

# The Observer.

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FRIDAY, November 8, 1912

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The little Balkan states are giving Turkey an example of the fact that in union there is strength.

A man who reaches for empire and runs against a court-martial should blame something else than luck.

The Chinese republic has now passed into its second year, becoming stronger than when it began its new life.

Voters at the city of Portland election Saturday displayed signs of returning reason by voting down ever proposed big bond issue.

Mexico might well apply the recall in the case of ex-president Diaz; whatever his shortcomings, he knew how to rule the Mexican greaser.

Russia has decided to stop sending convicts to Siberia, a country that deserves immigrants instead of exiles; 20,000 escaped convicts are now living in Siberian wilderness as outlaws.

Russia produced 500,000 more bushels of wheat this year than the United States. What may not be expected from hampered Russia when the handicaps of ignorance and tyranny are removed from a great and proud people?

## Feeding Stock at Home Profitable.

We believe with Dr. Jas. Withycombe, O. A. C. director of experimental farms, in a recent address strongly expressed before the Portland Adv. Club, that Oregon is making a great mistake in exporting its grain, instead of feeding it to live stock at home. He illustrated the fact that there are 10,000,000 acres of dairy land in Oregon and that two acres can support a cow; thus 5,000,000 cows, each worth \$100 profit annually, or \$500,000,000 altogether, in profit each year to the state, could be fed on this land. By feeding, instead of exporting this grain, Dr. W. estimates that the producer would get 50 cents more a bushel, or on a crop of 15,000,000 bushels for the state, a net gain of \$7,500,000. The export of \$101,000,000 worth of dairy produce, bacon and eggs, from Denmark, supporting a population of 2,600,000, under trying climatic conditions, proves conclusively what can be done under right management in Oregon with its fine climate and rich variety of soils along these lines.

Shrouds, a million dollar thief, in hiding in Philadelphia, has in his possession \$1,300,000 bonds, including issues by the Oregon Short Line Ry., O-W-R & N Co and the Portland Gas and Coke Co. He has served notice upon all concerned that he is prepared to prosecute a charge of compounding a felony and that the money left in his hands, out of his stealings, would permit him to put up a glorious battle in the courts. Such is American law.

The dissolution of the oil trust has been no farce; independent producers and refiners of oil, have unrestricted and uncontrolled opportunity to carry on their business without unfair, secret and oppressive competition.

Some socialists never give attention to the economic fact that capital has to bear a far greater proportion of the risks in industry than does labor. Labor loses its wages when a business fails, capital loses not only its returns, but itself.

The National Republican Committee will name a successor to vice-President Sherman deceased, at a meeting called for Tuesday next. Whoever is named will be voted for by the Republican Electoral College.

The horse is an intelligent animal; more so, in fact, than the chauffeurs who run down people on the public highways.

## ARMAGEDDON OF THE SCRIPTURES

### Startling Presentation of Coming Events.

#### PASTOR RUSSELL'S VIEWS.

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. 8.—The Brooklyn Academy of Music was crowded to the limit today to hear Pastor Russell's discourse on the "Battle of Armageddon." His text was: "He gathered them together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon." (Revelation xvi. 16.) The speaker said: Armageddon in the Hebrew signifies the "Hill of Megiddo," or Mount of Destruction. It was famous as a battle field in Old Testament times.

The Lord has seen fit to associate the name Armageddon, with the great conflict 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 highly symbolical figures of speech in the last book of the Bible, evidently with a view to hiding certain important truths until the due time for their revelation. 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 harmony with God—but only the wise of His people—the "wise virgins" class of the Master's parable.

I have long avoided presentation of my understanding of our text and its context. I take it up now by request, and because I believe it is due time. I disclaim any special inspiration. In some particulars my views agree with those of other Bible students, and in other respects they disagree. Each hearer must use his own judgment, do his own Bible study, and reach his own conclusions.

Kindly remember that I am not responsible for the figures of speech used by the Lord. My interpretation is indeed constituted a terrific arraignment of institutions which we have all revered and which embrace good people, of good words and good works. God's saintsly 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 teaches us that three evil spirits (teachings) will go forth from the mouth 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 retainers 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 henchmen 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 array to their preference. For a time the wheels of liberty and progress will be turned backward, and medieval reforms 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 (Revelation xiii. 2) represents the Papacy. But fewer still are 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, for shall we think hard of any who refuse it? We will neither slander nor otherwise injure them now, nor threaten 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 anything which opponents may set forth as their interpretations of our text.

"Unseen Spirits Like Frogs." The symbolisms of Scripture, rightly understood, are always accurate. When the Holy Spirit used a "frog" to 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 power, used to croak.

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 one result that would follow, involving the interests of both the present and the future life. If their counsel be not followed, however convincing the evidence, 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 two powerful 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 Caliphates, the high priest, respectively Jesus. As Caliphates 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 doctrines will gather the kings and princes, financial, political, religious and industrial into one array, a army. The spirit of fear, inspired by the croaking of these "frogs," will secure the passions of otherwise good and reasonable men to a Y. desperation. In their blind following of these evil spirits, evil doctrines, they will be ready to sacrifice life and everything on the altar of what they mistakenly suppose is justice, truth and righteousness, under a "false" arrangement. For a brief time 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 of the masses in our day, will be ruthlessly shut out under the plea of necessity, the glory of God, the commands of the Church, etc. All will seem to be serene, until the great social explosion in our context described as the "great earthquake"—an "earthquake," in symbolic language, signifies social revolution, and the declaration of the context is that none like unto it ever before occurred. (Revelation xvi. 18, 19.) Jesus described it as a time of 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 earth, to battle. At this juncture Divine Power will step forward, and our text tells us that HE shall gather the marauding hosts to Armageddon—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 honorably, as did Saul of Tarsus, who "verily thought that he did God's 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 animating 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 unscriptural host, the people, will be pitted at the beginning of the battle. Anarchists, Socialists, and hot-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"—11 Peter i. 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 hitlers to upholders of law shall become violators of the law and resistors 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 fails.

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 glorious outcome. Divine Wisdom has withheld until our day the great knowledge and skill which is at the same time breeding millions and discontents. Had God lifted the veil a thousand years sooner, the world would have lined up for its Armageddon a thousand years sooner. But that is not our concern, 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.—Revelation xxi. 15.

"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 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 heathens 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 know 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 false doctrine. It is this false doctrine which soon will begin to croak and to prepare for Armageddon.

The Bible presentation is that the world is a section of the universe in rebellion against Divine authority, under the captivity 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 see 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 [that that battle of Armageddon] should overtake them "as a thief"—I Corinthians v. 14.

Armageddon Not Yet but Soon. Forty years the Armageddon forces have been mustering for both sides of the conflict. Strikes, lockouts and riots, great and small, have been merely to test our alkalimishes as the belligerent forces crossed each other's paths. Court and Army scandals in Europe, Insurance, Trust and Court scandals in America, have shaken public confidence. Dynamic plots, charged by tyrans 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 possessors 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 line-tens millionaires are there, nevertheless a large 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. Thereafter Israel in the land of promise will gradually rise from the ashes of the past to the grandeur of prophecy. Through its Divinely appointed prince, Messiah's Kingdom, all-powerful but invisible, will begin to roll away the curse and to lift up mankind.

## BLUFFED AND WON.

A Scheme That Enabled Two to Ride on One Ticket.

There were two comedians who had been stuck in a village near Canton, with Cleveland many a mile away. And the first comedian, being the more nervous, what they call the "feeder" of the team, says he: "What'll we do next?" "I'll tell you—let's count the house." They emptied their pockets and found that by squeezing a cent or two they could manage to buy a ticket to Cleveland—one ticket. They did it and started forth, the two grown men, on a pile of pasteboard. Of course the conductor kicked.

"There's only one ticket here," he growled. "That's mine," said one of the actors. "You lie—it's mine," put in the other politely. "Well, you can't both ride on one ticket," said the conductor. "I'll have to put one of you off the train." "Me—me!" squeaked the actors in chorus. "Put me off—go ahead and do it—I spoke first." "Well, I can't do it here, but one of you must get off at the next station." But three local stations passed, and the conductor didn't come back. As a matter of fact, he never appeared until just before Cleveland was reached. "I think somebody's a grifter," he remarked in passing, "but my orders are to take the safe side when there's a possibility of mistake. Good night, I can lick either one of you if I ever see you again!"—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

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