

The Oregon Statesman

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INTOLERANCE

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 There is a strange and bitter prejudice on the part of certain defenders of the Christian faith against those who disagree with them. No conception but theirs is admissible. No other pathway leads to the domicile of the pilgrim, who must turn neither to the right nor to the left if he would reach the portals of his spiritual home. Century-old dogmas are often held forth as infallible. To believe just a little less or just a little more, to question as much as the dotting of an i or the crossing of a t; to shade even indistinctly or interrogate ever so mildly; to suggest a more logical interpretation without modifying in the faintest degree the professed conception—to do any of these things is to at once fall into fatal and terrible disfavor.

Nothing has more stimulated the growth of agnosticism than this narrow sectarian bigotry. Its exactions and proscriptions have driven the world into darkness and despair. They have obscured the perspective, and as a result men are groping hither and thither for some talismanic magic which leads to truth and freedom rather than to the conception which enslaves. In a word, the modern sect, with its bitter interdictions and its cruel anathema against those in the darkness of indecision, has been cast out by millions who prefer communication with the inner monitor which opens up vistas of beauty and sweetness without enthralling the seeker or embittering him against his fellow man who chooses his own way to this sacred experience. If in no other respect narrow sectarian Christianity, so-called, is offensive, this is sufficient, for without charity there can be no true religion.

Von Moltke is said to have more than once shot a soldier whose helmet was slightly askant. There are those who name the name of Christ who would consign to a literal hell a fellow creature whose religion varied perhaps but a line from their own. The severities of army discipline run to no greater extremes than the severities of sectarianism. The old commander whose strategies were learned in an older school is no longer wanted. Strategies have changed, newer methods and more certain ones have evolved, and today the general of fifty years ago who has fallen to the rear is pitifully ignorant of the science he once mastered. We do not contend that the analogy is perfect, but that the old theology of intolerance has fallen by the wayside while the newer freer and more vital truths have passed it by. No longer, for example, is the literal interpretation of the Bible commonly accepted. Nor the story of the creation, so picturesquely described in Genesis. And the sin of Adam, inherited by countless generations since the creation, is no more the literal thing theology has called it, but a beautiful story to be symbolically interpreted. Surely the sin of the father is not indefinitely to be borne by those who follow him, for God is a just God and holds the individual alone responsible for his acts.

Any religion which has not to do solely and exclusively with the conscience would better be avoided since all written Scriptures appeal directly thereto. Inspired, of course, a thousand times inspired, only an infidel would deny it. But not inspired in the sense that man's interpretation is final. That belongs to the individual himself. Within his own soul lives and breathes the Great Interpreter, and just as he develops communication with Him will he sharpen his spiritual vision and come into the power promised to those who have been regenerated by the new birth. Belief in a creed, made by men, or in a formula, prescribed by men, never saved a soul and never can because it is not in creeds or formulas that man finds his God but within his own being. There resides everything of spiritual value, the reservoirs of power, the potentialities awaiting development. There Tennyson found the secret of true religion; there Thomas A' Kempis found it; there such great spirits as Longfellow, Whittier and Holmes found it; and among the world's greatest women, Mary Hayes-Chynoweth and Frances Willard. And there will the whole world find it before the millennium of which we hear so much is ushered in.

No one ever heard of an intolerant illuminated soul, for intolerance and Christianity cannot dwell together. And yet the strict literalism of the Bible leads infallibly to intolerance.

It becomes a fetich to those who believe in it. It was in his search for a way out of the darkness that Cardinal Newman was inspired to write his immortal hymn, "Lead Kindly Lead." He found it within his own soul. Savonarola cast bigotry and intolerance aside and listened to the voice within. Ah, these were men, great men, within whose souls burned the flame of love for all mankind. Intellectuals they were, but humble as children in the presence of eternal Truth. Thomas Huxley died with the words on his lips: "I don't know." Lord Tennyson died singing the beautiful words of "Crossing the Bar." The one was a doubting materialist, the other a spiritual believer. The sectarian may have glimpses of the better life, but he can never experience it in its fullness. For bigotry and sectarianism are synonymous terms. They have done untold evil in the world. They have severed the golden cords of the home tie. They have made shipwreck of the most stered human relations. They have left a world in unregenerateness, emphasizing the shadow rather than the substance, and by an unyielding attitude have prejudiced against their organizations those who would otherwise have joined them. A religion that does not change the life but on the contrary embitters it is doomed to failure. Such a religion does not commend itself to a world which has wearied of Phariseism and craves something more substantial than mere externals which, however pleasing to the eye and ear, lead only to intolerance and bigotry.

Hope good digestion waited on appetite.
 Two weeks from tomorrow Salem will have the three houses of the legislature to provide for.

Some of our tenderest missed the snow, but all agreed that it was glorious Christmas weather.

Now that sugar is cheaper than prunes, the Oregon crop will have the right of way, and it will slide along easily and the last of it be disposed of in time to clear the boards for the coming crop.

The work of supplying the needy families through the warehouse of The Statesman, with articles of food and clothing contributed by our people, has so far been a great success. There is a large store of supplies yet on hand, put in order for convenient handling and delivery. So the work will persist as long as there is need, and as long as the people with big hearts keep up the supply. In most cases the need ought not to last beyond a few weeks.

The Welcome and Anniversary edition of The Statesman, to be issued about January 15, will contain articles written by the leading men in the various lines of business, industry and service in this section. The work is far enough along now to allow of the promise and prediction that this will be the best number of a newspaper for immigration and general informational purposes ever issued from Salem. It should have a very wide circulation among the people of other states and countries who have friends and relatives here. Copies will be mailed anywhere for 20 cents each. As the price of paper is high—about four times the price paid in 1913—not a great number will be printed above the advance orders. So it will be well to order now, and send in the addresses, in order that the lists may be put in shape so that mailing will be prompt; on the day of publication. Advance sales are already considerable in number.

BITS FOR BREAKFAST

Hope you enjoyed it.
 This is when two Sundays come together.
 The big men in the business world are telling us that if there was a crisis, it has passed, and things will pick up from now on.
 True, there are some adjustments yet to be made, but all danger of a near-panic has passed.
 You will want some copies of the forthcoming Welcome Edition of The Statesman. This is a straight tip. So you would better order now, and send in the addresses you want supplied. It is going to be a great edition—the greatest ever. This is official.
 No family in Salem needs go hungry. There is a large stock in

EYEGLASSES AND SPECTACLES



IT'S NOT TOO LATE
 to be thinking of making your eyes a
Christmas Gift
 of a pair of glasses—if they need them
MORRIS & KEENE OPTICAL CO.
 202-211 Bank of Commerce Building

Helpful Health Hints

Play as you go and you will go farther.
 Accept no substitute for health. There is nothing "just as good."
 The doctor that pretends to know everything proves thereby that he knows nothing.
 We know the value of fortune when we have gained it, and the value of health when we have lost it.
 Health is a matter of osteopathy, and osteopathy is a matter of choice. Don't be healthy unless you are sure you want to be.
 If you can read the persuasive advertisements of a patent medicine without being convinced that you need a bottle of it, you are strong minded.
 Health is simply the encouragement of right habits—the fixing of good habits until they become a part of one's nature, and are exercised automatically.
 Alcoholism is the mildest form of inebriety. The glutton is a worse drunkard, the sensualist a more dangerous one, and the patent medicine fiend the most hopeless of all.—Adv.

by Scharwenka, with brilliant effect and perfect technique, showing the rich volume of tone of the Steinway baby grand piano.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Gerber, (La Verne De Witt) accompanied by Miss Lucile De Witt came up yesterday to spend Christmas and the week-end with Mrs. Anna De Witt. The latter has also with her as her holiday guests her sister, Mrs. R. K. Humphrey and her son Edward Humphrey of Corvallis, who arrived the first of the week.

Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Niemeyer entertained with a Christmas dinner, their guests being Mr. and Mrs. Robert R. Niemeyer and Mr. and Mrs. Edward Niemeyer and their children.

Mr. and Mrs. James F. Elton and small daughter, Jane Florence, arrived Friday from Portland, to spend Christmas and New Years with Mrs. Elton's father, J. A. Churchill.

Mr. and Mrs. B. E. Bower of Union Hill were entertained as the Christmas guests of Mr. and Mrs. George Shaw.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Davey have with them as their house guest, their daughter Mrs. Edward Domocalla and small daughter Jean of Astoria, who have been here for about a week. Mr. Domocalla came up to join them over this week-end.

The Davey's also have with them their son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Robert E. Davey, recently come here from Cascade locks.

He—How some of these old songs do haunt me!
 She—Well, you've often murdered them.—London Opinion.

Neuropathy

When you feel tired and in a run-down condition; when you do not sleep as well as you ought; if there is a weakness, pain or loss of power in any part of the body; if you have that languid, don't care feeling and you just about as soon quit as keep on going, why not consult a Neuropath and have him diagnose your case, give you a few treatments, loosen up those cramped, tired nerves so you will have some pep and feel like living once more.

Dr. F. S. Schutz

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SUITS

\$29.00
 \$33, \$35,
 \$37.50 and
 \$39

One of the largest "cut-trim and make" houses in Chicago has just sent us a consignment of made-to-measure suits which we are authorized to sell at
\$29, \$33, \$35, \$37.50 and \$39

These are wonderful values. They're all wool. They're well made—serges, cassimeres, Cheviots and fancy worsteds. They were made by one of the best tailoring establishments in America. We know the concern, for we have done business with them for several years.

Why Offered At So Low a Price

These are suits that were made to order but were left on the makers' hands by reason of market conditions. They must be disposed of at once. We're one of their representatives fortunate enough to be selected to sell them.

The Best Sell First—So Come Early
Woolen Mills Store
 426 State Street

Have His Eyes Tested

During Holiday Week

By so doing prevent eye trouble during remainder of the winter

Your boy's eyes are given undue strain during these long winter evenings when he does most of his studying by artificial light. Unless they are properly attended to, this strain may result in serious trouble for the eyes which will handicap him all through life.

This week, when for the time he has forgotten school, is an ideal time to have those eyes tested. If there is no trouble, you are lucky. If his eyes show weakness, rectify that at once. It pays to be on the safe side.

Hartman Bros. Co.

Jewelers and Opticians
 Hallmark Jewelers

At the Electric Sign "SHOES"

The Bootery

WHERE CASH IS KING

AGENTS FOR THE **Red Cross Shoe**
 "It binds with your foot"
 TRADE MARK

Shoes for everybody. Great Price Reductions. Quality and Cost Satisfaction.

Exclusive Agents for **REGAL SHOES**

At the Electric Sign "SHOES"

A WANT AD. IN THE STATESMAN WILL BRING RESULTS

BANK YOUR GIFT MONEY

If you have given your boys and girls money for Christmas make the occasion more memorable by bringing them in here to the United States National tomorrow and open their first SAVINGS ACCOUNT.

It will draw interest and arouse interest

United States National Bank
 SALEM OREGON