

THE PROBLEM OF EVIL

(By Arthur Hayes Sargent.)

In the philosophy which every simplest man of us forms for himself, a few important questions are answered. We may hate half-splitting discussions over words and names and vague ideas, and scorn the subjects over which wars of words are waged, yet there are a few deep questions which we can never put away without some sort of answer in our own minds. Such is the question as to how or why evil can exist if the world is ruled by a power that has infinite goodness and wisdom and might.

Some answer that evil cannot exist in a world so ruled, and that it does not exist; that there is no evil. This answer is very comforting to those who accept it. It is approved more by its results than by satisfying the ordinary mind with reason.

Some answer that God does not do or cause any evil and has power and love to end it all, but yet, for reasons of his own, allows a devil continually to fight against him, hinder his work and scatter pain and disease and sorrow and vice and crime.

Others declare that there is no evil, but do not deny the existence of what we regard as evil. They grant that it is real and terrible, but consider it a necessary part of a good plan, and they say that in a complete man it will appear as good, just as daubs of black paint on a white canvas are beautiful at last in a complete picture.

These answers to the question of evil are attempts to justify God, or rather, a theory of God, which is so old and sacred as to be almost identified with himself.

They who have courage to question the ancient description of God give two answers. Some grant that he has power to remove all evil, and conclude that his continued existence shows that he does not love humanity; while others hold that he has love enough to remove all evil and that his existence shows that he lacks the power, and is kept from carrying out his good purposes.

This is as far as the question can be answered without asking "What do we mean by evil?" The answers will be almost as many as the people who reply, and the answer of the same person will differ according to his changing experience.

Evil is not absolute or always the same. It is all relative and known by comparison. If we look for an example of absolute evil, a cruel and unprovoked murder would seem to be as nearly such an example as we can find. Yet even this is relative to the doer and the victim of the deed. It is not a crime for an insane person or a beast. As to the victim, there are cases where death seems desirable in comparison with life, and thus good, relatively. It is because of our humanity and intelligence that we regard certain acts as evil and criminal. As we advance we shall add to the list of these things that we shall regard as evil. If we see evil in every part of life as it now is, it is because in every aspect of life we are rising and have risen in ideals above the actual.

The good that is ahead becomes evil to those who reach it and leave it behind for something better. So long as humanity advances there will be something to be regarded as evil, and for evil to cease by reaching a limit to progress would, from the standpoint of an aspiring soul, be the greatest possible evil.

We court this evil when we seek to keep an idea or custom or condition after it has ceased to be the best for ourselves and all humanity. We shun this greatest evil and seek the highest good when we rise daily above our past thought and action so as continually to find more good of the past turning to evil of the present to put away.

With this view of evil and with no violence to reason, we may believe that God is love and that he moves with resistless power from the eternity of the past into the eternity of the future through physical force and matter and growing souls to ever higher creations.

Out of every ruined system or disappointed life something immortal abides to hold all the good of what is left and lost and prepare a brighter tomorrow and a nobler life.

"Onward rushes the swift Lord Through ruined systems still restored; House and tenant go to ground, Lost in God, in godhead found."

SPRINGFIELD

\$20,000 SCHOOL BONDS CARRY

The second school election for the purpose of voting \$20,000 bonds with which to purchase a site and erect a new public school building was held at the school house Wednesday afternoon and an unusually light vote was polled, the total vote being 94. The result of the ballot was an enormous victory for the bonds. Of the 94 votes cast, 81 favored the sale, while but 11 were opposed.

The site chosen by a vote of the people at a previous election was a two-acre tract owned by Mrs. Richardson and J. L. Clark, which is located on Seventh street, north of G. The bond issue, which has for so long a time been in question, is now settled and it behooves the school board to get busy and erect the new building in time for the fall term of school.—News.

Springfield Brevities

Cash used received a cement tile machine this week from St. Johns, Mich., and will soon have the same in operation at his place on South D and Second streets. The machine was shipped February 10 last, and has been in transit since that time.—News.

H. B. Lawrence is seriously considering the matter of starting a new club in Springfield to be known as the Fatherly Smile Club. A boy

weighing 8 1/2 pounds arrived at his home Tuesday afternoon and expects to remain at least 21 years under the parental roof.—News.

Irma Young, of the White Elephant Livery Company, informed a News representative that his company was the successful bidder for the contract

to carry the mail from Springfield to Lowell. The contract calls for a daily service, Sundays excepted, beginning July 1, 1910, and ending June 30, 1914.—News.

SUBSCRIBE FOR THE GUARD.

TRUTH NUMBER 1

The Stock of the California National Crude Oil Company Advances to 50 Cents per Share on May 28

THOSE stockholders who have purchased stock and those who are about to purchase at 40c per share, are about to realize 25 per cent on their investment already, as the stock goes to 50 cents this coming week. And this isn't the first advance either. There is no doubt in our minds that you will see this stock soaring way up in dollars soon, and when you do, we know you will wish that you had a larger block. We would advise all who can possibly do so to purchase before the end of the week and take advantage of the rise.

For making big money there is nothing in the investment world today that will bear comparison for a moment with the opportunities afforded by California oil stocks.

Dozens and scores of these stocks are selling today for many times the prices at which they were originally.

In the advance or the past year many of them have yielded profits of several hundred per cent to investors.

In production and earnings the oil wells have distanced the gold mines.

Thousands of people enjoying a competence today owe their good fortune to moderate investments in California oil.

By still other thousands the successes of the past will be duplicated during the present year.

Now, don't be a pessimist and say that this is impossible. Facts are facts, and if you only take the trouble to look into same, you will find that this is true.

The writer came across a beautiful article sometime ago entitled "The Optimist versus the Pessimist." Read it. It won't hurt you.

The Optimist Versus The Pessimist.

"The optimist lives under a clear sky, the pessimist lives in a fog. The pessimist is confused; he hardly knows where to go, what to do or how to act; the optimist is in tune with the harmonies of nature and discerns distinctly the onward path that lies before him. The pessimist hesitates, and loses both time and opportunity; the optimist makes the best use of everything now, and builds himself up, steadily and surely, until adversity is overcome and the object in view realized. The pessimist curbs his energies and concentrates his whole attention upon failure; the optimist gives all his thought and power to the attainment of success, and arouses his faculties and forces to the highest point of efficiency. The pessimist waits for better times, and expects to keep on waiting; the optimist goes to work with the best that is at hand now, and proceeds to secure better times.

The optimist is an inspiration to everybody; the pessimist is a wet blanket. The pessimist pours cold water on the fires of his own ability; the optimist adds fuel to those fires. The pessimist links his mind to everything that is losing ground; the optimist lives, thinks and works with everything that is determined to press on. The pessimist places a damper on everything; the optimist attracts everything. The pessimist fights the wrong; the optimist works to increase the power of the right. The optimist is a building force; the pessimist is always an obstacle in the way of progress. The pessimist lives in a dark, soggy, unproductive world, the optimist lives in that mental sunshine that makes all things grow."

Do you realize how true all this is? Don't you appreciate that the optimist is the successful man? The optimist is the man who invests, for he believes some good will come from such an investment, and as every real fortune that ever was made resulted from investment, it is optimism that makes success.

The pessimist is the man who looks with suspicion upon all investment opportunities, and while he is hemming and hawing and failing to act, an optimist grasps the opportunity, makes his investment, and gets his start in life.

It required a generous supply of optimism for men to go ahead and develop what is today the greatest wealth producer in the world—California Oil Lands—but their optimism has been repaid.

Allen G. Nichols, editor of the "Oil Industry," gives a few pertinent facts in a recent issue of one of the leading daily papers, and he writes regarding this wonderful Oil Industry:

"Only a half-century old, the oil industry in the United States has already exported more than \$2,000,000,000 worth of the refined material. In other words, in fifty years the total amount received for refined oil exported has been greater than the value of the entire production of gold in the United States since Columbus discovered America. Since 1846, the year in which sixty small casks were sent to France as an experimental shipment, the amount exported has been greater in

value than the production of gold in the entire world for the same period. Within the memory of living man the infant has grown to a giant industry that gives employment to 70,000 men in the fields and refineries alone, and whose annual payroll amounts to millions of dollars.

The spring pole rig used along Oil creek has given place to modern machinery, operated by carefully trained men. The ox roads unworthy of the name have been succeeded by thousands or miles of steel pipe line, great trains of oil tanks and the modern oil-carrying ships, whose capacity in some cases is over 80,000 barrels.

Everything that coal has done for the east, crude oil is doing for California, and since its general use, less than ten years ago, ways and means have been devised to use crude oil in California, the same as coal is used in other parts of the United States, and the public at large have shown their appreciation of its value by the adoption of crude oil wherever fuel is needed. As a result of this a stream of gold is distributed in California to holders of California Oil Company stocks, which amounts to many millions of dollars per year.

W. W. Orchutt, one of the most prominent consulted engineers and geologists in this country, in a recent report on a California Oil Company, had the following to say about California oil lands:

"There is no place in the world where the oil measures are so amply and thoroughly saturated as in California. This makes California oil wells big producers and long-lived." He then goes on and cites incidents where even on large acreages, such as 120 acres, the production today has been as high as 90,000 barrels per acre, and the land still producing heavily.

The investor with sufficient judgment to see these great possibilities, and the optimist, which generates nerve to back this judgment, will be literally swept to fortune on this great flood of oil which flows through the proven fields of California. The optimism and courage of the pioneer oil men of California have made them millionaires. They learned the truth of that great saying: "One good investment is

worth a lifetime of labor." What optimism and oil have done for others they will do for you, for really only the surface of the possibilities of California oil have been scraped. There are today numerous new companies just starting to develop their land, in which stock can be bought at extremely low figures. Within two years we will undoubtedly find the stock of the great majority of these companies listed on the stock exchanges, and paying the same kind of generous dividends that so many of the other companies are now paying after perhaps only two years of operation.

All this is possibly interesting reading, and we trust that truths given here will sink deeply into the hearts of our readers, and that they will start on the comparatively easy road to making money by having the optimism and courage to make investments in some good California oil stock."

We have shown that you should be an optimist, at least as far as California oil is concerned. Now, you being an optimist, we will tell about one of the companies that will soon start, if not at the head, at least very near the head of the California Oil Producing companies, and that is the California National Crude Oil Company. This Company has purchased thousands of acres of land in the Coalinga Oil District, which is recognized as the largest producing oil district in California. It is selling stock for the development of the same. The par value of this stock is one dollar, and the present purchase price is 40 cents. It is only a question of a short time until the stock will be selling at par. We advise the early purchase at 40 cents. Remember this stock goes to 50 cents on the 28th of May and not a share can be bought for less after that date. Now, don't hesitate. Buy now, and do so quick.

California National Crude Oil Co. SUBSCRIPTION BLANK
I. W. HELLMAN BLDG, Los Angeles Calif,
Gentlemen: Enclosed find \_\_\_\_\_ Dollars
for which please issue me \_\_\_\_\_ Shares
of the Treasury Stock of the above Corporation.
Name \_\_\_\_\_
Address \_\_\_\_\_

California National Crude Oil Company

I. W. Hellman Building, Los Angeles, California

A Quilt

is a pretty good thing to accomplish when you're vice, bilious and out-of-sorts. There is a sure cure, for all kinds of stomach and liver complaints—constipation and dyspepsia.

Ballard's Horebina is mild; yet absolutely effective in all cases. Price 50 cents per bottle at Dillon's.

Give your order for lumber; we give satisfaction. The Coyote Lumber Co., 315 White Temple Bldg.

Eczema.

Fluide readily to Dr. Bell's Antiseptic Salve. You see an improvement after the first application. We guarantee it. It is clean and pleasant to use. 3 1/2 a box. Dillon's Drug store.

Farmers, bring These Sacks

Crowder Brand No. 150 and 160 We are here