

Silverton Journal

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The Gods' Return.

'Twas free debate and oratory inspired
With public good, the civic mind had
fired,
That made of ancient Greece the wonder
of the world

And o'er the mighty nations her flag of
progress furled.

And when we wake, in larger day and
realm,

With that sweet goddess, Justice, at
the helm;

When private greed and lust give way
to public weal,

And every man the larger, broader
good can feel,

Oh, then relate, ye page of holier worth,
A mighty brotherhood did cover all the
earth,

That cast the ancient nations 'ever in
the shade,

And of this lovely planet a home for
gods was made.

An Unsolvable Puzzle.

The craziest puzzle in the world is the one that the majority of people seem to be trying to solve. It is how to talk right and act right so as to make friends(?) out of the opposing factors in society. This is probably because of commercialism and the selfish, deceptive lesson it has ground into the minds of all classes.

The purpose of this article is to point out the evil of trying to do this and also the remedy. If one starts in to solve this puzzle, he or she is sure to be known as a hypocrite to many people and to lose the most valuable thing in the world, self respect.

The woods are full of just such creatures, and many of them are beyond help. But the man or woman who wants to be really and truly happy, even in the midst of trouble and hardship, pain, imprisonment and death, must learn to be "out and out what he or she is." It is always best to be slow in expressing one's opinion until thoroughly convinced that it is really one's opinion, but when once convinced, all the big ones on earth, and in other places, should not swerve us, without reason, from our position or scare us from its advocacy at any and every reasonable opportunity. And this is the way the world must advance.

Brothers and sisters in the cause of progress, speak out now while you have breath, nor be frightened because of loss of friends, business or opportunities. Be brave, and the potential bravery in other men will rise to meet with yours to drive the darkness of ignorance, superstition, selfishness and hypocrisy forever from the earth.

New Conditions Teach New Duties.

Coming up, as we have, from lowly ancestors, we have inherited traits and tendencies and indulged in lifelong practices which, in a more sane age, will look very, very silly. 'Tis said that an ostrich, when about to be captured, hides its head in the sand, and a sort of partridge of the far north will stand perfectly still and let the hunter knock him over with a club. Thousands of illustrations can be given to show that the lower animals are foolish about some things, and the fact is that vast numbers of species have become extinct because they lacked some necessary characteristic to survive under changed environment.

The change from the use of individual tools in the production of wealth and the change from slow communication and distribution of commodities to very rapid methods have put the

human family to the severest test of the ages. Great machines, owned by a few, turn out great quantities of products today. The individual with old-time methods is being shut out from the race of production. Those who have control have the added advantage of quick transportation and travel, and largely control communication. Thus a fair competition between man and man is an impossibility. Unlike the olden days when industry, frugality, perseverance, brain and brawn counted for success, it is money that counts today, and these old-time powers must be used to secure big profits for the other fellow who has been born rich, or, by accident or otherwise, come into possession of a "big wad."

There is no one on earth with any sense who will not agree that conditions are much changed and that it is necessary for society to change, and for successful individuals to change, in order to meet the requirements of the general change. The people of this century must change their ways or be knocked in the head like a fool bird who has never heard of a hunter, or hide their heads in the sand and be captured for the world's historical menagerie.

The struggle has produced many kinds of humans—some fitted for this change and coming fight and some to be knocked out and to become extinct. In order to become one with characteristics fit to survive, the young man and young woman of today should study well the kinds of men and women in the world, the system that has produced them, and the probable result. We have men and women who are workers for higher and better things, students of Sociology sailing under different banners, but all trying to bring about the proper adjustment of things in some way or other. Then we have misers, self-centered men and women, street exhibitors of the latest fashions, and all sorts of products of the old system of individualism.

The following, clipped from an exchange, tells the story of one kind of human that will probably become extinct in the good time coming, and with it we will close this attempt, hoping that some of our young people will profit by the account and be prepared for the change now taking place, which will surely eliminate those who are not fitted for the new order of things when "work and worth go hand in hand":

At Atlantic City a funeral procession was halted at the entrance to Pleasantville cemetery. The chief mourner was wealthy Mrs. Catherine Carter, of Memphis, and the departed was her beloved cat.

"You can't get a permit to bury that cat here, and you can't bury that cat here without a permit," chorused a group of waiting cemetery officials.

Mrs. Carter was indignant. She gazed with eyes blurred with tears at the specially made casket of her deceased pet. The coffin was of rosegwood, trimmed with German silver, silk lined, perfumed and decorated with catnip.

The procession wheeled about and returned to the Hotel Iroquois, where Mrs. Carter will seek legal advice respecting the authority of cemetery men to refuse sepulchre to a feline of pedigree and position.

Tiger was born in Memphis. While playing with cats of a lower social order recently he fell and broke his back. He was carried on a fast train to Atlantic City, where it was hoped that the salt air and association with intellectual men and women would effect a cure. High-priced specialists were called in the case, and Tiger was restored to what seemed good health. In celebration of the cure Mrs. Carter purchased for her idol a \$1000 diamond-studded collar.

But death has laid Tiger low.

Socialism and Romanism.

L. D. RATLIFF.

"Socialism is an enemy of the Church and opposed to Religion."—A Chorus of Holy Catholic Prelates.

Whether this Holy Judgment is correct depends upon the point of view. The concern of Socialism is not primarily with Religion; but, naturally, the Extension of Democracy to Industry, with Equal Opportunity to All, is antagonistic to capitalistic and despotic institutions.

The Social Platform of original Christianity was Democracy and Brotherhood. It was featured in Common Ownership and Co-operation. It was on this basis that Jesus put forth the doctrine of a "Kingdom of Heaven on Earth." Jesus' primary object was the Social Salvation of the world. This was possible only on the basis of Democracy, expressed in mutually useful service on the part of all. The Religious background to which he appealed was Social Justice. The prophetic vision of Jesus' mother saw the people of low degree exalted, those of high degree brought down, the hungry filled with good things, the rich sent empty away. "A rich man can no more enter the kingdom of heaven," said Jesus, "than a camel can go through the eye of a needle." When a rich man came to him asking how he could enter into life, Jesus told him to give what he had to the poor and de-class himself. The agricultural magnate who would build greater barns for his products was called a "fool." The rich man at whose gate the beggar got his food was sent to "hell." Private riches come by robbery, by theft, or by grinding the poor. They represent injustice. Moreover, riches are divisive in society, which is contrary to the spirit of Democracy.

Jesus was charged, and rightly so, with "stirring up the people." His appeal was to a world of slaves and near slaves, and these heard him gladly. He was executed on a charge of sedition and treason, a charge that, in effect, was true: For denouncing private wealth and calling the masses to Democracy was, indeed, treason against a military despotism.

At first the working class dominated and directed the Church. She was persecuted by the grinding masters, but she grew to immense proportions and became a disturbing menace to the ruling oligarchy. Then she was corrupted by ambitious bishops, perverted from her original character, captured by the ruling masters, finally annexed by a crafty ruler, and was forthwith made a part of a military despotism. From an economic revolt inspired by religion, Christianity was turned into a religion of mysteries for priestly interpretation. Jesus' execution was made to appear a divine suicide with mystical purpose, a sacrifice which, by a sort of priestly magic, can be reproduced at any time for the living or the dead.

The Church took to herself the right to declare new dogmas, to canonize traditions, and made up her religion to suit the Roman social and political order. Thence she made of herself an absolute despotism, created a Vice-Deity for her head and clothed him with authority to declare the Will of God on all matters temporal and spiritual. The genius of the Church order is a series of despots, ranging from the Pope at the top downward to the common priest at the bottom. These are the Church, official and actual. They hold a monopoly of salvation, and sell its benefits on their own terms. As for the rest, they are simply the rest, get their salvation from the despots and have no voice in the Church. Thus, since the official act of a priest is necessary to save a soul from hell-to-the-eternal ages, it behooves the good Catholic to think as thinks the priest—and obey.

As if to secure plentiful revenue and to awe the credulous into submission and obedience, the purveyors of salvation extended their jurisdiction into the realm beyond the grave, invented a system of incantations for the dead, created a purgatory of pain for the soul, and put a price upon the soul's deliverance from it. Then came "Miracle-healing" by kissing the shin bone of a dead saint, or other like meritorious act of piety. Then the "Confessional," by which the secret life of the victim gets into the grip of the priest. Then the doctrine of "Indulgences"—a money measure for sin. Even the priest does not have to be moral—his Holy Church relation makes valid his act remitting sins. Many of the popes were devils; some guilty of every crime; but the Holy Church decrees them all alike—"Holy and Infallible"—which shows that goodness is not essential even in an Infallible Vice-Deity. Thus, logically, may every member of the Sacred Hierarchy from the Pope down to the common priest be a devil while they yet perform their holy work remitting sins and relieving sinful souls in purgatory! Let him believe in the system who can. I am concerned only with the nature of the despotism and its effect upon social and political life.

In Jesus' time the Roman oligarchy was the supreme destructive power of the world. It consisted of the union of the exploiters of a thousand centers of population. It held a hundred million slaves, and had the vast populace always on the verge of ruin. Everywhere men were being sold into slavery for debt, and their wives and daughters taken for the use of the Roman masters. On every highway the bodies of slaves dangled on Roman crosses. But Rome was not yet at her worst. She had been going down the toboggan slide of wickedness and corruption for three centuries since the Christ, and was far on the way to the abyss when she took in hand the interpretation and direction of Christianity. Rome was not Christianized—she went on to the devil. Christianity was Romanized—took on the nature and spirit of Rome. Then followed centuries called the "Dark Ages," in which the world was intellectually and morally dead under the reign of a debased religion. Not a scientist or independent thinker was permitted to live. Priestly offices went to the highest bidder. Indulgences were sold to the people for money, or for service in killing heathen and heretics. The Church extended herself meanwhile by the butchery of millions of people, and made converts by the use of every device of torture known to the fiendish art. That was the "Golden Age" of the Holy Roman Catholic Church in "Christianizing" the world.

In 1864 Most Holy Lord Pope Pius IX, infallible by decree of Most Holy Roman Catholic Church, by Papal Syllabus officially condemned Socialism, Communism, secret societies, Bible societies and other "pests of this description;" condemned the principle of civil and religious liberty and the separation of church and state; asserted the infallibility of the Pope, the exclusive right of Romanism to recognition by the civil government, the unlawfulness of all non-Catholic religion, the power of the Roman church to coerce and enforce, and her supreme control over public education, science and literature.

This official document, clothed with infallibility, enforced with decrees of the Vatican Council, addressed to all the bishops of the Catholic world, is a declaration of war against civilization and progress.

That Romanism is an enemy to liberty and progress is seen in the history of the Catholic countries. For example, Italy, the very seat of the Holy Church, (Concluded on Page 4)

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