

The Herald

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Entered as second-class matter September 8, 1908, at the post office at Monmouth, Oregon, under the Act of March 3, 1879.

ISSUED EVERY FRIDAY

Subscription Rates

One year - - - \$1
Six months - - - 50 cts

Monmouth, Oregon.

FRIDAY, SEPT. 8, 1911.

JUDGEMENT SHOULD REST ON KNOWLEDGE

"Be sure you are right and then go ahead," is a very good motto, but many people change the text somewhat until from their procedure we conclude that their mode of action is based on, "Think you are right and then go ahead."

The wise man hath said: "He that answereth a matter before he heareth it, it is folly and shame unto him."

Taking the sense of the above into consideration, we might be justified in this statement: "He that delivers his opinion upon a matter before he understands all the premises, shows his thoughtlessness and is very apt to give out a wrong conclusion, and disclose his ignorance."

Great minds differ in conclusions arrived at in studying upon the same subject, and as many as three or four, or perhaps, more statements are given each of which purport to be the right one. But truth is truth, no matter upon what ground it rests, and while each may have incorporated some truth in his statement, all for the matter of that may be wrong, and one thought stands out clearly, and that is, where two or more persons disagree upon a subject all cannot be right. Each may have come to a wrong conclusion, but there could not be more than one that was right.

To illustrate the principal we give the following incidents:

Three ministers were discussing the entrance to the Kingdom of Heaven, the three belonged to the same church or body of worshipers, yet each had a different mode of entrance, while all claimed to go in at the same door. All may have been mistaken but all could not have been right.

Two brethren, ministers in the same organization, preaching in the same hall on succeeding evenings, both being present each evening gave diverse reasons why God created man. Can we say one might have been right but both could not be so? No. We will not say it, for neither of them gave the reason which God, the creator has authorized.

Now these differences do not arise from true positions, but from error and the person who is absolutely sure that he, or she, is right must understand the premises, so that there is no chance for deception.

There is a wide difference between believing a thing to be true and knowing that it is so. In the former condition you can go on and possess the counterfeit fruit, or joys, which come to a person through thoroughly believing an error, but if the error is brushed aside and such person comes up solidly against

the truth the contact drives out the deception and startling is the result. But on the other hand if you are founded upon truth then progress is made from truth to truth; knowledge increases and you are anchoring to the rock of immutability; you drink in the permanent joys which come by reason of such knowledge, and are not susceptible to the startling disclosures which come through the brushing away of error.

Too many of us take for granted that what some person or persons advocate or tell us is true and follow blindly. We believe with all our heart and might, but we never stop to ask the question, "Is it right?" Nor do we take the trouble to investigate, hence, the blind lead the blind and all go into the ditch together.

COME AND CO-OPERATE

We heard some of our townsmen discussing the action of the city council in the matter of advertising for the sale of bonds for the construction of water works, as we were passing along the street the other day, the particular red rag that excited dislike being the advertisement for bonds appearing in the home paper. Well, now, it does look foolish don't it? Of course it does. But there is such a thing as complying with the law, and we are safe in saying that there would be no bonds issued on this occasion did not the advertisement appear in the HERALD.

The HERALD published the news when the proposition came up last fall and inquires have been coming ever since. Seattle, Denver, Chicago, San Francisco, Toledo and other large cities have been making inquiry because of the news which went out.

Now the council has nothing that it desires to keep hidden; its assemblages are open and free to all and moreover it would be pleased to have the citizens who are interested attend, and we feel sure that it would take pleasure in giving out reasons for its acts were such reasons asked for.

It is not the desire of the council to be arbitrary, nor to oppose the best interests of the people, but to co-operate and work for the betterment of our civic conditions. Now be men; come out and see what is being done; if you think anything is being done wrongly say so; discuss it with the council and we believe that a better understanding will obtain. Meeting nights are the second and last Tuesday evenings in each month.

F. E. Coquette finished building street crossings last week having put in nine walks. The work looks substantial but we would hardly call it a thing of beauty. The HERALD dislikes to kick at a man's work but if we do not get such work done neatly our city will look like a piece of crazy patch work.

Can you pick out ten business men in this city who are not in favor of this city exhausting all its available resources in securing a gravity system of mountain water? There would be no advertisement to the world so great as a pure supply of water for this city and the public institutions.—Salem Journal.

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