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WHAT OF LIFE?

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Most adults have at some time in their lives asked themselves why the Creator gave us life and what purpose we are expected to serve in the great economy of the universe.

To these questionings no authoritative answer, of course, can be given. It seems inconceivable, however, that Infinite Wisdom would create anything lightly or impulsively or without a definite purpose. The smallest things must, therefore, have their place to fill and their work to do in the great cosmos. Even the gnat and the serpent, if they have no other use, may, like the buzzard and the hyena, help to keep the elements pure and suitable for the use of the rest of creation by themselves consuming contaminating or poisonous things. These and many other things we may see no use or utility in, but God does; and when we have advanced somewhat further in knowledge we shall better understand and appreciate the least of God's creatures.

But every created thing has a value and importance aside from being a part of the great whole. Each thing is created and given an individuality for its own sake. The beautiful flower is not only intended to decorate the earth and bring pleasure to the senses of humanity, but it has a life and purpose of its own. If egotistical man never saw or came near it, still it would not have been created or lived in vain. At least its Creator saw and loved and provided for it. The animal, too, has been created by God who has provided all the necessary conditions for its life, sustenance and growth, so that even the beast must have a value in His sight.

When one comes to understand something of this, not only the whole creation but each entity composing it has a different meaning to him. He will understand that the various forms of life in nature are something more than forms of matter—mere images molded by the Infinite as we form inanimate images with clay or bronze—but all are vibrant with life, with His life. They are His because they are of Him, and all must, therefore, be precious in His sight. To wantonly abuse or destroy anything that has life is to do what the mischievous boy does when he breaks or destroys the parts of the complicated machine which the constructive mechanic is creating. It is more than this; it is a profanation of life which the Allwise has given. We may properly and reverently use whatever God has made, but to destroy from a spirit of wantonness or merely for amusement or sport marks one as somewhat lacking those finer sensibilities which come to men with something of a knowledge and consciousness of God and the development of the higher elements in our human nature.

If God prizes and loves all these lesser works of His, how much dearer to Him must be the souls of men, created in His image! No matter how imperfect, sinful or ignorant, every man is His child with capacity for infinite development. These as well as the depraved are only His younger children. In their spirits they are but babes. As such He loves and has charity for them and continues to provide for them looking to the time when they will come to mature spiritual manhood. What a lesson in toleration, charity and love is there here for each one of us.

What, then, is the purpose of all this life? The answer is growth, development, purification, refinement of the whole creation and of every part of it. As perfect and beautiful as creation is, it is manifestly destined to go on to still greater perfection and beauty. The future is to see more beautiful trees, more beautiful flowers, more beautiful men, all in a more beautiful world. In the development of the past the coarser and cruder forms of vegetable and animal life have been discarded—have become extinct—giving place to higher types. Men, too, in harmony with nature, have parted with some of the coarseness, ignorance and brutality which characterized the men of long ago. In spite of recent manifestations of the baser elements in man we know from history that this is so; and to doubt that the same process will continue is to doubt the wisdom of God.

Nearly everything in creation is compelled by inflexible laws to perform its part in the work of the great whole and to go on in the line of its own development and refinement. Man alone is given volition and the power to disobey the higher laws of his being and to take the backward, the downward way, if he will. But let no man deceive himself, this downward road leads unerringly to unhappiness, sacrifice, suffering; and these things will come to him solely to draw him back to the upward way. They are God's law reaching out for him and calling him to fulfill the purpose of his life.

As health is the normal condition of men and disease only the result of the infraction of the laws of their physical being, so happiness is the normal state of humanity and suffering, sorrow, despair, but the resultant effects of disobedience of the moral and spiritual laws. Make no mistake about this. When we have learned this truth we shall yield glad and willing obedience to the highest that is in us. Even Christ is said to have learned this obedience through the things that He suffered. Shall not each one of us, do the same?

When unhappiness or suffering come, therefore, instead of trying to place the responsibility for it upon someone or something besides ourselves, let us look into our own lives and see what sinful, debasing, unholy thing or things we have been thinking or doing or living, and let us know without a doubt that these things are bearing their bitter fruits in us. If we put these things entirely out of our lives, there is nothing surer than that, no matter what our external surroundings, the beautiful sun of righteousness will soon shine in and warm our hearts and a song of joy will presently rise spontaneously to our lips.

Here is a pointer: When mailing a circular, don't mark it "personal." It fools the man to whom it is sent, but he gets mad and throws it into the waste basket. Try the square deal.

There are a lot of people in this land of the free who are more interested in grub at a decent price than they are in any peace covenant. It may be a shame to say it, but it is the truth.

The people cheerfully bought Liberty bonds and just as cheerfully they are selling them for less than they are worth. What was it that Barnum said about one being born every minute?

Senator Harding never was a firebrand, never loud-mouthed, never rhetoric. He speaks calmly, plainly and to the point, and as he speaks so he does. The nation is looking for that sort of a candidate. Harding never stopped over in his life.

Church attendance has been made compulsory for the policemen of Wilmington, N. C. Now, the poor tired watchmen of the night can get all the sleep they want.—Nashville Banner.

So far, nobody is claiming the honor of having invented the preferential presidential primary law. When it comes to fixing the choice of the people it is a fraud.—Los Angeles Times.

The summary of the straw vote being taken in the Rexall stores all over the United States shows the men intending to vote for Harding against Cox about two to one, and the women about three to one, outside of the solid south. In Oregon it is 3609 for Harding and 2041 for Cox for the men, and 1534 for Harding and 726 for Cox for the women. There is nothing to it. It is about all over but the shouting.

Cox would make quite a showing with the red radical vote, if it were not divided between him and Debs and the other Cox; and if it were not more than counterbalanced by the Democrats who will vote for Harding, and still more overbalanced by the women who will vote for Harding and against all the radicals of high and low degree, in and out of prison.

Once more: There is enough money made on the land each year in the Salem district, and in the business pursuits of Salem, and in surplus wages earned, if it were all conserved and combined and kept at home, to finance every needed facility and industry for taking care of all the crops of every kind, and to provide comfortable dwellings for all the people who want to live in Salem. And to provide for a continual expansion on the land and in the city. What we need is to keep our money at home and

FUTURE DATES.

October 20, Wednesday—Open Forum meeting of Salem Commercial club.
October 23, Saturday—Football, Salem high school vs. Silverton high school at Salem.
October 26, Tuesday—Unveiling of painting of Jason Lee in hall of representatives in state capitol.
November 2, Tuesday—Election day.
November 6, Saturday—Football, Willamette vs. Pacific University at Forest Grove.
November 11 to 25—Red Cross roll call.
November 11, Thursday—Football, Salem high school vs. McMinnville, at Salem.
November 16, Tuesday—Football, Salem high school vs. Dallas high school, at Salem.
November 18, Thursday—Football, Willamette vs. College of Puget Sound, at Tacoma.
November 20, Saturday—Football, Salem high school vs. Eugene high school, at Eugene.
November 20, Saturday—Football, Salem high school vs. Eugene high school, at Eugene.
November 25, Thursday—Football, Willamette vs. Whitman college, at Salem.
November 25, Thursday—Football, Salem high school vs. The Dalles high school, at The Dalles.

Why a Bank Is the Best Executor

A BANK IS ALWAYS ACCESSIBLE. Individual executors may be absent or ill at crucial moments, or their estate accounts not up to date. The Bank's Trust Department is always accessible—its estate books posted to the minute.

A BANK IS ALWAYS IMPARTIAL. Impartiality is frequently most difficult for a friend or member of the family, acting as executor.

A BANK IS ABSOLUTELY SAFE. No estate in its hands can suffer from dishonesty or carelessness in any form. The Bank's capital and surplus assures indemnity. In addition to these is \$50,000 in securities deposited with the State Treasurer, as required by Law.

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See your lawyer—have him draw your will and appoint this Bank as your executor.

Capital National Bank
Trust Department
SALEM :: OREGON

(More about wills in this space tomorrow)

ter of an hour "no less than 116,000 stars, and at another time in 41 minutes no less than 158,000."

According to Hirschel, also, in the small space between Sadir and Albiero in the constellation of Cygnus "the stars in the Milky Way seem to be clustering into two separate divisions; each division containing more than 160,000 stars."

Astronomers tell us that light from one of these new stars in the Milky Way requires hundreds of years to reach the earth, and in observing in the last few weeks the new star in Cygnus, a writer in the New York Sun says they are watching the effects of an explosion or a conflagration which occurred hundreds of years ago.

Could we but solve the mystery of these new stars and learn the cause of their appearance and disappearance, we might then have some idea of what is happening in those vast regions of the universe represented to us at night in the broad band of diffused brightness known as the Milky Way.

ON WITH THE DANCE.

The dancing master tells us that there is the hook for the animal dances. The kangaroo hop and the wildcat clinch have gone and even the fox trot is waning. They are trying to reach back for a dance that the Methodists will stand for, and somebody has evolved the Wesleyan waltz, in which the participants sit and look at one another and hold hands whenever the whistle blows. But the old-fashioned three-step and the schottische are returning to favor and old-timers who found the hesitation tame are glad of it.

ROPED, TIED AND BRANDED.

(From the New York Tribune.)

Awakening suddenly to the fact that his surrender to Mr. Wilson was a monumental political blunder, Mr. Cox cried out to a Wichita (Kan.) audience:

"Wilson is not running for president this year; Cox is running for president!"

This brave show of independence comes two months too late. Cox may be the candidate, but Wilson is the issue in this campaign.

Before he was even notified officially of his nomination, Mr. Cox went to Washington and solemnly pledged himself to the Wilson policies.

He has devoted his campaign to their advocacy. And not a man

who has heard him doubts that if he is elected he will carry out these policies to the letter.

Not only does he hold the Wilson views but he has the Wilson temperament, as the anger at interruption which prompted the foregoing utterance amply proves.

Remove Wilsonism from Mr. Cox's propaganda and there is nothing left of it.

He swallowed whole the Wilson program. He made every pledge that Wilson demanded. And but for his belated discovery that Wilsonism is extremely unpopular, he never would have made even this attempt to free himself, and for campaign purposes try to be his own man.

Mr. Cox's choler may be pardonable for he doubtless repents of his folly and fain would make amends for it.

But it is too late for him to attempt to be even a maverick in this campaign.

He is roped, tied and branded, and never again can he stray unrecognized from the Wilson ranch.

THE BIG LEAGUE.

The next meeting of the great council of the League of Nations will be held at Brussels this month. First thing we know they will be having Uncle Sam on the carpet.

BITS FOR BREAKFAST

Salem was lively yesterday.

People got tired of waiting for the rains to cease, and came through the rain.

Who envies the lot of a Salem school director? They'll be damned if they do and damned if they don't. They will be blamed if they turn the sick patients out of the hospital, and blamed as much of more if they keep them there and keep the school children out.

So there will be no peace in all South Salem till the matter is settled one way or the other, and not a complete peace whichever way it is settled.

The fact is, Salem should have built a new hospital last year. And having failed to do this, work ought to be started on the new building right soon.

In the mean time, the Salem Deaconess hospital will have its new building completed in December, with 100 new beds. That will help some. But it will not be enough.

There is only one thing more helpful in the campaign; and that is to get out all the voters a week from Tuesday. If they will go to the polls and vote, this country

will be made safe for democracy and decency and business and labor for four years. It is the duty of every one to get his neighbor out to vote; and of the political organizations to see to it that this is systematically attended to. Then Oregon will go down the line with a straight Republican ticket, from top to bottom. Absolutely.

Missouri school marm arrested yesterday for licking six boys for wearing Cox buttons. Not that they did not deserve the licking; but a teacher should teach that this is a free country, even to the wearing of Cox buttons, as foolish as that will appear after a week from Tuesday.

Vote for five of the measures, and give the six freak bills the ax.

The passage by the people of the market lommision act, and its wise administration, will make it impossible for the Nonpartisan League to get a foothold in Oregon. It will give the producers

Potatoes

We will commence shipping soon. Come and see us.

MANGIS BROS.

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High and Trade Streets
Phone 1291
Office 542 State Street
Phone 717



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In middle age, many eyes begin to need glasses for both near and far vision. Then the question is, "What is the best way to secure that help?"

We recommend Kryptok Glasses, the only invisible bifocals. Kryptoks not only give the wearer all the comfort and convenience of having both near and far vision in one pair of glasses, but they also have the good appearance of single-vision glasses. They never make you look old or odd.

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GLASSES
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3. If the Preferred dividend is passed you do not lose because accumulated dividends must be paid before the Common Stock gets anything.
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