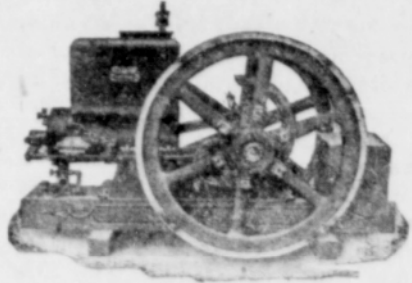


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General De Castelneau, the famous French commander, has five sons fighting with the French army. When the war began he had eight in the service, but since then three of them have been killed in action.

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### THE CHRISTIAN SABBATH

By C. M. BROWN.

Chapter 15.

We have certainly produced sufficient arguments and scriptural proofs to convince any fair minded person that the disciples did observe the first day of the week for their religious gatherings, in honor of the day that Christ rose from the dead. The question now comes what was their attitude to the old Sabbath? We believe that they continued to observe it also, at least many of them did, as long as they lived. They could hardly be expected to suddenly tear themselves away from all that pertained to their lifelong training, when there was no moral principle involved. They were loyal Jews, and thought Christ belonged to them exclusively, and it was eight years after the resurrection before one of them would dare preach a sermon to a Gentile, and then God had to work a miracle to get Peter to go to the house of Cornelius, and when he did, he had to answer before the disciples at Jerusalem for doing it. Circumcision was practiced among them and many thought the Gentiles had to first be Judaized before they could be christianized.

The evidence seems abundant that the Jewish Christians observed, both the Mosaic and the Christian Sabbath. On the other hand it seems equally clear that the Gentile converts never kept the Mosaic Sabbath at all, for it had no meaning to them and they used the day that linked them directly to their Lord. It is easy to see how the Jew might feel that somehow the law he had always been taught to obey still had some force over him, and that there might be some virtue left in the day he had always observed, but the Gentiles had no such feelings about a law or custom of which he was even familiar, but the new Sabbath services would gather up all the treasures of the Christian religion and pour them into his experience.

Before taking up the historical side of this discussion we would call attention to the position of the Seventh day people, regarding the change of the Sabbath from the seventh to the first day of the week. They rely on connecting prophesy with history to show that the change was made by an evil and designing hand contrary to scriptural authority. They do not rely on any plain teaching of the word but take refuge behind some dream or vision, and make the interpretation to suit their theory. The book of Daniel is especially their stronghold. They take the twenty-fifth verse of the seventh chapter as the basis of their argument, and tell us that the change of times and laws referred to is the Sabbath and the power spoken of is the Roman Catholic church.

That this meant the Sabbath, I think they are united, but as to who made the change there is some difference, some claiming it was the Pope, and others that it was the Emperor Constantine. How they came to discover that either the law referred to was the Sabbath or the power to change it was the Roman Catholic church is a mystery, for there is no such explanation given in the record, and the wording of the verse referred to does not seem to warrant it, and the facts of history do not justify the outcome. Daniel is speaking of a king that should arise that would be different from the ten kings he was just talking about, and says he shall think to change times and the law. I do not think this could mean the Pope, for no Pope was ever a king, and no Pope had the power to change the law. I do not think it mean, Constantine for he was not a king but an emperor, and did not change the Sabbath law. His edict concerning the observance of the Sabbath in A. D. 331 did not change the day but only required all his subjects to keep the established Christian Sabbath. The emperor was a christian himself and offered many inducements to others who would espouse the cause. Is it reasonable to think he would do a thing that would virtually destroy the cause and call forth the protest of all his christian subjects, when he was trying every other way to build it up? Had he done such a thing it would have been an open break between him and his people, who were his best friends and supporters. To carry such a decree into effect would have meant the death of the christians, and very historian knows that there was no break at this point.

In view of these facts, and the absence of a "thus saith the Lord," we cannot accept their interpretation of this dream.

A dream or vision may be the strongest foundation for the pet theory of some people, but christianity is no dream, and its existence does not depend on the interpretation of the meaning of some mysterious wild animal with a superabun-

dance of heads and horns, but rests its self on the plain principles found in the sermon on the Mount—and the epistles of Paul.

To be continued.

American Bigness.

In his annual report, Franklin K. Lane, secretary of the interior, takes a fling at what he calls foreign writers without a sense of the magnitude and importance of this country. He believes that many foreigners think Americans are habitually given to the most amazing forms of exaggeration, and that when they write about this country they look at the great figures cited in government statistics with suspicion. The result is that in the interest of what these writers believe to be the truth, they prune the reports to suit their conception of what America ought to be instead of sticking to facts. In order that Americans shall not be deceived by the remarks of foreign commen-

tators, Secretary Lane has gone into the records of his department to show that the United States produces 66 per cent. of the world's petroleum, 60 per cent. of its coal and iron. Within fifty years the government gave its subsidies to railroads public lands which exceeded in total area a territory seven times the size of Pennsylvania, or about nine times the size of Indiana. Thirteen western states have contributed a total of 67,000,000 acres of good lands for sustaining their schools and other institutions. There is enough water power going to waste in the United States to equal 60,000,000-horse power, and the people are so busy enjoying themselves that they never miss it. If the people were not happy and prosperous they would take steps to utilize the water which flows idly to the sea. If this water was turned upon the land that needs it, says Secretary Lane, it would support 50,000,000 people in comfort.



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