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Unbelief and Ignorance of God Abounding—Darkness of This World Palpable—God's People Walking in Light—Knowledge of God's Word Costly—Time, Attention, Thought, and Loss of Worldly Influence, the Price—Simple, Harmonious and Reasonable Are the Holy Scriptures.



Aug. 8.—Pastor Russell preached today on the text, "Sanctify them through Thy Truth; Thy Word is Truth."—John 17:17.

The Pastor called attention to the fact that today the great majority of people think very little about the Word of God. Years ago it was quite customary that the Bible should have a prominent place in the colleges; for nearly every college was under the control of some denomination. This gave them a sectarian bias, however; and they were not entirely free to study Truth. But now the larger part of those graduated are total unbelievers in the Bible as the inspired Word of God. Many are ministers, who select their texts from it and who retain a certain respect for it, as for an old friend of their parents. But if closely cross-examined, probably ninety-five of every hundred would say, "I do not believe the Bible to be God's Word."

The speaker emphasized the point that the colleges and the ministers have left the Bible, although the preachers select their texts from it just as they might on other occasions quote from Shakespeare. But as for any belief in such inspiration as the Bible teaches—that "holy men of old spake as they were moved by the Holy Spirit," not understanding what they said—it is doubtful, he said, if even five per cent. of the ministers believe the Bible to be God's Word. With teachers and preachers in this condition of unbelief, it is no wonder that religion is at a discount with the people. Jesus said, "When the Son of Man cometh, shall He find faith upon the earth?" The audience were witnesses that our Lord has not found much faith.—Luke 18:8; 2 Peter 1:21; 3:3-5.

"The Wise Shall Understand."

Then the speaker contrasted the World's unbelief and ignorance of God with the increasing light coming to God's people. From Daniel 12:1-4 he showed that we have before us today unmistakable evidences that we have reached the Time of the End. Many are running to and fro in automobiles, electric trams, steam railroads, etc. Knowledge is increasing everywhere. But the deep things of God's Word are hidden from the wise and prudent, and are revealed unto babes—those not too worldly-wise, who accept the Bible as God's Word and are guided by it.

In this connection the Pastor explained the parable of the Ten Virgins. (Matthew 25:1-13.) This parable pictures conditions in the Church of Christ at the end of the Gospel Age. In the Time of the End the cry went forth, "The Bridegroom cometh!" All justified believers made ready to meet Him. But He tarried; and all the virgins slumbered and slept, not knowing what to make of the delay. Again the cry went forth, "Behold the Bridegroom!"—He is here. Again all the virgins awakened. The wise virgins trimmed their lamps, saw the Truth, and were ready to follow the Bridegroom into the marriage.—Psalm 119:105.

But the foolish virgins had no oil, no light. The oil represents the Holy Spirit and the enlightenment coming therefrom. The foolish virgins go to buy when they give time for investigation—time taken from business, pleasure and worldly affairs. Those who do not find time for study do not wish to have the light. Although true Christians, they will not pay the price. Whoever is rejoicing in the light of Present Truth will testify that it has cost him something of worldly influence, time, attention and thought.

The Church Called, Not Compelled. God is not seeking to deceive people nor to force them into the Kingdom. During this Gospel Age He has merely sent forth His Message to gather out those who wish to respond—no force, no compulsion, merely His Word. (Acts 15:13-18.) We heard the call; our hearts responded, and we came back into harmony with God. His Word informed us that He had made all arrangements for covering our sins, through the death of our Lord Jesus Christ; and that He was willing to receive us into His family and make us His heirs, joint-heirs with Jesus.

God's Word is Truth—not truth on every subject, but on the most important ones. The most important truth is that which God purposes to teach all His intelligent creatures—that obedience to Him is the best education. All other learning will prove valueless, perhaps injurious, unless associated with obedience to God. The majority of professed Christians are under the delusions of the present evil world. They are outside, like the remainder of mankind. But the true Christian has that which is satisfactory. Therefore he is contented to let God shape his affairs.

AUCTIONS AID SALES OF FRUIT

California and Florida Deals
Increase Tremendously

MR. GEARY TELLS WHY

By Arthur M. Geary

While in Boston, in early June, I learned from the Boston Produce Exchange that the amount of box apples consumed annually in the Hub City had not varied over 15 cars in five years. On the other hand, the consumption of California and Florida fruits which are sold through the auctions, had increased tremendously, although the amounts had varied widely from year to year, according to the size of the crops.

With the purpose of learning why more of the dealers were not using Northwest-apples, I went among the jobbers in attendance at the public sales of H. Harris and Company, auctioneers. Auction Fruits Wanted.

The first dealer interviewed was a member of the firm of Carp Brothers. "We prefer to deal in the fruits that are sold through the daily auctions," he said, "because we know what the other fellows are paying for their fruit. There is no chance of secret discriminations in the public sales."

"Then, too, at the auction we can look over all of the fruit quickly and get the sizes that we want, if we are willing to pay the price. Another reason for our not desiring to deal in apples is that we must buy them from the large receiving jobbers, who are our rivals. They sell apples to us and also sell to our customers if they can."

J. Novitch, a dealer who ships fruit throughout New England, was the next one interviewed. He said:

Won't Buy Apples.

"My firm deals exclusively in auction fruits, and there are a hundred other firms like mine. My firm cannot afford to keep an extra man to spend half a day going back and forth among the stores of the several apple jobbers of the city, as would be necessary if we dealt in apples."

"We handle all fruits that go through the auction—even pineapples, and find that we can get along without buying apples."

The third man was a broker, A. F. Held, of 46 Clinton street, Boston, whose card announced that he was "a fruit auction buyer." On the back of the card that he gave me I noted the following quotation from him:

"Box apples grown in the Northwest are sold in Boston by the wagon-load. A jobber loads up a wagon with several sizes. You must discount the price of those sizes that you cannot use to advantage. Here in the auction each buyer can get the sizes that he wants. I am willing to pay more for my fruit when I can buy just the grade and size that I need. Some have demand for large fruit and others for different sizes. There are buyers for every size at the auctions."

Auctions Demand Regular Supplies.

"Then, too, we can look over all the fruit at one time and at one place and spend the afternoon getting rid of our purchases."

Most of the dealers with whom I talked laid special emphasis upon the need of furnishing regular supplies to the auction. If they began to handle apples, they wanted a steady supply through the auction of high-grade fruits in their prime.

BOSTON IS PEDDLING CENTER.

++ Peddlers buy fruit at the auction sales in Boston and sell it throughout New England. There are a couple of peddlers who buy \$2000 worth of fruit a week at the Boston sales. ++ Some peddlers operate a string of wagons. ++

Commission Men Work at Night.

The work day of the commission men of New York begins at midnight. At this time Greenwich and Washington streets are alive with struggling men and horses hauling loads of produce from the docks.

The same men who buy at the midnight sales on the vegetable docks, later at eight o'clock in the morning buy oranges, bananas, grape fruit, prunes, cherries, pears, lemons and other fruits at the auction sales.

SCHOOL READERS.

The Ones That Swayed the Boys
of a Generation Ago.

STIRRING "PIECES TO SPEAK."

Favorite Selections of the Days of Yore Find No Favor in the Newer Books—Lament of an Old Timer and a Bookstore Chat.

Forty school weeks mean forty Friday afternoons. Forty Friday afternoons mean to the pupils in some schools near New York forty hated piece speaking occasions.

"What," asked the boy of Smith Apperson, pater, "shall I speak next time?"

"Why not recite Richard III. to his troops at Bosworth field?" Apperson answered confidently. "There's a piece with lots of slam and go to it. Or there is 'Spartacus to the Gladiators.'"

"Who was he, Spartacus?" "Don't you know who Spartacus was? Look in your Fifth reader. It tells all about him there."

"Not in my reader," insisted the boy. "Not in"—Mr. Apperson looked stumped, but he pulled himself together. "How about 'Freedom Shrieked when Kosciusko Fell'?" he asked. "Got that in your reader?"

"No, sir."

"And 'My Name Is Norval on the Grampian Hills'?"

"The Grampians are in Scotland, I believe, but who was Norval and why the limitation to his name?" the boy asked.

"Hum! And that 'Midnight in His Guarded Tent' when 'The Turk Lay Dreaming of the Hour' Got that in your reader?"

"No, sir."

"What kind of reader have you got?" Smith Apperson demanded. "Once more. Does the 'Deep and Dark Blue Ocean' roll on through any of the pages of that expurgated edition they've jaimed off on you for a reader?"

"Well, there is something about the ocean."

"Good; we've saved the ocean. How about 'I Give My Hand With My Heart In It'?"

"Pshaw! Everybody knows that piece."

"Yes, yes; then there is something besides waste paper in that reader. Does it by any chance cry to you from its pages to 'Strike for Your Altars and Your Fires'?"

"No, sir."

"My mistake," Smith Apperson exclaimed. "I asked you about that piece before. It's a great one too. I used to get it off regularly twice a term, and when I didn't do it some other boy did. Never a piece day came round but some one struck out for his altars and his fires. I'll get you a copy of the kind of reader I used to have."

Mr. Apperson went the next day into a downtown book store, known to him as a place where, if they did not have a book, they would get it for you if it was to be had.

"I want a copy of McGuffey's old Fifth reader," said he.

"So do I," replied the owner of the store, who knew Apperson well. "I'll buy a gross of them at a good price. Scarcely a week goes by that I do not have a call for that book or for some other old school book."

"How"—asked Mr. Apperson, "how do you account for it?"

"Well, it's this way," said the proprietor. "A father asks his boy something about what he himself had studied at school, thinking, probably, to test him. The boy fails to give the correct answer or says he never 'took' it in his grade. The father looks into the boy's book or books and finds, as perhaps in your case, that the stories in which he delighted are not included in the reader editions of today. Then he comes here to get a school book that is what he calls a real school book."

"For instance, only a few days ago a man came in for an old geography. He said the book his boy studied was absolutely of no account, historically at least."

"What do you mean, history in a geography?" I asked.

"Why," he replied, "I asked my boy about the Isthmus of Darien, and he had never heard of such a place; didn't know there had ever been anything of the sort. Of course he could and did tell me all about the Isthmus of Panama, but Darien wasn't in his geography. Now, I want that boy to know there was an Isthmus of Darien, and I don't want him to have to take his father's word for it. Give me an old geography, one of about thirty-five years ago."

"I couldn't fill the order. Old school books are rare. Everybody wants them, some to renew memories of their youth by reading over the old pieces, others because they want to show to their children what they had to go through when they themselves went to school."

"Webster's Speller, Sander's Reader and McGuffey's Reader are the particular books which seem to stay in the memories of the old boy and the old girl. But I can't sell them because I haven't got them."

"Then I reckon I'll have to give young Harry Smith Apperson my best information and belief, as lawyers say, about how 'Freedom shrieked when Kosciusko fell,' and so forth."

"Precisely, as you say."—New York Post.

Contentment, as it is a short road and pleasant, has great delight and little trouble.—Epictetus.

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