

THIS SERMON IS A REGULAR WEEKLY FEATURE

PEOPLE'S PULPIT...



Sermon by CHARLES T. RUSSELL, Pastor Brooklyn Tabernacle.

Mass Meeting No. 3

CHURCH FEDERATION

Counting the Cost

What Episcopalians, Catholics and Lutherans Must Surrender.

Sunday, Jan. 30.—The third meeting for the consideration of Church Federation was held today. The spacious Brooklyn Academy of Music was crowded with Christian people of all denominations to attend the third of the series of four meetings called by the Peoples Pulpit Association.

would urge Christians of the other denominations, especially the clergy, to consider the advantage which would accrue to the Federation by having all Protestant ministers accept their ordination. They do not claim that it would make them wiser or better men, nor more efficient teachers, either of truth or error.

The argument is, "The common people, the laity," are disposed more than ever to think for themselves on religious subjects and to study the Bible for themselves. If, therefore, as ministers, you desire to hold the people in check so that they shall not think for themselves you would do well to concede the claim of apostolic succession—that no one is permitted to interpret or teach the Bible except those who have received apostolic benediction.

The Scriptures intimate that this argument will ultimately prevail and great Protestant denominations be thus vitalized and, in cooperation with Catholicism, for a short while dominate Christendom socially and politically, crushing out individual thought and negating and black-listing all religious teachers outside the Federation and its Catholic ally.

Some Things in Common. Episcopalians and Catholics have some things in common. They each claim to represent the original apostolic Church. They each claim through their bishops in the laying on of hands apostolic authority.

Here note the fact that a cleavage is in process amongst Episcopalians. A minority, termed high-churchmen, are gradually separating themselves from the majority are sharing the sentiments of other Protestants, to the effect that the matter of "apostolic succession" is probably less important than their forefathers supposed.

The breadth of the Episcopal creed will not call for particular sacrifices in Federation, if only their pride on the subject of apostolic succession can be subdued. They are all prepared to admit that no particular wisdom or holiness has been communicated from generation to generation, from bishop to bishop and from bishop to lower clergy through the laying on of hands.

The second claim that Popery is God's Kingdom, that the Popes reign successively as Christ's Vicegerent, should not be difficult for Catholics of our day to lay aside. However strongly it was held in the dark past it is surely little appreciated by Catholics today. No longer do the Popes dominate the civil rulers of Christendom.

Up to the present time Episcopalians decline to be parties to the Federation unless their special claim be in some sense or degree recognized. Pride says it would never do to retract now all that the denomination has stood for in separation for centuries. They

any real title or authority from heaven to rule or to coerce the people. More and more the masses demand Congresses, Parliaments, Reichstags and Dumas. And more and more do they demand that these shall reflect the sentiments of the people in civil and religious matters. The day of darkness and ignorance in which the people believed that popes and kings were Divinely appointed to rule them with Divine authority has gone by.

This claim, however, wholly destroys the argument that we are now or ever in the past have been under Christ's Kingdom, either direct or through the popes. Neither now nor at any other time in the world's history has there been a reign of righteousness such as the Scriptures declare Christ's Kingdom shall be. May we not, then, with good grace—Catholics and Protestants—admit that neither our Catholic popes, emperors and kings, nor our Protestant kings, emperors and heads of Churches are reigning with any Divine authority manifest to human judgment? Let us humbly admit the nonsense of the legends on our coins, Catholic and Protestant, to the effect that kings and popes reign by the grace of God—by Divine appointment.

If it be asked how we shall account for the period of the dark ages and autocratic and devilish misrule, our reply would be to point to the Apostle's words. He declares that Satan is the god or ruler of this world, who now operates through the disobedient—through those not in harmony with God, who constitute the vast majority in Christendom and elsewhere. And we remind you that our Lord Jesus also spoke of Satan as being the Prince of this world or age (John xii, 31), and of himself as the Prince or Ruler of the coming Age, the Millennium Age (John xviii, 36).

Not Vice-gerent Christ. In view of the foregoing—in view of the fact that the Divine titles of all kings and emperors are now abrogated, papacy need feel no special disgrace to her cause in similarly abrogating the claim that the popes reign as representatives of Christ or have authority so to do.

At the second coming of Christ and the glorification of his Church, "his elect," "his saints," gathered from all denominations, Catholic and Protestant (and some from outside of all of them—only then will the glorious reign of Christ and the Church begin. Only then will the spiritual Seed of Abraham be complete and the work of blessing the unregenerate world begin—the Millennium Kingdom work—the overthrow of Satan and his empire—the scattering of darkness, ignorance and superstition which he fostered—the flooding of the earth with the light of the knowledge of the glory of God—the restoration of natural Israel to Divine favor—the bringing in of everlasting righteousness through a mental, physical and moral uplift. Whoever then shall refuse all these blessings and privileges will be destroyed from amongst the people.

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Thus eventually in the close of the Millennium God's will shall be "done" on earth even as it is done in heaven—as fully, as completely. This is the "Kingdom of God's dear Son" for which we wait and pray. And however good or bad other kingdoms, tem-

VETO BILL IS TO COME UP FIRST

Fate of Cabinet's Success Depends Upon Immediate Consideration and Passage of the Veto Bill.

LONDON, Feb. 28.—The supporters of the Asquith ministry assume from the attitude of the king that the veto bill will be passed, even if King Edward is compelled to swamp the house of lords with newly appointed liberal peers.

The fate of the cabinet's success through its alliance with nationalists and laborites, depends upon the immediate consideration and passage of the veto bill. Premier Asquith practically has the king's assurance that if the lords balk at the curtailment of their prerogatives sufficient liberal peers will be appointed by him to carry out the program of the ministry in the house of lords.

It is understood that the premier told the king that he would be compelled to resign the premiership unless the king agreed to the plan.

STANFORD TRACK CAPTAIN HITS SOME HARD LUCK

STANFORD UNIVERSITY, Cal., Feb. 28.—Owing to a torn tendon in his left leg, Captain Scott of the Stanford university track team did not participate in the tryout of the team on the track here today. It is feared that Scott has run his last race in his college career.

Scott injured his leg while sprinting yesterday afternoon. It is expected he will be kept from training for at least two weeks as a result. While he may not be able to sprint again, it is probable that Scott will compete in the pole vault as heretofore.

GOLD HILL ITEMS.

(By Spectator.)

M. T. Howard and Rex H. Lampman returned Friday evening from the Meadows district, where they have been visiting Mr. Lampman's father.

Grant Matthews of Footh Creek was a Gold Hill visitor Friday.

Miss Ruby Dungey came down from Portland Friday to visit home folks a few days.

Harry White of Woodville was doing business here Friday.

Steve Jones, the genial landlord

of the Gold Hill hotel, who has been confined to his room with a severe attack of la grippe, is on duty again.

The Ladies' Aid Chinese supper served at the home of Mrs. G. B. Turner on C street Thursday evening was well patronized and netted the ladies a neat little sum.

Born—On Washington's birthday, to Mr. and Mrs. Jay E. Davidson, in Garden Row, a nine-pound boy.

Mr. and Mrs. J. H. McClelland are preparing to reopen the McClelland house on C street about the first of the month. This well-known hostelry has been closed the past few months and will be opened with new furniture complete.

H. L. McClelland of the Mail Tribune was here during the week looking after the subscription list.

Mrs. C. C. Gault, who has been visiting her mother, Mrs. M. R. Rice, the past two weeks, returned to her home in Portland the first of the week.

Ketchell Fires Manager.

HOT SPRINGS, Ark., Feb. 28.—Stanley Ketchell believes that he is shrewd enough to manage his own affairs and will not accept the proposition made by George Little, Johnson's guide, to succeed Willis Britt, Ketchell's former manager. Ketchell plans remaining here three weeks to prepare for battles in the east.

Ketchell has turned down the theatrical offer made by H. H. Frazee and says that there is not enough money to make him take to the footlights. He declares he is a fighter, not an actor.

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