all because they prayed to be excused from accepting Jesus as their king. What shall it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his own soul. There are men and women in this audience tonight that take this awful chance. Where is the profit? Excuse making always proves fatal. "For I say unto you, that none of these men that were bidden will taste of my supper. If your chairs are empty after this service tonight, you can't say that you were not invited. It is the invitation of the great God that is sent down to you. If you refuse the invitation I shall go right on preaching just the same. The three excuses were:

First—"I have bought a piece of land." No man ever bought a piece of land without first going and seeing it.

Second—"I have bought five yoke of oxen and I go to prove them." No man ever bought one yoke of oxen without first having seen them.

Third—"I have married a wife and therefore I can't come." God pity the woman that has to eke out a miserable existenec with such a man. And all of that kind of men are not dead yet. The best excuse you ever manufactured was not a whit better than the three offered. It would be no joke if God would take you at your word and excuse you. I pray Thee, have me excused.

Rev. Gilliam announced that at the meeting this afternoon his subject would be "Questionable Amusements." Tonight the subject will be, "The Unanswerable Question." Friday afternoon there will be a special service for women, and on Friday evening the subject will be "Skepticism."

Notice to Mariners.

The following affects the list of lights and fog signals, Pacific coast, 1904:

Marshfield Rear Beacon light, page 26, 82 (List of Lights, Buoys and Daymarks, Pacific Coast, page 45).—March 23 the structure from which this fixed white post lantern light was shown, on the northerly side of the Marshfield channel to Coos river, was carried away and the light is not now in operation. The structure will be replaced as soon as practicable.

The Correct Solution.

Although the Astorian received over 20 answers, John McGuire, superintendent of the railroad, received at least 50, besides a number that went to the city office, not one guessed the correct answer to the problem of the conductor who boarded a train at Astoria and in going to Warrenton, walked the length of the train which was a mile long, getting off the engine at Warrenton, a distance of five miles. Most of the answers were that he rode four miles and walked one mile. The correst answer is, he rode five miles and walked one mile. It is five miles from Astoria to Warrenton, and the conductor rode all the way, at the same time he walked one mile on the train. Therefore he rode five miles and walked one mile.

Purely Imagination.

Some person or persons who read the editorial in yesterday morning's Astorian, commenting on the Cassie Chadwick case and comparing the many acts of promotion with the Nehalem Coal Company, tried to impress upon M. S. Copeland that it referred personally to her. Everyone in Astoria who knows Mrs. Copeland knows that, like a great many others, she was an innocent party in the Nehalem Coal Company, and the one that invested the most money, but no one ever accused her of doing a wrong act in regard to it, or in the 13 years she has been in business in Astoria. She was not the promoter, but relied upon statements of the promoter. There are meddlesome people in Astoria, who are never happy unless making trouble for some one else, and it is due in part to this class that Mrs. Copeland received the impression that a comparison had been drawn with her in the article. There was no such intention, neither was she thought of. Mrs. Copeland has made many friends during the time she has been in business in Astoria, and has won a reputation for honest business methods and fair dealing with the public.

HOTEL ARRIVALS.

Occident.

M. Wise, Portland.
Bert Roberts, Portland.
C. E. Palmer, Portland.
Thos. Bufford, St. Louis.
W. S. Paige, Portland.
T. G. Coleman, Portland.
D. D. Young, Portland.
E. H. Temple, San Francisco.
William Timson, Bellingham.
Dr. Gelden, San Francisco.
Walter Mack, New York.
Della Sougren, Cathlamet.
J. A. Clemsensen, Portland.
Miss Estella Foster, South Bend.
L. Bloch, South Bend.
G. H. Halley, South Bend.
C. F. Taylor, Seattle.
W. H. Lawson, Portland.
Edmond P. Sheldon, Portland.

The Colonel's Waterloo.

Colonel John M. Fuller, of Honey Grove, Texas, nearly met his Waterloo, from Liver and Kidney trouble. In a recent letter, he says: "I was nearly dead, of these complaints, and, although I tried my family doctor, he did me no good; so I got a 50c bottle of your great Electric Bitters, which cured me. I consider them the best medicine on earth, and thank God who gave you the knowledge to make them." Sold and guaranteed to cure Dyspepsia, Billiousness and Kidney Disease, by Chas. Rogers, druggist, at 50c a bottle.

CALIFORNIA RESTAURANT.

Reopened Under New Management.

John Blasich has leased the California Restaurant and Oyster House and is now prepared to serve the public. The best oysters and meals in the city. Family trade supplied. Good cooks, polite waiters and prompt service.

OUR EARLY HISTORY

Some Interesting Reminiseense of Astoria and Clatsop County.

FROM THE OLD PIONEERS

The First Methodist Church Built in Astoria, the Court House and the First Hotel, With Some of the People Who Were Here at the Time.

In yesterday's Astorian was published the history of the building of the first hotel in Astoria, but A. Montgomery states that the Astorian was in error as to the time the hotel was built. It was stated that it was built in 1856, but Mr. Montgomery states that he came to Astoria in September, 1852, and stopped at the hotel Astor, the one built by Captain C. Beeling. H. B. Parker came by steamer in June, 1852, and Mr. Montgomery came overland in September of the same year.

It is interesting to converse with the old pioneers and listen to them recount the hardships they endured, also some of the good times they had in the early days of Astoria and Clatsop county. Mr. Montgomery, one of the oldest inhabitants, states that the first church built in Astoria was erected on the hill in Shiveley's Astoria, and that Rev. Mr. Franklin, whose widow lives on Clatsop plains, was the first minister. The building was afterwards partially destroyed by a wind storm, and was fixed up by Mr. Shivley, who occupied it as a residence for many years. When he moved in to it, the steeple was still on it, but a short time afterwards it was blown down and put to other uses. We understood Mr. Montgomery to say that he was the first presiding elder in the church, but may have been mistaken.

The first saw mill built in Astoria was the one mentioned yesterday and was located on the corner where Cleveland's bakery now stands. It was operated by H. B. Parker, and was one of the old-fashioned gig saws. The capacity of the mill was about 5000 feet of lumber a day. The lumber manufactured, was mostly cedar, some of which is in building now standing and it is as good and sound as the day it was put in. The lumber for the Astor hotel, situated on the west side of Ninth, then Main, street, was cut at this mill. This is the building that is now being torn down. It was the first hotel in Astoria, and many stories are connected with the boarders of the hotel, and the experiences of the earlier settlers recounted.

H. B. Parker states that there is not a man living in Astoria today that was here when he first came here. Good business property was sold at from $50 to $100 a lot that are today worth several thousands of dollars. The town site was laid out by Cyrus Olney and sold by a lottery scheme, and a case was taken to the circuit court, presided over by Judge Upton, who decided the lottery scheme was void.

The present court house was built several years after. The block was donated to the county by Cyrus Olney, with the proviso that it should never be used for any other purpose, and if so used, should revert back to him or his heirs. The court house was built during the administration of Judge J. Q. A. Bowlby, county judge. The jail was designed by a Cambellite preacher, and has been the subject of much ridicule and comment. The first custom houes in Oregon was located at Adair's Astoria and John Adair was the first collector. The building stood upon its original location until two years ago. It has been a difficult matter to define the exact location of Fort George, but many state that it was located on the property at the corner of Fifteenth and Exchange street, recently purchased by R. M. Leathers.

William Chance has probably more data of the early history of Astoria and Clatsop county than any other man, as he has made a business of compiling it. Mr. Chance is possessed of a wonderful memory, and can give the exact dates of many occurrences in the early history of the city and county. If the data he has in hand could be published in book form it would make a complete history of the early days of the city and county and would make interesting reading. These are maters that ought to be preserved. The time may come in the distant future when a celebration of the discovery of the Columbia river may be made a national affair, and its early history would form a very important matter in the celebration. The Astorian will publish any articles bearing upon the early history of the lower Columbia river if it can be furnished.

Incredible Brutality.

It would have been incredible brutality if Chas. F. Lemberger of Syracuse, N. Y., had not done the best he could for his suffering son. "My boy," he says, "cut a fearful gash over his eye, so I applied Bucklen's Arnica Salve, which quickly healed it and saved his eye." Good for burns and ulcers too. Only 25c at Chas. Roger's drug store.

A new lot of Australian lump coal just received. There is no fuel so convenient, satisfactory and economical as first class coal. Australian coal burns freely with little ash and no clinkers. You can have it sacked or in lumps. Free delivery. Ring up phone 1961. ELMORE & CO.