Pastor Russell's Sermon

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Pastor Russell's Words of Wisdbm In College City.

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The Value of Learning-Its Cost-Various Kinds of Knowledge-The Most Important One-The Best Teacher. The Most Successful Pupils-Gradvustion Day.



Ithaca, N. Y. March 16.-Pastor Russell is here, and in view of this being the seat of Cornell Univertext the words of Wisdom from Above the noblest science, the best instruction." It must be said, how-

ever, that the Pastor used various Scriptures, any one of which might have served for a text. Once the colleges of the world represented, not merely secular education.

but the faith, the hope, the religious sentiment of their founders, who were generally religious people. A great change has taken place. Today colleges are ashamed to acknowledge any religious affiliations; and although they stand for moral principles of a high order and represent a form of godliness, nevertheless they are hot-beds of infidelity-disbelief in the Bible as the Divinely-inspired Revelation.

This condition of things, the Pastor declared, is deplorable. In his opinion the great institutions of learning throughout the world, so well equip ped for the inculcation of faith in God. are, as a matter of fact, doing more to overthrow faith than are all other influences combined. He declared it not strange under such circumstances that the cry of "graft" is going up in every civilized land.

The increase of knowledge, of late spread abroad among the masses of mankind, the Pastor believed to be accountable for the increase of vice, which is so great that if it were not for our inventions and police arrange ments, this would be the most insecure time in the world's history. He explained that the undermining of faith in the Bible as the Word of God, and the inculcation of the Evolution theory tend to destroy faith in a personal God, and in rewards and punishments from Him upon the just and upon the unjust. One of the most peculiar things to him was that the very wealthy men of the world have richly endowed its leading colleges, thereby destroying faith and unintentionally leading mankind to social revolution, and more, to the precipice of anarchy.

Sympathy For Higher Critics. Nothing in the Pastor's words indi-

cated condemnation; but on the contrary, he manifested a deep sympathy for those who are entangled in the snare of Occultism and Evolution. He had once been entangled himself, be said. He had gotten free in time, thank God! Had his experience gone so far as to lead him to doubt the ex-Istence of the Supreme Creator, he believed that he would have been as irrevocably lost in Evolution as are many of the noble specimens of our race who are in college chairs.

The Pastor knew well that the primary difficulty is that they cannot believe the Bible to be the inspired Record. So also he had once rejected it, because he thought it to be in harmony with the creeds of the Dark Ages. whose absurdities are more and more apparent to all intelligent, thinking people. Now, the Pastor pronounced himself a most firm believer in the inspiration of the Bible. He had a reason for the faith within him, which he also explained. He said:

One of the surprising things my Bible study revealed was that the Bible supports the teachings of none of the sects, none of the creeds; and that none of the creeds and sects care for or use all of the Bible. Each has made selections of doctrines from the Word of Ged. Each uses these in its own defense, and each finds in the Bible other teachings supported by other texts, which do not fit in with its own creed. Evidently none of the different sects manufactured the Bible. Had Rome is quite right in his declaration the Calvinists made it up, they would have left out all the texts which teach Divine Free Grace. Had the Armintans-the Methodists, etc.-made up the Bible, they would have put in more Free Grace texts and would have left

out those which mention Election. Had the Catholics made the Bible, they would have added something to teach the immaculate conception of the Virgin Mary, and to prove that she should now be prayed to and worshiped. They would have put in something about indulgencies, high mass, low mass, holy water, holy candles, etc. They would have had it mention St. Peter as the first Pope. They would have had it support their theory of ops are holy apostles, as well as the original Twelve. They would have religion, justice, mercy, equity, reversing the King. (Psaim 45:14.) Let us put in, as would most Protestants, a chock the better part, that in the ex-

trine of the Trinity.

awakening is to come in the resurrec-tion morning. Indeed, they would have omitted everything respecting the resurrection; for it is one of the most difficult matters to explain-how there an be a resurrection of the dead, when they teach that nobody is dead and that those who seem to die really become more alive than when they were living. Evidently the old Book, which now I prize so highly, was not made by man. The intellectuals already are discarding it, and the religious, finding that they cannot defend their creeds from its pages, are at last discredit-

My hope and prayer and effort are on behalf of the thinking Christian seople of today. I would have them ee that this wonderful Book, while out of accord with the creeds of Chrisendom, and the world, is fully in harnony with itself. I would have them ee that the great Plan of salvation which the Bible sets forth towers far above all the efforts of puny men, as represented in the creeds of Christendont. I would have them see the glorious fulness of the Bible Message; that its length and breadth and height and depth could not have come from any other quarter than from Above. text the words of I would have them see that this "Wis-the philosopher: dom from Above is the noblest science and the best instruction."

Great men of the past have perceived that the Bible has been identified with the best there has ever been of iuman progress. Many have been their expressions respecting it as the Torch of Liberty and Civilization, But these dear men did not see the real beauty of the Bible, because they did ot understand its real Message, for God's due time for the full understandng of that Message is only now here. And now Bible students have advanages in Bible study such as never before were possessed. And now, in God's time, His Word is shining as a ight upon the pathway, with a brillancy that is grand.

Learning's True Value and Cost. Learning, along all the various lines d present day instruction, is surely aluable. Chemistry has done and is doing much for the world; so are electricity and other applied sciences. ts midst one of these institutions of I remind you, however, that the truths of science which apply to ur every-day life, while very important to our human progress, are not done sufficient for us.

In other words, in God's order, all nental cravings, appetites and powers which none of the applied sciences nowever useful, will satisfy. The human mind must reason, must reflect, must have a theory respecting whence we come and whither we go, and the object of our present existence. These questions, formerly the more prominent ones, have been cast into the shade in recent times,

I understand that in many classes along these lines is referred to Plato and Socrates, and their immature deductions. No one, seemingly, thinks of attempting to progress in mental philosophy beyond these giants of the past. And yet the Evolution theory tells us that living nearly three thousand years ago, those men must have been much nearer to the monkey state those men had none of the Wisdom

The Pastor sought to impress the propriety of beginning Bible study Ages and permitting the old Book to explain itself—one passage throwing light upon another. He pointed out, however, that the Bible specifically declares that none except the consecrated, the saintly, can have the Holy Spirit; and that not without it can the Bible be fully and clearly understood. His exhortation implied, therefore, he said, that all who desire to have the Wisdom and instruction from Above should first of all recognize a supreme personal Creator, a God of Justice, Wisdom, Love and Power. To Him they should consecrate their hearts, their lives. Then they should take up the study of His Word, desirous of knowing His will that they might do

it in every particular. Graduation Day Is Upon Us. Graduation day is here. The examinations are on. The intellectual are being called upon to answer, What shall it profit a man if he gain all material knowledge and miss the Wisdom that cometh from Above? Unless the Pastor is greatly mistaken, the next few years will show that much of the learning that has been given has not only not been belpful, but really has been injurious. The Pope of that the education which ignores a God and the Divine Purpose in Revelation cannot bring blessing.

If the next few years shall show an increase in the spirit of discontent in the same ratio as the last ten years behind us, it will be a most unhappy world. And that unhappiness will be traceable largely to our colleges. They have exalted material knowledge and applied sciences until the world is hungry for their application, and restess, expecting social, political and financial miracles, and chafing if these

be not quickly produced. The Pastor believed that the difficulty has been that the most impor-tant element of buman nature has Apostolic Succession—that all the bish- been left untaught—the highest organs are pictured as servants, the maidens of the human brain, appertaining to who follow the Bride into the presence number of texts telling about the docproperly cultured along these lines? Both Catholics and Protestants would And if not so trained surely they are good and faithful servants; enter into Both Catholics and Protestants would And it not so that the joys of your Lord."

the dead are asleep, and that their the education of the heart and the religious proclivities of the human mind has been seriously neglected. Would that I could impulse here in this col-lege city a revival of Bible study, of reverence for God and boly things, but

"All Taught of God."

Speaking of the blessings of the Meslanic period-the thousand years of 'hrist's reign-the Scriptures declare that the people shall all be taught of God. Messiah and the Church in glory will be the teachers of the world of nankind. In the Scriptures this double function of the Church is set forth in the promise that the Church shall be kings and priests of God and Christ and shall reign with Him a thousand years.—Revelation 20:6.

A Kingdom they shall have, with full authority to rule the world, for he good and uplifting of the subjects -mankind. As priests they will not nerely be dignituries and commanders. out sympathetic instructors of the peo-The double office finds its fulllment in Jesus, the Head of the Church, and proportionately in all the nembers of His Body. The whole is escribed as the Melchizedek Priestood. Melchizedek was a priest upon his throne-a reigning priest, a type of

dessinh, the antitypical Priesthood. The success of that institution is abundantly affirmed by the Bible. The knowledge of God shall fill the whole earth, until none will need to say to his neighbor, Know thou the Lord; for all shall know Me from the least of them to the greatest, saith the Lord. Isaiah 11:9; Jeremiah 31:34.) With hat knowledge will come the responsioility-their trial for life everlasting or leath everlasting; for eternal Para lise or eternal destruction. Menutim they will no longer walk by faith, but by sight; for the things promised will then have come. Then mankind shall ee out of the obscurity, and realize the ruthfulness of God's promises, when in process of accomplishment.

Some Taught of God Now,

The Bible tells us that some ar aught of God in advance of the world a special class, under private tuition as it were. These are called a Little ongratulate your city upon having in Flock. We are distinctly told that they are constituted chiefly of the poor-not many great, not many wise, not many rich, not many learned are ouplis in this class, receiving this spedal instruction. In order to enter this class for special, advanced instruction in the Wisdom from Above, two parhumanity are so created as to have ticular matters are requisite: (1) The pupils must be introduced, recommended, and all their course guaranteed by One who stands as their Advocate-Jesus. (2) They must make a complete surrender of themselves to God, promising that as they learn the Wisdom from Above they will use it in harmony with the Divine will.

This class, beginning with the Apostles, has been in process of development for nearly nineteen centuries and uch philosophizing is tabooed. At is almost completed, we believe. Whovery most, the searcher for knowledge | ever would still join this class should make haste to be enrolled-to have his name written in the Lamb's Book of Life.-Revelation 3:5; 21:27.

This might be termed a special normal School; for the graduates of this School are to be the instructors of the world of mankind in the next Age-the Royal Priesthood. But in addition to the privilege they will have in giving than we are today. Besides all this, the world "The Wisdom from Above, the noblest science and best instructhey will re for that work by change of nature Tlesh and blood cunnot inherit the Kingdom of God"; hence these must afresh, ignoring the creeds of the Dark all be changed by the power of the First Resurrection. Their change is represented by the Apostle when he mys, speaking of the First Resurrection class, "It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power; it is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body."-1 Corinthians 15:43, 44.

Our High Calling.

The great honor to be conferred upon the Church—namely, joint-heirship with the Redeemer in His Kingdom and glory-is the Bible's explanation of the Church's special trials. To test our loyalty, our love, our zeal for God and for righteousness, the way to glory now is permitted to be a narrow one. The lessons which the Church must earn are to be learned under circumstances of greater difficulty than the world will experience in its trial. The world will be required to prove obedience merely by abstaining from everything that is wrong, sinful, contrary to God's will. The Church is required to to all that and more-to sacrifice earthy interests-everything-in the service of God and His cause.

This is the same lesson Jesus, the Master Himself, learned. As we read, Yet learned He obedience by the things which He suffered; and being nade perfect He became the Author of eternal salvation to all those who obey Him"-to all followers in His footsteps, whom He graciously assists by he way and encourages with His promises and providences.-Hebrews

:10: 5:8, 9, The Bible shows us that at the end of this Age some of the Church will ass beyond the vell to glory, honor ind Immortality-in the first ranknore than mere conquerors. These are tyled the Bride, Messinh's joint-heirs. There will be another and larger class of overcomers, faithful and loyal, but not zealous to the same degree. They will indeed reach the spirit plane, but will not be of the Bride class. They amination tests we may have first honors, and hear the Master's "Well done,

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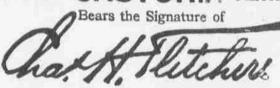
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