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"Without or with offense to friends or foes
I sketch your world exactly as it goes."—BYRON.

A Flat Earth

A correspondent in the Open Forum the other day asserted that the bible does not say the earth is flat and offers to pay a year's subscription if a statement can be quoted to that effect.

The bible does not say in so many words that the earth is flat, but it is the logical inference drawn from what it does say and the church for centuries held that it was flat. The fiat of ecclesiasticism decreed it flat and the inquisition was invoked against those who asserted it round.

In this connection The Nation summarizes:

For centuries the church—when church and state worked hand in hand—thundered against any man who dared think or say that the earth was round. The bishop of Ceuta and the theologians of Salamanca overwhelmed Columbus with quotations from the Psalms, from St. Paul and St. Augustine. When Copernicus made his great discovery of the revolution of the earth about the sun, Martin Luther and Melancthon vied with the Catholic dignitaries in abusing the "upstart astrologer." Did not Ecclesiastes say that "the earth standeth fast forever?"

When Galileo's rude telescope revealed the moons of Jupiter, confirming Copernicus's observations, he was told that his pretended discovery "vitiates the whole Christian plan of salvation." One learned priest argued that if there were other planets they must be inhabited, since God made nothing in vain; but those inhabitants could not be descended from Adam; therefore they and their planets could not exist. Poor Galileo, after publishing his letters on the sun spots, was ordered to "abandon entirely the opinion that the sun is the center of the universe, and that the earth moves, and to abstain from sustaining, teaching, or defending that opinion in any manner whatever, orally or by writing"—an order worthy of the Tennessee legislature which passed the anti-evolution bill three hundred and ninety years later. Galileo was forced to make the declaration:

"I, Galileo, being a prisoner and on my knees, and before your eminences, having before my eyes the Holy Gospel, which I touch with my hands, abjure, detest, and curse the error and the heresy of the movement of the earth."

Ecclesiasticism then, as now, could only hamper scientific truth, it could not halt it. Tennessee to be logical, should follow up its law to preserve as sacred the first chapter of Genesis, with another enactment to prohibit teachings contrary to the first chapter of Ecclesiastes, and keep the earth as stationary as progress in Tennessee and as flat as a flat tire.

That Wise Decision

The Portland Oregonian has tardily editorially discovered the Scopes trial at Dayton, Tennessee, which is some discovery for a fearless newspaper. The "well balanced, judicial attitude" of the trial judge in excluding scientific evidence upon evolution is most highly commended and the Tennessee anti-evolution teaching law upheld by the erudite journal. Says the Oregonian:

It is true that his (Judge Raulston's) rulings have invariably gone against the defense in what the defense has held up as important issues, but from the first the Tennessee case has to us seemed so clear-cut that no other rulings could justly be made by an intelligent court.

Further along the Oregonian says "If there is a constitutional issue at all, it is whether the legislature of a state has the power to forbid the teaching of any subject in the public school" for "the legislature may make good or bad regulations concerning the public schools," the "only check being the vigilance and intelligence of the people themselves." And the Oregonian sees anarchy in school affairs if the legislature cannot do as it pleases with public schools.

The legislature can only regulate the schools in accordance with the Constitution and not in accordance with its own vagaries. Legislatures have tried this before, as in the Nebraska school case, where the teaching of a foreign language was forbidden, and the legislative edict set aside, proving that a legislature cannot "make good or bad regulations concerning the public schools" unless they comply with the fundamental law.

That is the legal issue in Tennessee and the trial judge has ruled out all evidence as to evolution that would prove that by excluding it from the curricula, the legislature had exceeded its authority and violated the constitution and the court's action meets the unctious approval of the Oregonian, which has timidly thereby aligned itself with the fundamentalists.

The Scopes case is of interest in Oregon because the fundamentalists plan to force a similar law through here and the indications are that when the issue arises, the Oregonian, if it takes sides at all, will be found lined up with those who are making the nation ridiculous.

One Wife on Approval

By Violet Dare

"THE NEW HOME"
"Yes, so much that he's over-come to answer them," asserted Cynthia, and hung up the receiver. Cynthia moved into Noel Gardner's apartment the next day. Her sister-in-law had called on her the evening before and spent two hours trying to persuade her not to do so.
"I didn't tell mother that you were coming here, because I didn't want to spoil her whole trip," Louise had said. "Why, she wouldn't have gone to Honolulu with Jim if she'd known that you planned to do this. I can't understand your being so foolish, Cynthia. Noel Gardner has just been divorced; the whole town talked about him because of the way he went around with Cecile Malcolm before his wife divorced him and now that he's back they're talking again." And then for you deliberately to take the apartment that he and his wife had, and to laugh with him—and play golf with him—
"Both Jim and your mother urge me to give up our house while Jim is away because of the cost of keeping it open," Cynthia retorted. "So I'm closing it, and giving up the servants, and taking the only apartment I've been able to find that was possible, and paying the rent out of my own income. I don't

"Oh, I think it was Noel who had the good taste," commented Mrs. Jordan. "He's always been known for his taste in everything, from good furniture to pretty women," with a glance at Cynthia and a little laugh.
"I'm so glad that you came today; we can christen my new home by having tea together," exclaimed Cynthia, determinedly changing the subject. Frances brought the tea things at once, but set them down hurriedly to answer the door bell. A moment later she had deposited a florist's box on a chair beside Cynthia; within it were masses of pink roses. And without stirring from her chair, Helen Jordan could read the card that lay on them—"Noel Gardner." She did read it, aloud.
"I told you Noel had good taste," she remarked.
"Yes, hasn't he? Russell roses are the loveliest flowers there are," answered Cynthia. Mrs. Jordan raised her eyebrows, and smiled quizzically, but said nothing more.
"Noel always rushes a new woman right off her feet," murmured Cecile, glancing disdainfully at her tea cup. "Honey, would you mind if I had a cocktail? Tea doesn't interest me any more."
Cynthia blushed.
"I'm afraid there's nothing in the house to make one of," she said. "It didn't occur to me to bring any of Jim's private stock over here with me—"
"Oh, Noel must have everything in the world tucked away in his liquor closet; do call him up and ask him where it is," Cecile cut in.
"I'd rather not; I hardly think—" "Nonsense. He always comes to the rescue of his fanished friends. Where's the phone? I'll call him if you don't want to."
Without waiting for a reply she ran into the adjoining alcove and picked up the telephone, gave Noel's number. A moment later she was talking with him.
"Noel, this is Cecile. I'm calling from your old home and Cynthia Leband's new one—this is an S O S call from her, really; she doesn't know where you keep your gin. It goes with the apartment, doesn't it? Oh, that's a darling hurry!"
She came back to the tea table and established herself beside Cynthia once more.
"He says he'll come up and make us some cocktails himself," she answered airily. "Said he wanted to beg your forgiveness for not telling you where he keeps his liquor. I wish he'd told me he wanted to rent this apartment," she concluded cheerfully. "I'd have taken it myself."
Blushing, Cynthia said nothing. Not for worlds would she have had Noel Gardner think that she meant to make free of his belongings in this way. She wondered how she could convince him of that.
Monday—A Gay House Warming.

President Celebrates the Fourth



President and Mrs. Coolidge are shown leaving the Technology Building at Cambridge, Mass., after witnessing an impressive pageant commemorating the 150th anniversary of Washington's acceptance of the command of the revolutionary army.

Dayton Sidelights

The under-worked jury in the Scopes case was having a full holiday today. Being a member of the jury has not interfered seriously with the activities outside the courtroom. The jury has spent little time in court, most of the proceedings being not for the members' ears. The jury heard four witnesses testify for the state and Dr. Maynard M. Metcalf give his biographical sketch.
"I got here too late," were said words in Dayton today. Many persons, unaware of the recess over the week end motored in to be present as the case was tried in the Rhea county court room, Deprived of a chance to hear a debate of opposing counsel the visitors looked at the court room, visited the drug store "where it started," and wondered if every passing bareheaded man was John T. Scopes, the defendant.
Scopes was apparently not perturbed by Judge Raulston's decision to keep scientific testimony out of the case. He did not change expression as the judge rendered his decision and he was able to go swimming in the afternoon. Scopes said today that he has made no plans for his program "after the Scopes case ends."
Around the counsel tables in the arena where the evolution suit is being held accumulations of mail littered the floor. One letter from a would-be counselor to the young school teacher announced that if the defendant would present to Judge Raulston the inclosed "motion" the court would "immediately release him" and end the trial. Pamphlets, booklets, leaflets, and folders, discussing on many phases of legal and economic subjects, flooded the desks of the principals in the evolution case. All the senders hope to be of some "assistance" to the representatives of one party or the other.
In the custody of the court is a bundle of letters and circulars addressed to members of the jury by name as "jurymen in the Scopes trial."
Music by the Dayton high school band, whose origin John T. Scopes added, floated last night into the judicial hall where the biology instructor is on trial. The band, which includes both boys and girls played for an appreciative audience stretched out on the court house lawn or seated on the rough plank seats of the air dome. The youthful musicians have given several concerts since the trial has been in progress.

CALIFORNIA HEAT CAUSES FOUR DEATHS

(Continued from Page One)
and Luke Krikor, Seattle, were burned severely while fighting the same fire.
Fifty men are fighting a fire in Hooper canyon, Ventura county, Cal. The same fire was reported earlier in the week and is now raged anew having already burned over 500 acres. The fire has penetrated the Santa Barbara national forest. Forest Supervisor Chester E. Jordan announced after a survey of the situation from an airplane.
Lightning Sets Fires
Brush and forest fires were raged today in the farm districts near Tempton and Eureka, Cal. Fighters are battling the blazes to keep them from reaching fields and farms. It was estimated that six thousand acres had been burned over.
Electrical storms set more than fifty forest fires in the foothill country in the eastern San Joaquin valley, Cal., from Kern county on the south, to Madera county on the north.
Reports from Huntington Lake that several small timber fires were burning. The other fires were chiefly brush and stubble blazes.
Several deaths in California yesterday were attributed to the heat while high temperature establish-

OPEN FORUM

Contributions to this column must be plainly written on one side of paper only limited to 300 words in length and signed with the name of the writer. Articles not meeting these specifications will be rejected.

To the Editor: I am "puzzled" to know why intellectual competence, from either independent or fundamentalist standpoint have so much difficulty in discovering the evolution that has taken place throughout the centuries in Christian theology—first about the year when the teachings of Jesus were evolving into medieval theology, and then more rapidly in the more recent years when much of medieval theology has been modified or abandoned in the effort to return to simplified gospel theory; as it may be tax intelligently from the teachings of Jesus and His immediate followers.
Present day theology in its present day orthodox forms is readily accessible in our libraries in encyclopedias of religion and even in the secular encyclopedias. Progressive thinkers may readily find that the churches have not only modified their theologies, but have also in large measure relegated their evolving credo to a position of very real subordination to their fundamental object of exemplifying the teachings of the Christ who saves, and inviting into their fellowship all who seek to follow him.
A few independent so-called fundamentalist churches whose members have not found comfort with today's orthology as it dominates the older denominations have shrunk to their little coves and are shutting out as heat they call the greater number of this generation of their fellow Christians. As has been said by a leading evangelical denominational paper too many Protestant papers are communicating their brethren.
Protestantism was and is a protest against the finality of human authority in religious thinking; and any appeal to what the bible says may raise the question of whom it says it—i.e. the human element inevitable and necessary to the reading of it.
This generation is reading its own bible—reading it as it never has been read before and finding it to be God's inspired and inspiring word to it. But to the new minds it is a new book. Even if one must close his mind to biological evolution, why close it to the religious evolution of one's own age?
F. C. FRANKLIN.
Salem, Ore., July 17, 1925.

BRINGING UP FATHER



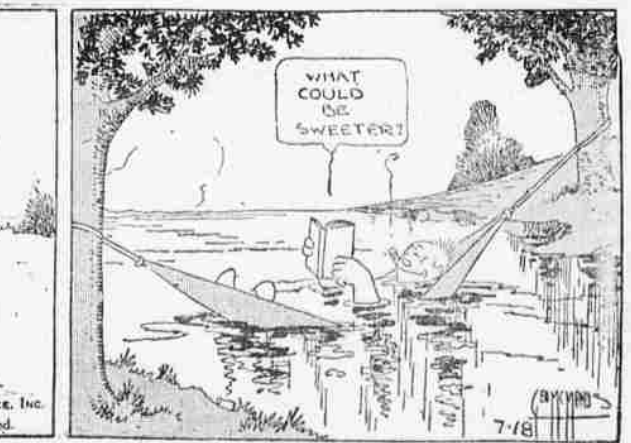
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