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WASHING THE ENGINE.

Flerce Rivalry of Fire Companies In the Old Days.

In the old days before steam fire engines came into use there used to be fierce struggles between rival fire companies to see which could "wash" the other engine. A fire was then "fought" by extending a line of engines from the nearest water to the burning building. The engine at the cistern or hydrant pumped water to the one in front, this in turn supplied the third, and so on until the one at the fire end of the line was reached, and it played upon the flames.

The foreman of the first engine to reach the fire hailed the next company that arrived with, "Will you take our water?" A refusal was not to be thought of. It would be showing the "white feather."

An engine was "washed" when its rival supplied it with more water than it could pump out, so that its box was overflowed. As the engines were all of nearly the same size and pattern, the victory would belong to the company that applied the most muscle to its brakes.

The exciting contest began with the first stroke of the alarm bell, for each company was ambitious to be the first arrival at a fire. The first member who reached the engine house threw open the doors, kicked away the chocks and rolled out the engine. Then a dozen members rush up, seize the drag rope and away the "machine" goes.

"Start her lively, boys!" shouts the foreman, running ahead. "Let out more rope!" is the cry, as fresh members lay hold. "Pull steady!" cry the men, as they bend to their work.

A rival machine is heard rumbling a square or two behind. "Now jump her, men!" yells the foreman through his trumpet. "Jump her

lively!" Down the street rush the engines, gle. "He used to be as regular as followed by crowds of cheering boys. Tuesday with his appeals."—Har-Sidewalks, windows, doors are filled | per's Weekly.

with sympathizing spectators. "Take our water, boys?" shouts

the foreman, as the rival engine pulls up at the fire.

Round go the engines into line; the hose is reeled off, and all being in readiness the commands are given: "Stand by your brakes, men!" "Put in the butt!" "Play away!"

And twenty partly stripped men, ten on a side, dash down the brakes at the rate of sixty strokes to the

On the front of the engine stands the foreman, and with body swaying to the motion of the brakes, he shouts words of encouragement to

Then, as he sees the water "boiling" in the box of the rival, he grows frantic in his endeavors to increase the speed of his men. As it washes over the sides he will lead the cheer of victory, if he has voice enough left to raise a shout.

Sometimes the second engine pumped out water faster than her antagonist could pump it into her. Then the latter was disgraced, or, in fireman's slang, "sucked on."

All sorts of excuses would be offered by the members when their engine had been washed. "She was graveled," "She had a brick in her," or "There was a stick under the valve." Men have even been known to bore holes in the boxes of their engine in order to prevent her from being washed. - Youth's Compan-

An Ominous Situation. "What's the matter, Jingle?" ask ed Hawkesbee. "You look worried." "I am worried," said Jingle. "I'm afraid that boy of mine is getting irregular in his habits."

"That's too bad," said Hawkesee. "What are the symptoms?"
"He hasn't telegraphed home for money now for ten days," said Jin-

ARMAGEDDON OF THE SCRIPTURES great mouth well rep power, used to croak.

Startling Presentation of Coming Events.

RUSSELL'S VIEWS. PASTOR

Churches of All Denominations and the Civil Powers of Earth Are About to Unite In Common Cause Powerful Influence Preparing For the Battle of Armageddon-A Reign of Anarchy Will Be the Result of the Warfare Until The Messiah Takes Control.

Brooklyn, N. Y., Nov. 3. - The Brooklyn Academy of Music was crowded to the limit today to hear Pastor Russell's discourse on the "Battle of Arma; geddon." His text was: "He gathered them together unto a place called in PASTOR RUSSELL the Hebrew tongue Armageddon."

(Revelation xvi. 16.) The speaker said: Armagedcon in the Hebrew signifies the "Hill of Megiddo," or Mount of Destruction It was famous as a battlefield in Old Testament times.

The Lord has seen fit to associate the name Armageddon, with the great controversy between Truth and Error. right and wrong, God and Mammon, with which this age will close, perish, and the New Age of Messiah's glory be ushered in. He has purposely used the last book of the Bible, evidently with a view to biding certain important truths until the due time for their revealment. But even in the due time, the Bible assures us, "None of the wicked shall understand" (Daniel xii, 9, 10,-none who are out of heart har-His people-the "wise virgin" class of the Master's parable.

disagree. Each hearer must use his and reach his own conclusions.

Kindly remember that I am not responsible for the figures of speech used by the Lord. My interpretations do inof institutions which we have all reverenced and which embrace good people. of good words and good works. God's saintly people in these various institutions, being comparatively few, are ignored when systems as a whole are dealt with in prophecy.

The Dragon, Beast, False Prophet. Our context tells us that three-impure spirits (teachings) will go forth from the mouths of the Dragon, the Beast and the False Prophet, and these three will be in accord, and symbolically the doctrines are represented by "frogs." These three doctrines are to have a mighty influence throughout the civilized earth They are to gather the kings and their armies to the great Battle of Armageddon.

The ecclesiastical kings and princes, and their retinues of clergy and faithful adherents, will be gathered in solid phalanx-Protestant and Catholic. The kings and captains of industry, and as many as can be influenced by them. will be gathered to the same side. The political kings and princes, with all their benchmen and retainers, will follow in line on the same side. The financial kings and merchant princes, and all whom they can influence by the most gigantic power ever yet exercised in the world, will join the same side, according to this prophecy.

These "doctrines of demons." represented by the "frogs." will lead many noble people in this great army to assume an attitude quite contrary to their preference. For a time the wheels of liberty and progress will be turned backward and medieval re straints will be considered necessary for self-preservation-for the maintenance of the present order of things.

In giving this interpretation, it is necessary for us to indicate what is symbolized by the Dragon, the Beast, and the False Prophet. Bible students of nearly all denominations agree with us that the "Dragon" of Revelation represents the purely Civil Power. Protestant Interpreters generally agree that the "Beast like a leopard" (Reveation xiii. 2) represents the Papacy. But fewer still, we fear, will be ready to support our view that Protestantism is the "Image of the Beast" (Revelation xiii. 15) in our context given another name, "the False Prophet." We urge no one to accept our interpretation. nor shall we think hard of any who refuse it. We will neither slander nor otherwise injure them now, nor threat en them with eternal torture. They have the same right to their views that I have, and the same right to make them known to others. And I. for one, will be very glad to consider any think which opponents may set forth as their interpretations of our text.

"Unclean Spirits Like Frogs." The symbolisms of Scripture, right y understood, are always forceful When the Holy Spirit used a "frog" symbolically represent certain

doctrines or teachings, we may be sure the true application will fit well. A frog has a sage look, a wise look. It swells itself up in an apparent endeavor to impress the beholder. Its great mouth well represents its chief

Applying these symbols, we learn that an evil spirit, influence, teaching, will come from the Protestant churches federated, from the Church of Rome, and from the Civil authorities, all in full agreement. The spirit of all will be boastful; an air of superior wisdom and knowledge will be proudly assumed-all will croak in harmony. All will tell of dire results that would follow. involving the interests of both the present and the future life, if their counsel be not followed. However conflicting the creeds, the differences will be ignored in the general proposition that nothing ancient must be disturbed, or looked into, or repudiated.

The Divine authority of the Church, and the Divine right of kings, aside from the Church, will not be allowed to conflict. Any persons or teachings in conflict with these boastful and unscriptural claims will be branded as everything vile, at the mouths of these frogs" speaking from pulpits and platforms and through the religious and secular press. The nobler sentiments of some will be strangled by the philosophy of the same evil spirit which spoke through Calaphas, the high priest, respecting Jesus. As Caiaphas declared it expedient to commit a crime in violation of justice, human and Divine, to be rid of Jesus and His teachings, so this "frog" spirit will approve of every violation of principle necessary to their self-protection.

The croaking of these "frog" spirits or loctrines will gather the kings and princes, financial, political, religious and industrial into one great army. The spirit of fear, inspired by the croakings of these "frogs," will scourge the passions of otherwise good and reasonable men to fury, desperation. in their blind following of these evil spirits, evil doctrines, they will be ready to sacrifice life and everything highly symbolical figures of speech in on the altar of what they mistakenly suppose is justice, truth and righteousness, under a Divine arrangement.

For a brief time, as we understand the Scriptures, these combined forces of Armageddon will triumph. Free speech, free mails, and other liberties which have come to be the very breath mony with God-but only the wise of of the masses in our day, will be ruthlessly shut off under the plea of necessity, the glory of God, the commands I have long avoided presentation of of the Church, etc. All will seem to be my understanding of our text and its serene, until the great social explosion context. I take it up now by request in our context described as the "great and because I believe it is due time to Earthquake." An "earthquake," in be understood. I disclaim any special symbolic language, signifies social false doctrine. It is this false doctrine inspiration. In some particulars my revolution, and the declaration of the lews agree with those of other Bible context is that none like unto it ever students, and in other respects they before occurred. (Revelation xvi, 18, 19.) Jesus described it as a time of own judgment, do his own Bible study. trouble such as never was since there was a nation.-Matthew xxiv, 21.

> The Lord Will Gather Them. The false, frog-like teachings will gather together into one host the great, the rich, the wise, the learned and the kings of the earth, to battle. At this juncture Divine Power will step forward, and our text tells us that HE shall gather the marshaled hosts to Armageddon-to the Mountain of Destruction. The very thing which they sought to avert by their union, federation, etc., will be the very thing they will hasten. Other Scriptures tell us that God will be represented by the Great Messiah, and that He will be on the side of the masses. Thus we read in Daniel xii, 1: "At that time shall Michael [the Godlike One-Messiah] stand up"-assume authority. He will take possession of His Kingdom in a manner little looked for by many of those who erroneously have been claiming that they were His Kingdom, and authorized by Him to reign in His

> name and in His stead. Jesus declared, "His servants ye are unto whom ye render service." Some may be rendering service to Satan and to error, who claim to be rendering service to God and to righteousness: and some of these may be serving ignorantly, as did Saul of Tarsus, who "verily thought that he did God a service" in persecuting the Church. The same principle holds true reversely. As an earthly king does not hold himself responsible for the moral character of each soldier who fights in his battles, so the Lord does not vouch for the moral character of all who will enlist and fight on His side of any question. "His servants they are to whom they render service," whatever the motive

> or object prompting them. The same principles will apply in the coming Battle of Armageddon. God's side of that battle will be the people's side, and the very nondescript host, the people, will be pitted at the beginning of the battle. Anarchists, Socialists, and bot-headed radicals of every school of reason and unreason, will be in the forefront of that battle. The majority of the poor and the middle class prefer peace at almost any price. A comparatively small number, God's consecrated people, will at heart be longing for Messiah's Kingdom. These will bide the Lord's time and wait patiently for it; they will be of good courage, knowing the outcome outlined in the "more sure word of prophecy." to which they have done well to take heed. "as unto a light shining in a dark place until the Day dawn."-II Peter 1, 19.

> The masses will be restless of their restraints, but will be conscious of their own weakness as compared to the kings and princes, financial, religious and political, which will then hold sway. Besides, the masses have no sympathy with anarchy. They realize truly that the worst form of government is better than none. The masses will seek relief through the ballot and peaceful re-adjustment of earth's affairs for the elimination of evil, for

the placing of monopolies and utilities and the supplies of nature in the hands of the people for the public good. The crisis will be reached when the hitherto upholders of law shall become violators of the law and resisters of the will of the majority as expressed by the ballot. Fear for the future will lead the well-meaning masses to desperation; and anarchy will result when Socialism falls.

The Cloud's Silver Lining. Horrible would be this outlook for the future did we not have the infallible Word of God assuring us of a giorious outcome! Divine Wisdom has withheld until our day the great knowledge and skill which is at the same time breeding millionaires and discon-tents. Had God lifted the vell a thousand years sooner, the world would have lined up for its Armageddon a thousand years sooner. But that would have been too soon for the Divine purpose, because Messiah's Kingdom is to be the great Thousand-Year-Sabbath of the world's history. God in kindness veiled our eyes until the time when the gathering to Armageddon would immediately precede Messiah's taking to Himself His great power, and beginning His reign.-Reve-

"Send Them Strong Delusions." St. Paul wrote prophetically of our time, that it would be one of serious trial and testing to many professing to be Christians. The reason for this he states-they received not the Truth in the love of it. (II Thessalonians ii, 10. 11.) They preferred their own erroneous theories, the Apostle explains, and therefore God will give them over to a "strong delusion," and let them believe the lie which they preferred, and let them suffer for missing the Truth which they did not love. Thus they will be in the condemned host, "fighting against God," because of their lack

lation xi, 17, 18.

of love for the Truth.

It is sad to say that we all as Christians have been laboring under a thorough delusion respecting God's Plan. We have claimed that Christ set up His Church in Kingdom power, and that the Church has been reigning on the earth as His representative. On the strength of this delusion, Jews and heretics have been persecuted to death as opponents to Christ's Kingdom. All the while we thoughtlessly repeated the Lord's prayer: "Thy Kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth, as in Heaven." We knew that the Redeemer said that He would come again to make us His Bride and joint-heirs; but we ignored the Scriptures. We were drunk, as the Scriptures symbolically say, "all nations were drunk" with the that will constitute the "frog" spirit prepare for Armageddon.

The Bible presentation is that the world is a section of the universe in rebellion against Divine authority, under the captaincy of Satan and his associated fallen angels. By Divine grace Jesus has already "tasted death for every man," and the merit of that sacrifice must, eventually, grant Adam and his posterity a full, fair opportunity for the attainment of everlasting life. All who thus seek the Divine program and are walking in the light may know something at least respecting the "times and seasons." These brethren "are not in darkness, that that day [and that battle of Armageddon) should overtake" them "as a thief" - un-

Armageddon Not Yet but Soon. For forty years the Armageddon forces have been mustering for both sides of the conflict. Strikes, lockouts and riots, great and small, have been merely incidental skirmishes as the belligerent parties crossed each other's paths. Court and Army scandals in Europe, Insurance, Trust and Court scandals in America, have shaken public confidence. Dynamite plots, charged by turns on employees and on employers, have further shaken confidence and tended to make each distrustful of the other. Bitter and angry feelings on both sides are more and more manifest. The lines of battle are daily becoming more distinctly marked. Nevertheless Armageddon cannot yet be fought. Other matters intervene. according to prophecy. Gentile times have still two years to

run. The "Image of the Beast" of our

context must yet receive life-power.

The Image must be transformed from a mere mechanism to a living force. Protestant Federation realizes that its organization will still be futile unless it receive vitalization—unless its clergy directly or indirectly shall be recognized as possessed of apostolic ordination and authority to teach. This the prophecy indicates will come from the two horned beast, which, we believe, symbolically represents the Church of England. High-handed activities of Protestantism and Catholicism, operating in conjunction for the suppression of human liberties, await this vivifying of the Image. This may come soon, but Armageddon cannot precede it, but must follow-perhaps a year after it. according to our view of the Prophecy. Still another thing intervenes: Although the Jews are gradually flowing into Palestine, gradually obtaining control of the land of Canaan, and although reports say that already nineteen millionaires are there, nevertheless prophecy requires an evidently larger number of wealthy Hebrews to be there before the Armageddon crisis be reached. Indeed we understand that "Jacob's trouble" in the Holy Land will come at the very close of Armageddon. Then Messiah's Kingdom will begin to be manifested Thenceforth Israel in the land of promise will gradually rise from the ashes of the past to the grandeur of prophecy. Through its Divinely appointed princes Messiah's Kingdom, all-powerful but invisible, will begin to roll sway the curse and to lift up mankind.

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