

The Sentinel

A GOOD PAPER IN A GOOD TOWN
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RELIGION AS BEHAVIOR

We give below the concluding portion of Mr. Sheldon's article "Can Religion Be Taught?"

Someone will say: If true religion is love to God and man expressed in concrete terms everywhere, and if what Jesus taught is behavior, how can His life be taught and studied in the schoolroom without taking into account His personality and the supernatural and miraculous which are interwoven into the very fibre of the story of His life? If the story of His life is taught in the schoolroom, what shall the teacher do with the Gospel narrative of healing, and angels and Heaven and Hell and the Resurrection and the Ascension and all the tremendous incidents that are linked up with the other world? Can religion be taught without teaching a great many things which a great many people frankly repudiate? How can religion as conduct be separated from religion as faith? How shall the average teacher in a public-school system treat the life of Jesus and teach it so that the parents of the children shall not object to his own personal interpretation of the character and beliefs of Jesus Himself?

In trying to answer these questions, I put them frankly to a number of teachers in different high schools. The very first answer I received was a fair sample of all the others. The teacher said he would simply teach the Gospel narrative as it is actually told by the Gospel writer, just as the world taught the life of Mohammed or Napoleon as it is told by the historian. If the narrative included miracles and the supernatural, that would simply be a part of the history lesson because it was there.

If there is a better answer than that I should be glad to have it. As a matter of fact I believe the seriousness of the problem is more apparent than real, and in practice it would be found that a regular course in the life of Jesus, taught by the average teacher in the public schools of this country, would not become a course of personal interpretation of disputed doctrines, but it would become a study of Him who taught the way of life. The danger arising from studying and teaching the Bible in our schools is insignificant compared with the danger of not teaching it at all.

Of course, if the general public fears the use the teacher would make of the life of Jesus in the classroom, that brings up again the whole subject of the teacher's character and purpose. And that would suggest a subject for another article to go with this. Of course I do not need to explain my own position when I say that I think a teacher who is going to teach my children religion ought to be religious, and I hope that is the ideal that all true educational leaders are advancing and teaching.

But what insuperable difficulty would there be in putting the life of Jesus into a public-school curriculum? What theological or doctrinal confusion would arise over learning of the Ten Commandments in the schoolroom? Is the real trouble over the teachers? Can they not be trusted to teach religion as conduct, not as doctrine? It raises some very serious questions all along the line; and if the educational forces of America are ready to confess that the teaching of religion is impossible on account of the character of the teachers, that confession in itself ought to raise more questions still. Put into a practical form, how many of the readers of this simple paper, as they look over the list of the teachers in their own home town, either in the grade schools, the high school, or the state university, would fear to have the teachers in those schools teach Johnny or Mary the life of Jesus as the Gospel of Mark has given it to us? Would they teach Johnny and Mary that Jesus was a Fundamentalist or a Modernist? Would they try to teach that Jesus was a Presbyterian, or a Methodist, or an Episcopalian? Or that he favored this or that theological doctrine of the Trinity? As I look over the teaching

list of my own state of Kansas I find myself quite willing to trust my boy in the classroom of the teachers in our high schools or university in a course on the life of Jesus, taken right out of any of the Gospels. I do not believe he would receive any more incorrect or biased teaching than he sometimes received from some teachers in my own church Sunday School when he was small. I know some ministers I should not want to trust to teach my boy in a course on the life of Jesus. But when it comes to interpreting the meaning of Jesus' plain teaching about how the human race ought to behave, I am very confident that the average American school-teacher would not begin to make the false and grotesque statements that some of my teachers made to me about the glory of war and the political economy that was divorced from every ethical and moral standard.

If religion cannot be taught, why did Jesus tell His disciples to teach it? If it can be taught safely only in the church and in the home, how about the millions of youth that never have any religious instruction in either of those places, but are in daily attendance on the public school? If the teachers now employed cannot be trusted to teach religion, is it because they have a wrong definition of it? Or is religion in the very nature of the case a thing that belongs to the emotions, a thing which one has to learn for himself and which no course in education can teach?

The answers to these questions will depend largely on the way you yourself have been brought up, and on the definition you have of religion. But the need of some form of religious instruction hardly calls for argument or debate. All thinking people agree that fully developed life must have something more in it than the accumulation of facts. Even if the facts are necessary for comfort and physical happiness, there is something lacking. But before the educational and ecclesiastical world will come together in a common asset to this need, both sides will have to make new definitions. The pharisee in the church is answerable for the distortion of the teaching of Jesus into a burlesque of theology and forms and ceremonies. Religion cannot be taught in our educational system if by religion is meant controversy over matters that are not connected with behavior. But it can be taught and it must be taught if by it we mean what Jesus meant when He said: "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbor as thyself." If that cannot be taught in our educational system, then the system is wrong. If it can be taught, in the name of Him who came to give us life abundantly, let us incorporate it into the very heart of our schools, putting it first of all into the hearts of our teachers. For education without religion is more than a blunder—it is a falsehood; and if we do not teach religion in the schools we deserve to suffer as a nation and go the way of all those nations that have thought more of accumulating facts than of making life.

To sum up: If religion is theology, and doctrine, and creeds made over disputed definitions of God and theories of man's destiny, it cannot be taught in our schools. But if religion is love to God and man, it can be taught anywhere and it ought to be taught in our schools. If it is not taught, our whole educational pyramid will continue to wobble on its pinnacle instead of resting firmly on its base.

DEER IN SIGHT OF NEW YORK
The deer has again become an important game animal in New Jersey. There are two general areas in the state where deer are found in considerable numbers and in which most of the killing is done during the hunting season.

One of the areas is in the southeastern part of the state in a sandy, scrub oak country, sparsely settled while the other is in the northern part of the state, almost within a stone's throw of the metropolis of North America—New York City. The total kill of deer for the last year reported was 1,219 bucks, 244 of which were shot in a group of five counties in northern New Jersey. One of these counties, Bergen, lies adjacent to the city of New York, just across the Hudson river from Manhattan Island. In this county, no part of which is more than twenty miles from the center of New York City, forty-two wild antlered deer were killed during the last hunting season reported.

So far we are quoting the Bulletin of the American Game Protective Association. It is the writer's recollection that deer used to be common on eastern Long Island at Montauk Point during his boyhood and in other localities in that section of the is-

land; as it seems that now, with adequate protection they are abundant in New Jersey.

DEPOSITS \$1,500,000 IN N. Y.
An agreement has been reached between the vatican and Blair and company, and the Chase National bank of New York City, establishing a \$1,500,000 credit for the vatican in New York.

Arrangements for the credit was consummated in a letter sent by the papal secretary, Cardinal Gasparri, to the New York banks on October 11. The conditions under which the credit was established follow:
1.—The amount of the credit shall be one million, five hundred thousand dollars, part of which shall be left on deposit in the Chase National bank in order to insure continuity of relations between the holy see and the banks.

2.—That part of the credit which is used by the holy see shall be repaid upon expiration of one year from the date when it is drawn.
3.—For credit drawn, interest of 4.9 per cent shall be paid.

MT. SINAI TABLETS

Twenty years after the discovery of massive stone tablets on the Sinai peninsula, a German Egyptologist, Prof. Grimme, has come forward with a claim that the stones contain a message of thanks from Moses to the Pharaoh's daughter, who found him in the bullrushes.

German scientists declare Prof. Grimme's achievement, in deciphering what proved to be ancient Hebrew on the tablets dispels doubt regarding the historic origin of the ten commandments and is one of the most important developments in many thousands of years of Bible research.

The tablets in question were found on what was believed to be the original Mount Sinai by Flinders Petrie, an English archaeologist in 1896. They were too heavy to move, so he photographed them, took wax impressions of the inscriptions and then buried them.

TO SAVE MINIMUM WAGE LAWS

An amendment to the federal constitution to save the women's minimum wage laws in states which have them will be introduced in the next congress, United States Senator Hiram Johnson, of California says.

The proposed amendment would assure states the right to enact such laws.
"It was a very unfortunate thing that all the work we have done in this direction should be upset by this decision," was the senator's comment on the supreme court ruling on the Arizona law.

Johnson sees danger of the court's ruling nullifying similar laws in 12 other states, including California and believes a constitutional amendment the only sure protection.

More than 100,000 California women and girls are working under protection of this state's minimum wage law.

The electrical illumination was the outstanding feature of San Francisco's celebration, September 5th to 12th, of the diamond jubilee of California's admission to the United States. The city hall itself was floodlighted, electric searchlights sent multi-colored beams of light into the sky and the streets themselves were brilliantly illuminated, especially the chief approach to the city hall which was converted into a court of honor with electric lighting, making the 40,000 jewels in the decorations sparkle with light and color.

Thrilling tales of the dangers of stage travel in the west are still accepted at par back in Ohio judging by the inquiry of a resident of that state who made a business call at a Eugene bank. The Ohioan, a newcomer to the coast, is planning a trip to North Bend and he asked in all seriousness whether the stage trip to that coast city was safe. He was assured that there has not been a stage holdup or an attack by Indians on one of these vehicles for some little time, in fact the stages are the aggressors in many cases especially where pedestrians are involved, he was informed.—Eugene Guard.

Charges that commercial aviators are slaughtering ducks in wholesale lots by means of nets spread beneath the wings of their planes, are being investigated by the state fish and game commission of California. Numerous complaints have been made to the commission from Sutter county sportsmen. As many as two dozen fowls are trapped at one time, hunters declared.

Tom Murray, one of the convicts involved in the escape from states prison August 12, in which one of the guards were killed, was sentenced to death Monday after being convicted of murder in Judge Kelley's court. The date for his hanging was set for December 18.

THE MERCHANT

Life is a tradeswoman, wrinkled and brown,
Who traffick in wonderful ware,
And many a covetous glance drops down

On treasures her hand lays bare.
Many the glances, and many the sighs,
"Life, give me this, I pray,"
But Life has her price, and she replies
Cautiously, "What will you pay?"

"My goods are fair, and my goods are fine;
No other can sell you such.
For goods that sparkle with lights
Like mine
Is any price too much?"

Give me your purse, nor count the sum
Else empty go away.
Fine goods have I for all who come,
But he who takes must pay."

Shrewd, shrewd this ancient seller is!
The humblest who visits her stall
May make the thing he covets his
If he grudges not his all.

—Frances Holmstrom.

Crossing Reindeer with Caribou
Since the introduction of reindeer into Alaska the breeding of these animals has revolutionized the economic status of the natives and opened a very promising field for a new industry which is being developed by white citizens. There are now estimated to be about 300,000 head of reindeer in Alaska. This animal is somewhat smaller than the wild woodland caribou and it is intended by the United States government to experiment with crossing these animals in the expectation of increasing the size of the former. The reindeer is merely a domesticated old world caribou and interbreeding is common where opportunity is afforded.

The United States government is fostering the reindeer industry as much as possible, recognizing its importance in the development of Alaska.
The market for reindeer meat in the United States and elsewhere is rapidly developing, the chief difficulty in supplying the market now being concerned with transportation problems. The food of the reindeer herds which are now found chiefly on the coast, consists largely of lichens or reindeer moss, which is the main food of the animals in winter. This is a very slow growing plant, and as it is fed off by the herds new areas must be used.
Experiments are to be made in effort to find substitutes. The cross-breeding experiments are to be conducted on Nunvak Island, near the mouth of the Yukon river.—Sportsman's Digest.

Hasn't Got That Twenty Million Yet
Petition for permission to ask a rehearing of the patent suit under which the American Smelting and Refining company was ordered to pay approximately \$20,000,000 to George Campbell Carson, miner and inventor, is on file in the United States circuit court at San Francisco.

Carson, former desert prospector, after years of privation, was informed that the supreme court has upheld his \$20,000,000 suit against the American Smelting and Refining company.
The company asks for an application to the United States district court of Washington for a rehearing, claiming that the same type of smelting furnace patented by Carson was in use by the Lake Superior Smelting company at Dollar Bay, Mich., from 1903 to 1906, before Carson secured a patent.

Tangled Relationship
Because a wedding at Carnegie, Okla., seems to have tangled a family tree, a father is said to have instituted annulment proceedings there.

When W. C. Thompson, 76, married Pansy Cantrell, 14, at Cordell, Saturday, having told the 78 year old justice their ages were 68 and 21, Thompson became his own stepson and son-in-law of his own son-in-law.
The girl became the mother-in-law of her step mother, the mother-in-law of her father, and the wife of her stepmother's father, because she was the stepdaughter of the daughter of the bridegroom.

Brewster Valley
The farmers have been busy the past week filling their silos.
The little five-year old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Holmes had the misfortune to get kicked by a horse on the back of the head. They hurried her to the doctor. She is still under the doctor's care and it is reported that she is some better.

Hailey Laird went to Portland Thursday and returned Sunday with Mrs. Laird and children. While there they attended the double wedding of her sisters, Misses Lila and Eunice Smith.
Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Wilcox went to North Bend the middle of the week to bring home with them Mrs. Nickson and baby.
Miss Edna Alford has been visiting

among relatives the past week.
Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Bunch and son, Gale, of Doris, were callers on the Crowley and Krewson families Sunday afternoon.
Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Laird went to Coquille one day this week. Mr. Laird returned next day but Mrs. Laird will go on up Coos River to visit with friends there for a few days.
Rollie Alford, of Bridge, was home over Saturday night and Sunday.
Thos. Krewson Sr., of Drain, came

in Friday for a few days' visit with relatives, returning home Monday.
Julius Benham and Mr. Jenkins made a business trip to Coquille Saturday.
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