

The Oregon Statesman

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WHY NOT?

(Copyrighted by the San Jose Mercury.) Under this caption Dr. Lyman Abbott, in a recent issue of The Outlook says: "I know a Christian church which was built some years ago in a community into which many Jewish families have since moved, and from which some Christian families have moved away. There are neither Jews enough to give adequate support to a Jewish synagogue nor Christians enough to give adequate support to a Christian church. So the two organizations use the one building; the Jews occupy it as a synagogue on Friday and Saturday; the Christians occupy it as a Christian church the rest of the week. Why not?"

The persecution of the Jews for centuries by the Christians of Europe is one of the most inexplicable things in all history. Jesus and all of His disciples and apostles were Jews. But because some Jews, according to the New Testament, participated in the crucifixion of Jesus, what a monstrous injustice to hold the descendants of all the Jews of that day personally responsible for this great crime and for that reason persecute and even massacre them indiscriminately, as has often been done even in this twentieth century! How monstrous it would be to hold the unborn descendants for two thousand years of a criminal of this day guilty of his crime, and hate, persecute and kill them for it! But the case is even worse than this, as this hatred has not been confined to the descendants of those who participated directly in the crucifixion, but has often embraced all Jews. How unreasonable, how savage, how perfectly hellish such a thing seems when it is analyzed!

The greatest Jew-baiter in the world would make a sorry attempt at justifying himself; for this hatred of innocent and inoffensive people—even of women and little children—is only an expression of blind, unreasoning, narrow, disgusting, uncivilized, unchristian religious prejudice which is wholly indefensible. It is no different in kind from that which caused, even in comparatively modern times, the cruel and unrelenting persecution of Protestants, Catholics, Baptists and Quakers by other Christians; which has stained many a page of the history of the world with stories of burnings at the stake, massacres and other forms of martyrdom for opinion's sake. Bigotry and religious hatred are not only a disgrace to any religion, but a disgrace to humanity. Nothing could be more foreign to the spirit of Christ.

Nearly all religions have much in common. All Christian sects or denominations, of course, agree about most things. Why not emphasize the things they do hold in common, instead of ignoring them and emphasizing the few things about which they differ? Friendship, family life, even organized society itself would be impossible if this method were not followed. It is true that the Jews reject the New Testament, but Jew and Christian alike acknowledge the authority of the Old Testament. Why not make the most of this point of contact, thus finding a common basis upon which both Jew and Christian may stand?

Why not understand, as the fact undeniably is, that the things about which the various sects differ are, as a general rule, points of doctrine, those questions of theology about which men have long disputed and reasoned, and about which none of us in our comparatively ignorant and undeveloped state should be too cocksure, no matter how learned we think we are? Why not forget these theological dogmas and remember that all Christians are to recognize the "one God and Father of all" and are to have "one Lord, one faith and one baptism"? Why not make an effort to get together instead of constantly trying to pull apart? Who does not know that one of the great obstacles to spreading the gospel of Christ in the world is sectarianism among Christians?

Why not take more to heart than most professing Christians heretofore have done the great lesson in toleration and charity given to Peter, recorded in the tenth chapter of Acts? Coming straight from the wonderful vision there described, he uttered these inspired words which should be burned into the memory of every professed follower of Christ: "Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons, but in every nation he that feareth Him and worketh righteousness is accepted with Him."

If the New Testament record is to be believed, the Christian religion is an outgrowth of the Jewish faith. Christianity was first accepted by Jews; not only Jesus, but all the disci-

ples and apostles were Jews; and the gospel of Jesus was taken to the Gentiles by Jews. Christians of the whole world, therefore, owe a debt to the Jews, which, instead of hatred, should inspire a very lively sense of obligation. Under the circumstances it seems fair to presume that had the Jews who went to the various European countries been received with ordinary kindness and consideration instead of being treated as outcasts, practically all of them would long ago have embraced Christianity.

If Christianity is ever to spread itself over the world and become the universal religion, those who profess and preach it must feel and manifest toward those of other faiths or of no faith a kindness, toleration and love which will touch and appeal to them more than any words. Men are not to be made converts to the gospel of love, "peace on earth and good will to men" by force, abuse, persecution, injustice or physical violence. Christians should constantly have in mind that "love is the fulfilling of the law," as well as the very soul of the religion of Jesus. Those who do not feel and manifest this unselfish love for all the children of the father are no Christians at all, but only apostates, no matter what they profess.

And when the members of any sect or denomination are actually manifesting the spirit, power and works of the Master and are in possession of all the fruits of the spirit enumerated by Paul, it will be time enough for them to set up for themselves a claim of exclusive possession of religious truth. Until then, why not remember and observe the command to "Prove all things and hold fast that which is good?" At least, what excuse or justification have they for severity or intolerance toward those of other faiths?

Under the prohibition laws, as interpreted by the highest court, if a scak is found with a bottle of jackass brandy in his hip pocket, all he has to say is that he is taking it from its place of storage to his home for his own consumption, and it will be up to the government to prove that he is not telling the truth. There are many men of many minds attempting constantly to render the prohibition fence less nearly "hog tight."

It seems to be admitted that some sort of agreement between the nations will follow the inauguration of President Harding. You may call it a league, an association or covenant, what you will; but it will be constructed along lines that will not sacrifice any American principle nor do violence to the constitution. During all of the addresses of Mr. Harding he said that, while he had "scrapped" the Wilson League, he had not set his face against any League. And he had no views to foist upon anybody as to what the organization should be. He was willing to learn. He is a super-man.

It seems to be unanimous. No objections are offered to forming a port and issuing bonds or bonding the city to build a large public cold storage plant in Salem. Such a plant is a necessity, to keep enough fruit and vegetables each year to build it from being wasted—perhaps a good deal more, some years. Now for an organization of the progressive and forward looking forces of the city or district to bring the matter to a successful consummation.

The city of Los Angeles has made arrangements with the United States army authorities for 5000 tents to be put up in Exhibition park in that city, to help solve the housing problem. Though more new residences are being built in Los Angeles than in the city of New York, there are not enough places in which to live for all the new people coming. The men who returned to Italy, France and other countries at the beginning of the war, to help their peoples, are now returning to southern California, and bringing many immigrants with them. No doubt this crowding condition down there will affect all the coast; and the housing problem in Salem, now easier than for some time, is likely to grow larger from now on.

The Boy Scout movement is acknowledged everywhere to be one of the best means of promoting good citizenship. If people in general knew more about the Scout program, generous support for this great work with boys would be universal. Tonight the people of Salem will be given an opportunity to hear expert testimony on the worth of the work of the Boy Scouts of Salem. At the Presbyterian church to-night at 7:30 Walter Denton, T. E. McCroskey and Dr. F. L. Utter will deliver brief addresses and packed full of facts concerning this work. The Boy Scouts of Salem, in uniform, will attend in a body and the Elks orchestra, with Oscar Steelhammer as conductor, will assist the church or-

- FUTURE DATES. November 11 to 25—Red Cross roll call. November 22, Monday—State Emergency board meets. November 25, Thursday—Football, Wilhamette vs. Whitman college, at Salem. November 25, Thursday—Football, Salem high school vs. The Dalles high school, at The Dalles. November 25, Thursday—Thanksgiving day. December 1, Wednesday—Entertainment by Great Shirley Concert company at armory, under auspices of American legion. December 5, Monday—Special school election. December 7, Tuesday—Annual election of Cherrians. December 8, Wednesday—Annual election of Commercial club. December 10, 11 and 12—Western Oregon Older Boys' conference, Salem. December 14, Tuesday—Annual election Salem Business Men's league.

man and the one who prefers to spend his Sundays under the family juggernaut tinkering the car-buretor. Sometimes sensational topics have been introduced, but the wary soon learned that these were only sugar coated pills concealing a dose of real conscience-awakener.

Beautiful music, allied to be filled with power; to soothe the savage breast, has been held out as a tempting bait, but the music which many men most dearly love to hear is the crack of the golfing tools against the tree ball; the crack of the bat as some hero of the diamond slams out a two-bagger, or the purring of a 10-horse power engine in perfect harmony with the universal scheme of things.

Some preachers have given up the job in disgust or despair, acknowledging that man is not per se a religious creature and extending priestly permission to each and sundry to go to hell in his own particular chariot.

Comes now a Presbyterian parson with a new vision. In his mind's eye he peopled his auditorium each Sunday with gallant knights and turned aside from communion with the world, the flesh and the devil a church full of novitiates every time the herald angels sounded the trumpet call to worship God.

This parson established his psychological foundation by announcing that his is a church where men go. He couldn't get 'em in to tell them this, or what was in store, so he had a lot of campaign literature printed which he succeeded in placing in the hands of several thousand men who had forgotten what a church pew looked like. He told them that he was going to talk about the fellows who are earthbound and who know no God, no sin, no future life. About those who are hellbound with no Christ, no

enough campaign material on which to rest his case. He thought the belief that the people of Los Angeles and other cities are religiously careless rather than unreligious or irreligious. He thinks there are enough men in every city to fill every church every Sunday, who are willing to show by example and precept that they still believe in a divinity which shapes our lives. About the only perfect fellow he knows of are in the cemeteries and the only proof we have of their existence is the inscription on the tombstones.

The Rev. Dr. G. A. Briggleb of the Westlake Presbyterian church in Los Angeles thinks this is good.

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Thanksgiving
Announcement
Extraordinary

The Public demands that we continue our campaign of GIVING SALEM LOWER PRICES. We therefore make this special announcement that our

Second Annual Anniversary Sale Will Be Continued Until

THANKSGIVING DAY

The same low prices will prevail and if possible even lower prices will be quoted with every change in the market.

Special for Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday
A Surprise Thanksgiving Basket Sale

For the first time in the history of Salem an unusual surprise will be handed the Public in the way of

A Sale on Thanksgiving Bargain Baskets at 49c

Here is the whole story in a nutshell: New Market Basket alone valued at 20c will be packed full of an assortment of Dry Goods, Groceries and Notions, etc., each basket will be worth from \$1 to \$3.50.

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how she would handle your Estate if she were suddenly left alone. You would doubtless find her rather vague on the subject—women are rarely proficient in financial business.
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