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R. J. Hendricks, Manager
Stephen A. Stone, Managing Editor
Ralph Glover, Cashier
Frank Jaskoski, Manager Job Dept.

TELEPHONES:
Business Office, 23.
Circulation Department, 583
Job Department, 583
Society Editor, 106

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WHAT KIND OF A GOD DO YOU WORSHIP?

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Several weeks ago the above question was asked by one of our subscribers, and the question, evidently asked in all seriousness, deserves some answer.

The conception of God which each man has will correspond to his intelligence and spiritual development, the conception of the savage being primitive, weak and physical, while the highly developed spiritual individual understands that it is impossible for finite man to have any adequate conception of the Infinite. Since "God is a Spirit," the less we strive to get an intellectual conception of His personality, the nearer to a true understanding of Him we shall doubtless come.

The God that too many worship is the one created for them in childhood and youth by their parents and religious teachers. Their minds being then undeveloped and childish, can have only a childish conception of God. This conception they find it hard to discard when they reach maturity, and many never succeed in doing it. They continue to think of God as a sort of super-man sitting on a beautiful throne with a real, material, gold scepter in His hand, ruling His comparatively circumscribed domain in some far away corner of the universe, after the manner of an earthly king. They cannot conceive of Him as an all-pervading, all-embracing, all-animating, all-controlling Spirit of the universe, who through His spirit reaches, animates and rules the farthest corners of His creation. Yet this is the God revealed to us in the New Testament, who as Paul says, "Is in all and through all and in you all." This is the God whom we try to worship.

Yes, God presumably had the power to make the world, less than six thousand years ago, just as we see it, in one literal day of twenty-four hours, and the next day to make all the fishes, birds and beasts as they now exist. But if He did not do it, the question of His power to do it that way is purely academic. If the evidence is overwhelming—in fact, incontrovertible—that the earth has been millions of years in the making, and that for ages any form of animal life could not, did not exist upon it, that would seem to settle it.

Presumably God "is capable of preparing a fish big enough to swallow Jonah," but many people find it hard to believe that an all-wise and all-powerful God found it necessary to set aside His established laws and arrest the digestive operations of this fish, which operations in the natural course of things would in three days have made Jonah a part of the anatomy of the fish, in order to give Jonah a much needed lesson in obedience. Some prefer to understand this story as a symbolical representation of the condition into which one comes who refuses to heed the voice of his Maker; the darkness, slime and other conditions in the belly of the fish being typical of the moral and spiritual conditions that will surround such a one until he is willing to obey the voice of God.

Presumably also God had wisdom and power enough when He established His laws for the government of the universe to make them so perfect and all-embracing as to fit every possible condition that ever did or ever could arise. Presumably He has never found it necessary to set these laws aside or to establish others in order to correct His own mistakes; has never been obliged to do some extraordinary thing in order to patch up any part of His creation. He has known the purpose and end of His creation and every part of it from the beginning, and none of His creatures can or ever did thwart that purpose in the least degree. To believe otherwise is to doubt the infinite wisdom or power of God, or both.

Many of the most intelligent and honest people in the world, while accepting the demonstrated facts of science, still believe in the Bible as a spiritual book and try to understand and interpret it so that it will harmonize with these facts. Dogmatism never did and never will destroy or alter the truth. All religious people would do well to bear this in mind and not dogmatically deny the truths of science until they have conscientiously examined the evidence supporting them.

Finally, we try to worship the God of love, the Father, whom Jesus revealed, not an austere, brutal, unfeeling being full of anger; one who loves and cares for all His children, even those who are erring and sinful, and loves them so well that He will not let one of them suffer longer than is necessary to cause him to turn from sin and make him strong and righteous, the true spiritual child of this Father. As the chastisement of the wise and loving earthly parent is always administered for the good of the child, so the trials and struggles of life are but God's rod of correction to cause us to forsake evil and walk in the straight and narrow way.

And how are we to worship this great Spirit of Love "in spirit and truth," as Jesus says we must? Certainly not in mere lip service or only in words of praise and adoration, however lofty and inspiring. Our souls must bow to Him in humility, in readiness and determination to do His will, in love for Him and all His children; in willingness—yes, in eagerness to serve Him by serving and ministering to His creatures. The truth in which we are to worship is no less than the truth revealed in the life of Jesus. This truth can be no part of our true worship except as we incorporate it in our lives. Manifesting the spirit and the life of Christ, this is to worship God in spirit and in truth. Nothing less is. As one of the greatest of the poets has said,

"He prayeth well who loveth well,
Both man and bird and beast;
He prayeth best who loveth best
All things, both great and small;
For the dear God that loveth us,
He made and loveth all."

It was a mistake in President Harding in not referring to Captain Jinks when he addressed the marines the other day.

In Zion City it is against the law for a woman to display her collarbone. And the fine is V-shaped.

It is proposed to pause for a moment of prayer on Armistice day, but whether for the safety of democracy throughout the world or for the American con-

gress has not yet been fully determined.—Exchange.

A Detroit girl who was married over the telephone has been granted a divorce. She got the wrong number.

It used to be that women delighted to spend evenings at home. Neighborhood visits, or sitting quietly in one's house reading or talking of the topics of the day, were the rule. All this has changed and not for the

better. Home life is disappearing.—Los Angeles Times. Possibly in Los Angeles, but not everywhere. Not in Salem.

One of the colleges has expelled its football captain because he was behind in his studies. Is higher education deteriorating?

Salem is looking for a man. Specifications—a man who can organize the flax industry and carry it through to the making of twines and linen fabrics. There is here a field worthy of one of the big men of the world.

The moral atmosphere that exists in Washington and in these United States during the sessions of the disarmament conference may have a profound effect on the trend of the discussion. It will influence the actual results of the meeting. There is need of a feeling of optimism all around.

When Marshal Foch visits Los Angeles he will be entertained by French residents of that city. In order that the distinguished Frenchman may not distress himself by eating heavy food, an old-fashioned French dinner of vegetables will be served, the sort Foch was accustomed to before his name filled the trump of fame.

WORK GLADDENS

You can't overwork. God Almighty intended this wonderful mechanism called the human body to work. It is working all the time. Did you ever think of that? Think of it once more! This heart of yours pumps on 72 times a minute from the moment that it takes its first beat until it dies, at 56 years or 60 years or 100. It pumps 4320 times an hour, 103,680 times a day.

Everything in us is constructed to work. Everything in us is constructed to carry big loads, big burdens.

This human hand—it's a masterpiece of mechanics. This spinal column—it's constructed to hold your body up, and teams of horses pulling in opposite directions could scarcely pull it apart. God intended us to work. He made it necessary for us to work. Whether you know it or not, your day's work lights up the glad side of your ledger. And idleness is loss.

The happiest moments in the life of a man are those in which he is at his best, intellectually and physically, working at high speed with the greatest necessity for good judgment and quick action. Then, if he has troubles, he forgets them in the exhilaration of the hour. Whether he knows it or not, his actual, everyday employment is his biggest boon to happiness.—Charles E. Lawyer in Forbes Magazine.

THE NEW DENVER

They are having a reform movement in Denver. The little top-spinning game of put and take has been outlawed by the police and the city government. Likewise a man has been arrested for playing the old fashioned pastime of poker and the court has sentenced him to six months. That is evidently their idea in that wild and woolly city of making the punishment fit the crime.

MARSHAL FOCH

(Springfield Republican)

America welcomes in Marshal Foch not merely the greatest soldier of these times but, measured by the victory which he personifies, the greatest since Napoleon. His victory, unlike Napoleon's while it lasted, was for civilization and not for personal glory or empire. Foch had a larger and more difficult task than that of Von Moltke when, in 1870, the hollow sham of military power under Napoleon the Little crumbled before the highly organized German armies in the war which Bismarck had provoked in order that he might crush France and create a German empire.

There are three stories which seem to personify Marshal Foch and his diverse traits of brilliance, courage and inspired determination. In the first battle of the Marne it was reported that he sent repeated requests for reinforcements to Marshal Joffre, who could not respond because the French reserves were exhausted. Finally, according to the story,

FUTURE DATES

November 5, Saturday—Semi-annual meeting of Marion county Parent-Teacher association, High school.
November 8, Tuesday—Examinations of National Guardsmen for entrance to West Point, Salem Armory.
November 8, Tuesday—Special election for Polk county on \$70,000 road tax levy.
November 8, Tuesday—Admiral Mayo to address Kiwanis Club.
November 10, Wednesday—Annual Willamette university cross-country race.
November 11, 22 and 23—Marion county Teachers' Institute.
December 4, Sunday—Elks Memorial service, Grand Theater.

Foch dispatched this message: "My right wing is crumbling, my left is menaced. I can hold this position no longer. I am going forward to attack." Some doubt has been thrown upon the authenticity of these details, but the fact remains that Foch's counter-attack helped largely to save France and civilization in that first and perhaps gravest crisis.

If those were not Foch's exact words in 1914 they at least reflect something of his spirit and courage when called to the supreme command of the allied armies in the crisis of 1918 when the Germans had launched their last and greatest stroke. Asked what he did when destiny seemed again to hang in the balance he said simply that he smoked his pipe. Upon another occasion the report seems authentic that through a long and silent hour he was seen on his knees in a little French church in a village near the fighting zone.

Those who read history sometimes wonder even concerning history's greatest figures whether they were as able and brilliant as they are painted, or whether their greatness was thrust upon them by fortunate circumstances which would have carried other men to equal triumph. It is not likely that such a question will often be raised in regard to Marshal Foch. There is evidence beyond the supreme evidence of victory that he is a man of remarkable and brilliant mind. No one can read his lectures on military strategy, which were delivered some time before the war to the French equivalent of our war college, without being profoundly impressed with the grasp, the force and the luminous clarity of his mind. One does not need to be a soldier by profession to know that they could only have been written by a great military leader. If, as used to be said, Gladstone could make a treasury statement interesting to the average man; Foch can lend a veritable fascination to the higher principles of strategy.

When Marshal Joffre came over with the French commission in 1917 America found him a strong but kindly and lovable figure and understood at once why the French people called him "Papa Joffre." Marshal Foch has seemed, from a distance, a great but somewhat sterner figure. Yet in his message to America sent by wireless from mid-ocean, there is suggested a warmer nature than some may have suspected. "I know they love me over there," said the marshal. "but I love them too." America is ready both to love and to honor him.

THE SOCIAL SIDE

The wife of the president is said to have rather upset social Washington by indicating, that hereafter the wives of senators will have precedence over the cabinet ladies in the line at official functions. There doesn't seem to be any warrant for the change. It is just a feminine fancy. Mrs. Harding was once the wife of a senator and she knows how the wives of senators feel about it. Almost any outsider would hold that in social and public life a cabinet officer should hold the edge over a senator. Naturally, the wives would follow in like order. Some one suggests that it would take something more than a tip from the first lady of the land, however, to give the household of a La Follette social prestige beyond that of the secretary of state.

DOWN AND OUT

It is reported that the soviet government of Russia now proposes to recognize the foreign debts of the God-forsaken country. But what if it does? Supposing Lenin does recognize the financial obligation of Russia to this country? It is one thing for a debtor to admit that he owes. Paying it is what counts. The world will not only have to forgive Russia its debts, but will probably have to set it on its financial feet once more before it can earn its own keep.

ALONE IN NEW YORK

Coningsby Dawson thus describes New York and his first night in it: "All that first night after landing I wandered New York; I was too amazed to sleep and too lonely. I have been a stranger in many cities, but of them all New York is the most daunting. New York is high and wide and grand, but there is something pitiless in its grandeur. There is no jasp of footsteps along its pavements, its very streets sounds are an anvil chant of strife. It rises, clad in armor of concrete and girders, wading down the Atlantic, a Goliath among cities, while its head thrusts back the stars. People are as dust in its quarried canyons; the dignity of personality

is lost in the all-surrounding height. It is the cruelest of crowded places in which to be solitary.—New York Times.

THE RAGGED REFORMERS

Nebraska citizens who are unhappily mated in politics are forming a new party. For the moment they are calling themselves Independent Progressives, but this title will probably be bolted down for the christening. The organization is made up of old-time Populists, Socialists and other brands of vagrant political thought, with a sprinkling of radicals from Democratic and Republican ranks. It is the grand army of the discordant and discontented and its major purpose is to plow up Wall street and plant it to timothy. The members are quite emphatic in denunciation of the present administration. The reasons are not very coherent, but the chief objection to the Republican organization is that it is in power. The new party is against any man or group holding power or office. It will preach the gospel of the upside down and the wrong side out.

DIVORCE AND ELOPEMENT

One of the local judges says he will not grant divorces to those who wed in haste—that is, not unless the evidence is such as makes the decree imperative. If the judges would hold to this rule there would be fewer divorce cases; but that is no sign that runaway marriages would be lessened. When certain young folks think they are in love they are immune to reason. The experiences of those who have gone before are as nothing to them. The only practical safety valve is for the state to require a printed notice and the elapse of 10 days or more before a ceremony can be performed. The showing of the divorce courts furnishes neither interest nor warning to lovers.—Los Angeles Times.

Rastas was terribly depressed both physically and mentally. "What's the matter, Rastas?" in-

quired his employer.

"Muttah?" echoed Rastas. "I've been high 'bout ruined, boss. Mah wife done beat me up and den gone off an' lef me."

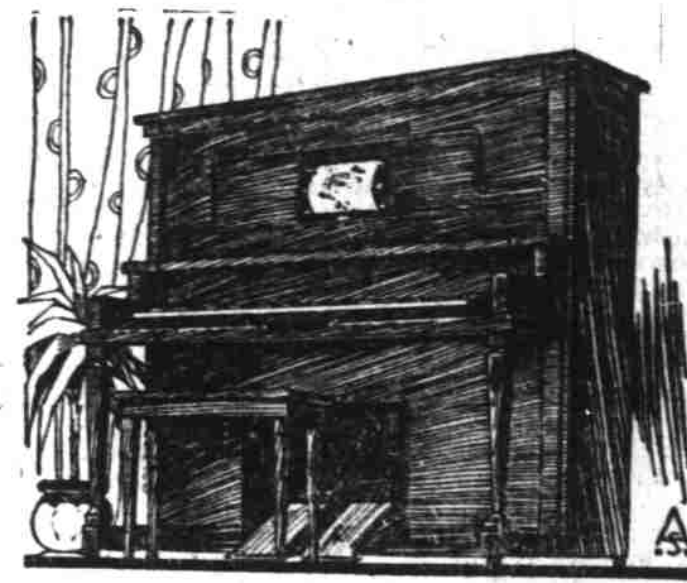
"Well, it's too bad she beat you up, but since she's gone it might

have been worse," consoled his boss.

"Yeah, but dat ain't all," persisted Rastas. Jes, 'foah mah wife lef' she opened de chicken-house doah and all de chickens done flew out and went home!"

Dallas News—Our observation is that when a man marries for money he finds it a long time between pay days.

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