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THE OLD AND THE NEW IDEA OF HELL

REV. W. F. SMALL SAYS THE CHURCH HAS ADVANCED FROM THE THEORY OF A PLACE OF ETERNAL PUNISHMENT TO THAT OF TORTURE OF CONSCIENCE.

"Some Recent Affirmations on the Doctrine of Hell" is the topic of a sermon preached by Rev. W. F. Small at the First Universalist church. He said: "One of the greatest American preachers said a few years ago that progress in Christian theology is unthinkable, since the things with which Christian theology has to do were revealed in final form some 1,900 years ago. Over against this assertion is to be set the principle uttered by Jesus, who said, for instance, in Matt. v:21-22, 'You have heard that it was said to them of old time, but I say something different,' clearly implying the principle of progress in human thought of which theology is one phase.

"It is this same principle, I believe, which underlies the recent discussion of the question of a material hell, by some clergymen of a great church. On the basis of utterances and interviews from these eminent clergymen, a mild newspaper sensation was attempted. But it proved to be only mild, mainly because it is taken for granted that few persons of large intelligence nowadays believe in a localized hell of torture. Indeed, some are very desirous of escaping the stigma of any connection whatever with the hideous nightmare, though possibly not going to the extreme taken by one minister whom I myself heard make this remark: 'The assertion that in the Christian church there ever was held a belief in hell as a literal place of fire and brimstone is utterly untrue—it is an invention of the devil and Universalists.' This in the face of what the history of Christian doctrine reveals!

"The new attitude of mind of the present-day Christian teacher is not oracular and dogmatic like the old—it is more philosophical. It does not employ the old proof-text method of expounding doctrine. It is expressive of the growing tendency to put such a question as that of final destination where it belongs—in the realm of the speculative, and to base conclusions on the canons of common sense, the fundamental teachings of Christianity and the everlasting fitness of things. To abandon dogmatism in this matter is not to abandon interest in the speculative issue, the ultimate aim of the cosmic process.

"Hell is in human hearts." Hell is separation from God, from love of all that is good. Reduced to personal terms, it is that each one makes his own brimstone. This doctrine of hell is sane, practical, believable—the other is hideous, unreasonable, inhuman, unphilosophical and damnable. "It is a patent fact that sin, which is conscious violation of a known law of life, brings woe and unhappiness, degradation and shrinkage of manhood and womanhood, and we may accept fully the teaching that by an eternal law of life, so long as the wrong-doer persists in his wrong-doing, so long will there be a separation between the wrong-doer and his God. This is truth, terrible, inevitable truth. And yet some of us raise the issue, will not the wrong-doer finally sicken of his perverse attitude? And we venture to cherish the hope expressed by so eminent a man as

Dr. A. H. Bradford, one of the greatest Congregational ministers in the country, who says: 'Because I believe in God, and that His love cannot be defeated, I dare to hope that sometime and somewhere, after all the pains of retribution and moral discipline have done their inevitable work, after all the fires of Gehenna have consumed the desire to sin, after Hades and Purgatory have been passed, the souls which for a time have dwelt in these mortal bodies, purified and without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, will be given the beatific vision and permitted to realize the height and depth, the length and breadth of the fullness of Christ.'

RAFAEL'S PAINTING HIS TEXT.

Raphael's "Transfiguration" in the Vatican at Rome suggested the "Three Is-of Christianity" and afforded Robert G. Seymour a theme that interested a large congregation last evening at the Central Baptist church. He said: "The first of the three personalities and the center of the Transfiguration group is Jesus. He is as historic as Caesar or Charlemagne. He is unique, cosmopolitan. Luther was great, but we associate him with Germany. Washington was an American. Jesus belongs to the world. Regardless of personal creeds, all men deem Jesus Christ a great personality. The ideas that make life what it is were contributed generously by this unique personality.

"The second personality is yourself. Man is great measured by his rule. His origin, influence, immortality give dignity. The divine estimate of a man's value is disclosed in the picture of the Good Shepherd going out to find one sheep that had gone astray. Never be a little man. "The sanctifying of a street expression indicates the third great personality, 'there are others.' The person with whom you have relation and into whose life you may pour helpful influence is not to be disregarded. When Jesus came down from the Mount of Transfiguration He found a man that had lost self-possession, living among the tombs. Help the men of today who have lost grip on themselves. The distressed father in the picture is actual in nature. So many persons need sympathy, inspiration, contact. If you have the Transfiguration vision you will regard the welfare of persons about you. What the world is watching for is power on the part of professed Christians for service. You cannot help by scolding. You cannot save men by giving them a barren creed. Christianity is taking the personality of Jesus into your own personality, and pouring that into the personality of others."

"Christian Influence Growing." The belief that Christian influence is growing, instead of diminishing, was expressed by Rev. E. C. Wigmore in his sermon delivered at the First Christian church last evening. Rev. Mr. Wigmore is instructor of Epworth at the Eugene Divinity school, and preached both morning and evening at the First Christian church. His text in the morning was the first and second verses of the third chapter of the second book of John, and what manner of love the Lord has bestowed upon us that we should be called sons of God; therefore the world knoweth us not because it knew Him not."

The Right Kind of Charity. Taking as his text the story of the cripple at the gate whom the apostles placed on his feet and caused to walk, Dr. Robert G. Seymour of Philadelphia spoke before the Young Men's Christian association yesterday afternoon. Not a gift of money, but by placing the helpless in a position to make his way, is what Dr. Seymour advocates. "It is better to help men on their feet than to give them money. That is what the Y. M. C. A. is doing today. It is helping young men on their feet. If the church would do the same, it would have more men in the church helping it than it has."

WOULD BUILD A NEW SYNAGOGUE

CONGREGATION OF AHAVI SHOLOM DESIRES A NEW TEMPLE IN WHICH TO WORSHIP, AND SEEK TO SELL PROPERTY WHICH THEY NOW HOLD.

At the close of the services of a recent meeting of the Jewish Congregation of Ahavi Sholom, public announcement was made that the organization purposed to erect a new synagogue. Several members pledged themselves to contribute to the fund for such purpose.

M. Gilbert, who is president of the Ahavi Sholom, was seen at his place of business, 150 First street, by a Journal representative, and asked what progress had been made toward the building of a new temple. He said: "We have owned the present site occupied by the synagogue of Ahavi Sholom on Sixth street for about 40 years. Some 35 or more years ago the present building was erected. However well it has served its purpose it cannot longer continue to do so. The locality, under changing conditions, is becoming a business neighborhood, and, as such, is no longer fitted for the purposes of worship. The present membership of 75 added to the congregation outside of the same, cannot well be accommodated in the present building, which is too small. Besides this, we desire a more modern and up-to-date place of worship.

"There is no reason why we should not have it," continued President Gilbert. "We are in excellent financial condition, and have no debt. We have for some time been endeavoring to sell the property.

Since the present locality has become a business neighborhood, the value of the site has appreciated. We consider it to be worth \$17,500, and hope to be able to sell for that figure."

"Have you had any offers approximating this sum?" asked the reporter. "Oh, yes, several. These were very close to that figure."

President Gilbert in conclusion, said: "We shall try to get the full value of the property. "Where would you build?" was asked. "Oh, somewhere over in the direction of South Portland—somewhere in the vicinity of Park, Columbia or Clay streets. I really cannot give you any further information," said President Gilbert, as he smilingly bowed the pencil pusher out.

WOMAN'S WIT STILL KEEPS THE LEAD

It cost B. H. Trumbull, local commercial agent for the Illinois Central lines, half a dozen boxes of cigars and several dozen bottles of sparkling water for asking his wife one little question. Mrs. Trumbull is a member of the Prison Aid society of Oregon, and takes a most active interest in this work. Whenever she visits a city Mrs. Trumbull makes it a point to visit the jails and workhouses located there, in order that she may gain a better insight into the lives of criminals. Mrs. Trumbull accompanied her husband to Spokane to attend the meeting of the Pacific Northwest traffic agents that met there last week. Sunday morning a large number of the party were seated in the Hotel Spokane parlor when Mr. Trumbull entered and asked where they should go for a short walk. "Let us go and visit the city jail," replied his wife. "Want to see some of your relatives, do you?" answered the railroadier. "Yes, relatives by marriage," was the quick reply. And Mr. Trumbull still has to set 'em up.

Not Forgotten. Briggs—The old man cut off Pacer without a cent. Griggs—I see. He remembered him even in his will.

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PARISHIONER SUES REV. J. A. GIBSON

W. E. SPICER ASKS \$1,000 DAMAGES SAYING THAT HIS PASTOR DECEASED HIM AND MALICIOUSLY TRIED TO HAVE HIM AND HIS WIFE EXPELLED FROM CHURCH.

Alleging that the clergyman has made false and defamatory charges and has wrongfully attempted to expel him from the congregation, W. E. Spicer has filed a suit for \$1,000 damages in the state court against Rev. John A. Gibson, pastor of the Grand Avenue United Presbyterian church.

In his complaint, Mr. Spicer says that one day last May, the pastor, in a conversation with Ralph Miller, attacked his character severely and said he ought to be in the penitentiary.

On last December, Spicer says, Rev. Mr. Gibson and others whose names he does not know, asked the congregation to grant certificates of dismissal from the church to Spicer and his wife, who were members in good standing. This move, he says, was made maliciously and intended to injure him.

Spicer once engaged in the wheat business at Wardner, Ida. He lost money, and turned over certain property to one of the banks. Spicer was afterwards arrested by the officers of the bank for possession of certain wheat in a warehouse, but after trial was acquitted.

Ed and A. R. Mendenhall appear as attorneys for Spicer.

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UNIVERSITY CLASSES ELECT OFFICERS

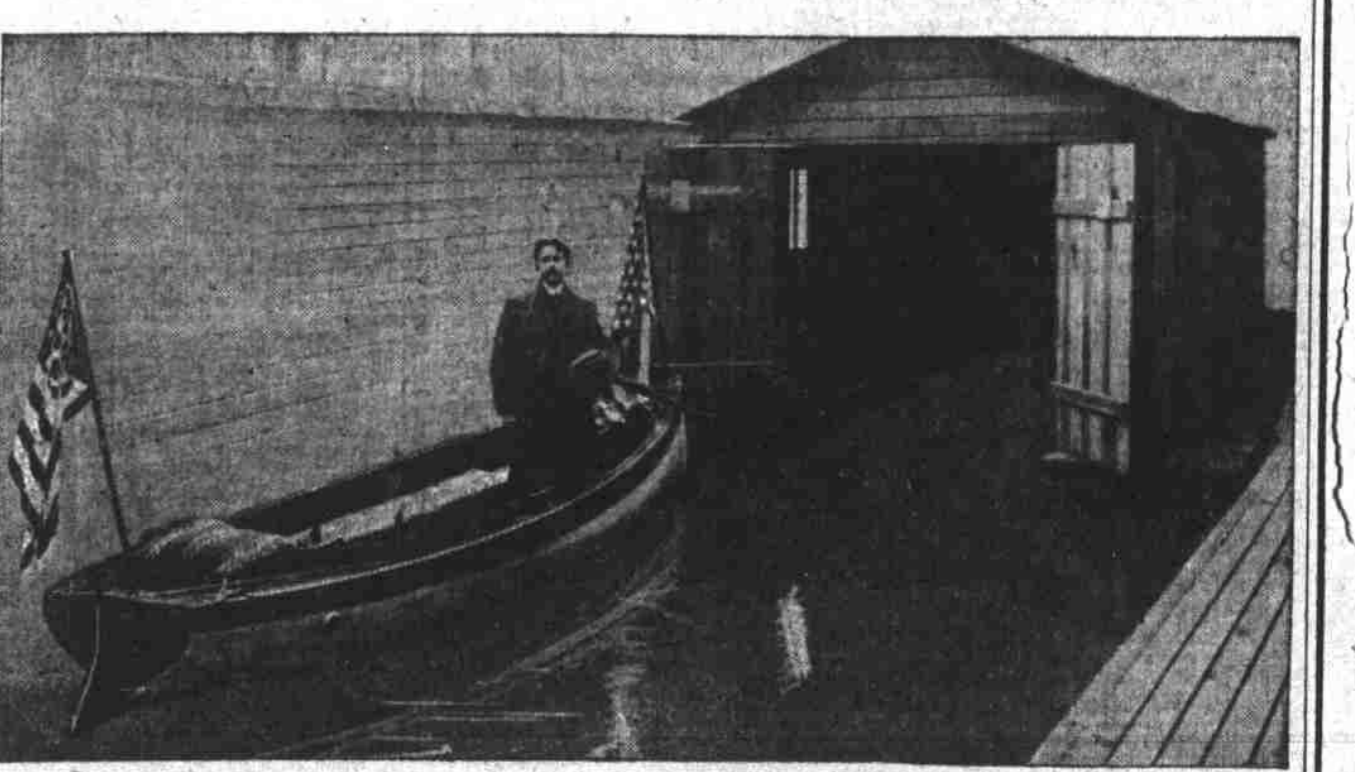
(Journal Special Service.) Pacific University, Oct. 19.—The student body held its usual meeting for the election of officers, Saturday night, and was one of the most enthusiastic meetings ever held in Brighton chapel on such an occasion. Class spirit and party strife were everywhere in evidence, and for an hour the members of different factions opposed each other. The presidency of the student body is usually given to a member class, but some students tried to run in another classman, but after a spirited contest J. Watson Philbrook of the Junior class was elected. Mr. Philbrook is well known in student circles as being an enthusiastic supporter of student enterprises, and will undoubtedly be a credit to the student body, and to himself. Chester Fletcher succeeded in downing all opposition and was elected vice-president. Mr. Fletcher is a member of the sophomore class. George Mowry of the junior class was elected secretary, and James Ward, third year academy, received the office of treasurer. A motion was then made and carried to elect a temporary sergeant-at-arms, and after a great deal of discussion Mr. Milne of the academy was elected.

An auditing committee, consisting of the following members, was elected: James Thompson, Alfred Gilbert, Frank Peters, Frank Fletcher and George Mowry. It is customary to appoint the financial committee of the student body at this meeting, but on account of shortage of time it was laid over till next meeting. The officers elected at this meeting will hold office for one year, ending October 15, 1904, and will have charge of all affairs pertaining to the students.



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