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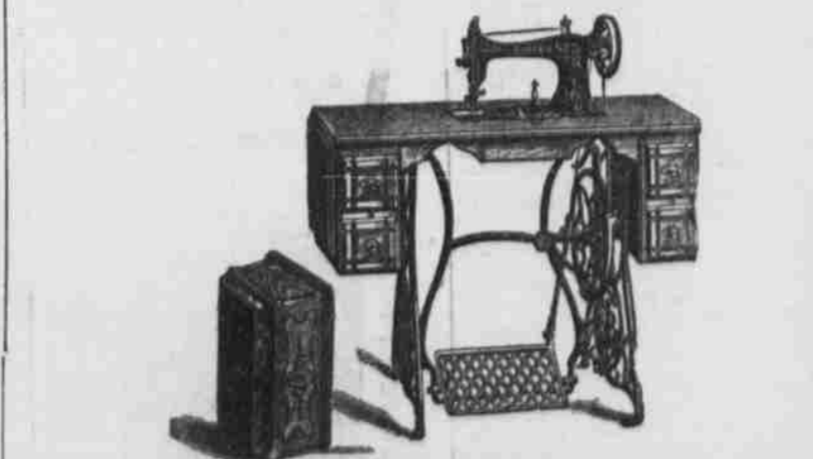
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HOFER BROTHERS, - - - Editors.

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THE SOCIALISM OF CHRIST.

While we are talking about our Sockless Jerries in politics and discussing social reforms, it is well to remember that the socialistic movement in Europe, and which has grown in this country to have a publishing house of its own, bases its fundamental arguments upon the teachings of Christ. Its enthusiasm and religious ardor are derived largely from the inspired utterances of the lowly Nazarene.

It should also be remembered that the transcendental and most progressive teachers of modern Christianity represent that a high type of Christian socialism shall be the final result of the work of the Christian church. In this respect they claim that the conclusion of the present system of Christian culture will eventuate in what the radical socialists now aim to achieve in starting a new revolution. The old and the newest lines of reformatory thought thus meet and complete a circle of thought that is both extensive and powerful in its influences. Both of these forces are based upon the direct and literal teachings of Christ and the question naturally arises, Was Christ a Socialist?

A book with the above title has been written by Prof. Austin Bierbower, (published by Serget & Co., Chicago, Ill., 12mo cloth, \$1.00.) It presents the attitude of early Christianity toward socialism and its related problems. All ancient writings bearing on the subject are critically examined, as well as all ancient socialistic theories and attempts at practical communism. The author believes Christianity to be the outcome of a tremendous popular movement. Moderns will be astonished at how thoroughly and passionately these questions were anciently discussed which seem new to this age, and how they received a solution by Jesus or his immediate followers. The book is unlike any ever written, and will awaken intense interest in early Christianity as well as in social and economic problems. It is written in popular style and abounds in constant surprises.

According to this book the socialistic teachings of Christ consist in his coming to establish a new kingdom, which he announced as the chief object of his coming. This new kingdom, differing from all the old and existing kingdoms, was to be established in the interest of the poor, of the people, and especially of the lower classes. In this kingdom of the weaker and more unfortunate elements of humanity there should be no inequality, no injustice, no oppressions, no wrongs, but all should be equal and happy. It is a remarkable fact that those who are oppressed are always most ready to grant what they have not got—equal rights. Those who suffer the inequalities of society want for the rest what they never had and cannot get for themselves—equality and happiness.

Christ virtually proposed to establish a government in the interest of those not in authority—the out: A government favoring the ruled as against the ruling classes; the governed and taxed as against the governing and taxgatherers. Christ advocated the rights of the citizen in all matters civil or ecclesiastical, as against the state, laws, kings, nobility, priests, and land and property owners.

This author contends that Christ's teachings implied a general revolution in the interest of the people, an overturning of then the existing class and the elevation of a new class in their stead, by which the high should be brought low and the lowly raised up, the first last and the last first. His sermon on the Mount was only an enlargement of this idea.

Blessed be the poor, he said, for yours shall be the kingdom; blessed are ye that hunger for ye shall be filled; blessed are ye that weep for ye shall laugh; blessed are ye when men shall hate you and shall separate themselves from you, as do the aristocratic and higher classes, and shall reproach you, as they generally do the poor, and count your name as evil, the low, for your reward shall be great; but was unto you that are rich for ye have received your consolation; woe unto you that are full for ye shall hunger; woe unto you when all men shall speak well of you: in short woe unto you that are now in the ascendancy, or in sympathy with such, for you shall be abused, and blessed are the unfortunate and other ranks, for they shall be brought uppermost in the coming revolution. The day of "Les Miserables," the "Sans Couloires,"—in short of the Sockless Jerries, is at hand.

We are not prepared to adopt the literal interpretation which the so-called place on these passages of the scripture. But certain it is that there is a tendency toward doing something for the poor that has never been done for them before. Perhaps they are doing it for themselves. The newspaper and the common school are spreading intelligence among the masses of citizens and voters where it never existed before. With increasing intelligence and becoming less the prey of immorality and vices that so often accompany ignorance, the poorer classes, armed with political power, and dominated by the socialistic aspirations for equality before the law, as they have never had it before, will cooperate with the most highly-cultured class of christian citizenship to bring about the long-dreamed-of christian socialism, when the whole human family shall be one brotherhood and one family of rational and intelligent human beings. But the question remains to be solved, was Christ a Socialist? and to what an extent will the socialism of Christ prevail in the coming civilization of the world?

MAY GO TO JAIL. There is actual danger that some of the railroad magnates may have to go to jail. A New York judge and grand jury threaten to hold the directors of the New York Central railroad responsible for a terrible accident that occurred at a tunnel recently, whereby scores of people lost their lives. And why not? Those responsible for the management of railroads have ever had immunity from the law in this respect. A bank or insurance director could be jailed for negligence, but a railroad magnate has never been held to that direct personal liability. It is time for a change in this.

Generally when there has been a wreck the blame has been put on trains, or the employes, and in most instances those in authority have escaped all censure, and a criminal conviction was not seriously thought of. If the directors of these public highways could be made responsible to the people, there would, without the least doubt, result a highly improved order of railroad service, and the present appalling death rate would diminish.

OPEN THE RIVERS. An effort is making to get the Salem business men to buy a boat and maintain it on the Willamette river. We are told that all competition has been removed and that this is the only way to get freight by water. This is no doubt the fact. The corporation interests at Portland have pooled with the few boats, and we are to have as practically a closed river as tho' a chain of mountains lay between the Columbia and the Willamette valley. The boats will be withdrawn and all the agricultural wealth of the valley will have to pay tribute to the railroad monopoly and still further swell the millions of the Huntington and Stanford crowd. We are told that Portland would open the Columbia to the sea to save the farmer a dollar a ton on his wheat, etc. It strikes us if Portland is interested in open rivers that town would gain as much in getting the grain in this valley into Portland as in getting grain out of Portland to the sea. The whole thing is a farce. The clogs placed upon the produce by the present corporation management is a crime against common prosperity. There will be no relief until the open river question becomes a political issue.

GENERAL NEWS NOTES.

Newberg is to have a cannery.

Independence bought last week about 3000 fruit trees.

Ashland has voted bonds for \$5000 for the purpose of building a new city hall.

The opera house at Independence cost about \$10,000 two years ago. It was sold the other day for \$15,000.

The third annual congress of the Scotch-Irish people of America will be held in Louisville, Kentucky, from May 14th to the 17th next. The objects of the society are historical, educational and social.

The Times of Forest Grove emphatically presents the imputation cast upon the jury in the Olds case as published in the Oregonian. The jury was composed of reputable and respected citizens of Washington county, and in intelligence will compare favorably with any average petit jury in the state, and their verdict was conscientiously given on the law and evidence of the case.

Seven hundred new freight cars are to be built at Sacramento. They are to be somewhat larger and of a different pattern from the cars that are at present in use. They will be thirty-four feet in length and will have a capacity of thirty tons. One half the number will be fitted up especially for fruit transportation.

New Alliance Organized. To the Editor Farm Department, NORTH YAMHILL.

March 21st a meeting was called for the purpose of organizing an alliance at Pike school house, Yamhill county. The meeting was called to order by E. M. Cole and the following officers were chosen: President, E. M. Cole; vice president, B. F. Allinbaugh; secretary, I. C. Peterson; treasurer, John Huntley; steward, E. L. Hayes; doorkeeper, F. W. Hilton; assistant doorkeeper, Mr. Casterson.

NORTH HOWELL. North Howell prairie alliance was permanently organized at the North Howell school house, on Wednesday, March 25th, by Hon. D. J. Cole, of Kansas, with 37 members. The following officers were elected: President, Geo. W. Weeks; vice president, Jos. Ruble; secretary, J. B. Heninger; treasurer, Grover Simmons; chaplain, D. W. Stewart; recorder, James Austin; steward, Ellis Stevens; doorkeeper, J. B. Tyson; assistant doorkeeper, Willard Stevens.

Regular meetings will be held the second and fourth Friday evenings of each month.

ZENA ITEMS. Miss Sallie Cavitt is teaching the Rickard school.

Mr. and Mrs. John E. Phillips are in the grip of la grippe very seriously.

Mr. and Mrs. F. Lockley, of Salem, were visiting friends and relatives here during the fore part of last week.

Mrs. J. W. McGrew and daughters Jessie and Florence, and Archie McCarty spent Sunday in our city with relatives.

Our stage driver is having a few days off duty on account of la grippe. He would prefer to grip the lines instead of being handled by the grippe.

John W. Richardson, of Independence, is building an addition to Sam Phillips' house, thus adding an improvement to the appearance very much.

Mr. Harrison and family will move in a few days on Charlie Phillips' place, and some relatives of Mr. Hunt, recently from the East, will move into the house now occupied by Mr. Harrison.

The tramp peddlers of the Italian species are a nuisance throughout the country. Our county courts ought to tax them so high that it would prohibit them altogether.

FROM ROCK CREEK. This section expects to have a bonanza mining boom soon.

Don A. Smith will take the post-office at this place. He will make a popular official.

H. W. White spent a few days in Salem last week and comes back feeling better than ever about the mining interests.

There is an occasional emigrant coming in, and a few miners, but no Chinamen. The latter are not invited, and will not receive a very pleasant reception if they do come. We have no use for them.

Specimen Cases. S. H. Clifford, New Cassel, Wis., troubled with Neuralgia and Rheumatism Stomach disordered, Liver affected, appetite fell away, and his leg is reduced in strength. Three bottles Electric Bitters cured him. Edward Shepherd, Harrisburg, Ill., had a running sore on his leg. Used three bottles of Electric Bitters and Bucklen's Arnica Salve, and his leg is sound and well. John Speaker, Catawba, O., had Fever sore on his leg. Doctors said incurable. Electric Bitters and Arnica Salve cured him. Sold by Fry, the druggist.

Spring Medicine. Dr. Gunn's Improved Liver Pills on account of their mild action are especially adapted for correcting spring disorders, such as impure blood, tired brain and aching and worn-out body. They act promptly on the Liver and Kidneys, drive out impurities from the blood, and purify the system. Only one pill for a dose. Try them this spring. Sold at 25 cents a box by Smith & Hunter.

TELEGRAPHIC DISPATCHES.

Associated Press Report and Digests of all Important News of To-Day.

MISCELLANY.

EXTENSIVE STRIKE. HUNTINGTON, Pa., March 31.—Extensive preparations have been made by the employes of the Central Pennsylvania coal mines for a general strike on May 1. Their grievances, they say, are beyond further endurance, and only a sweeping shut-down will avail them anything. The scale provided at the Columbia convention for 50 cents per ton of 2000 pounds, has been ignored by all the operators, who demand of the men 2240 pounds per ton. The miners will make a demand for the eight-hour day, and the absolute freedom from the system of purchasing the necessities of life from their employers. The present action of the miners is largely due to the general resumption of the "pluck me" stores, and the method of keeping the men continually in debt to the operators. At yesterday's conference between Broad Top, Gallitzin and Clearfield region miners, representing over 12,000 men, a general strike on May 1st was agreed upon.

BLUR AND GRAY. BALTIMORE, March 31.—Arrangements have been completed here to give the old Sixth Massachusetts regiment a hearty welcome on their visit to Baltimore on April 19, the thirtieth anniversary of that memorable day, when they were attacked by a mob in passing through this city. The old Sixth is now known as the Worcester light infantry, though it retains a number of veterans in its ranks. The Massachusetts boys propose to leave Boston and take the same route over which they came in 1861, to Washington and Mount Vernon. They will march up Pratt street, over the same route taken in that bloody march of thirty years ago.

INCENDIARY WORK. CINCINNATI, Mar. 31.—An attempt to burn the Columbus orphan asylum at Avondale and its thirty-five inmates very nearly succeeded Sunday night before 8 o'clock. When the children were undressing for bed, a strong odor of smoke and oil was detected, and one of the girls noticed smoke curling from a crack near the window on the north side. The matron quickly got the children in line and marched them out. The smoke grew denser, and the fire department of the village was called upon. The flames, which were between the wall and the plastering, were finally extinguished, after doing several hundred dollars' damage. An investigation revealed startling facts. The structure is of frame, resting on stone pillars and leaving a space between the ground and the floor. In this space was found the charred remains of a large pile of kindling, over which kerosene had been poured. There is no clue to the person who started the fire, but the colored people say the asylum has long been an eyecore to the whites, some of whom would not scruple at any means to secure its removal. The white boys in the neighborhood are also a source of annoyance to the institution. The probable theory is that the fire was due to the plotting of these youths. During the excitement, Matron Dunlap and a 2-year-old child were overcome by smoke and were restored to consciousness with great difficulty. The colored people are greatly excited over the outrage.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE. ST. LOUIS, March 30.—Mrs. A. W. Gifford, wife of the president of the Tannaplus Land, Mining and Manufacturing Company is reported to have gone insane on Christian Science. The family lived in a brown-stone front on Olive street, and consisted of Mr. Gifford, his niece and wife. The lady was an invalid, and her husband says he has spent \$25,000 in vain efforts to cure her. About two years ago she said she had a vision, in accordance with which she went to a Christian science healer and was cured. She obeyed the warning and got well. This made a convert of her, and she began studying. She soon became a healer herself, and her husband also espoused the faith. She developed the highest powers, and was considered the very light of the school here. She and her husband tried to make an advocate of their faith, but it is said they failed in this. Studies and practices then took a wider range. She went into hypnotism, spiritualism, and other occult mysteries. Recently the family disappeared, and her hundreds of followers and friends have been wondering what had become of her. To-day it developed that her reason had become dethroned. Many stories are told of her vagaries. On one occasion she took a live pet parrot and put it in a furnace, and watched it die, as an offering to the powers that controlled her. Then her malady took a peculiar turn, and