

The Covenanter Witness



A JOURNAL DEVOTED TO EXALTING CHRIST, THE SAVIOUR KING

Published Weekly by the Reformed Presbyterian Church

Editorial Office: 922 Clay Street, Topeka, Kansas

VOLUME XII

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18, 1934

NUMBER 16

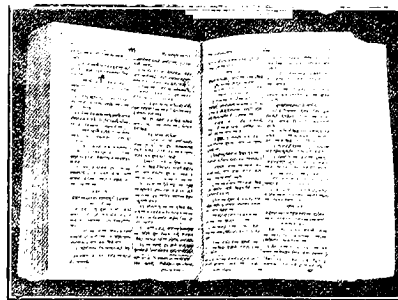
A Thought for Each Day

Sabbath, April 29. Thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children. Deuteronomy 6:7.

It was the duty of parents to teach "the commandments, the statutes, and the judgments" to their children. Sometimes it seems as though Christian people have lost something of this ideal, and especially Christian fathers. There is a great tendency to trust the religious teaching of our children to others than ourselves. For the work of all such we cannot be too thankful, but we ought to remember that the first responsibility for the diligent teaching of the children belongs to those to whom they are entrusted as the most sacred and blessed gift of God.—G. Campbell Morgan.

Monday, April 30. What I do thou knowest not now, but thou shalt know hereafter. John 13:7.

Let believers learn to suspend their desires if God does not stretch out his hand to help as soon as they think necessity requires! Whatever may be his delays, he never sleeps, and never forgets his people.—John Calvin.



A "WOMAN'S" BIBLE

The "Marathi" Bible, translated, printed, and bound by women

See Page 249

EDITORIAL

BACK TO CANOSSA

CONFUCIANISM AND CHRISTIANITY

By Rev. J. K. Robb, D. D.

CHANGING EDUCATIONAL EMPHASIS

By Dean H. L. Smith

MONEY IN THE ROOSEVELT PROGRAM

By Rev. J. M. Coleman, D. D.

MONEY IN THE ROOSEVELT PROGRAM

By Rev. J. M. Coleman, D. D.

The word money is said to come from Moneta, which was the surname for the queen of heaven and the word moneta came from moneo, which is the Latin word for warning. From these facts we might conclude that when Rome ruled the world, money ruled Rome and yet was Rome's peril. So when President Roosevelt put the money issue as the spearhead of his attack on the depression he was quite in line with history.

When Business Is Sick

Whenever business becomes sick, various money remedies are proposed to aid in recovery. In the last century when Bryan began his pursuit of the elusive presidency, it was my lot to be listening in Chicago University to Professor J. Laurence Laughlin, the chief apostle of the gold standard, which he preferred to call "sound money." Day by day the Professor tried to get it into the hard heads before him that the value of a dollar was not settled by the number of dollars in circulation, but by its intrinsic value. Or, to state the case more concretely, the value of the gold dollar, or any dollar, was determined by its cost of production, its labor cost. Therefore multiplying the number of dollars by coining silver, said our oracle, would not result in raising prices and getting business out of the depression that plagued the land.

That Magnetic Leader

But W. J. Bryan, who had become the magnetic leader of the Democrats through his "cross of gold" speech, thought otherwise. He said that the depression could be lifted by higher prices, just as President Roosevelt claims now. Prices were low because the gold dollar was high. By the coining of silver dollars the volume of currency would be increased, each dollar would be worth less, and it would take more of them to buy the farmers' wheat and cotton and corn. Then prices would rise, business would catch the breath of its life, and the depression would be ended. So while the dignified Laughlin was telling us about the labor cost theory of money, Bryan was storming across the prairies of the West winning folks for the quantity theory of money and those who did not understand the theory—and they were legion—were stampeded by the man they trusted.

The final judgment on the two theories came in the fateful November. You know the result. McKinley and the labor cost theory of money were elected and the country saved—or lost—according to your point of view.

What Did Sixteen to One Mean?

Bryce, the friend of America, in writing on this election, commended the intelligence of the American voters, who could be educated on the money question in a single campaign. But, bless his

heart, we did not understand it. Bryan had urged that silver should be freely coined at the ratio of sixteen grains of silver in the silver dollar to one grain in the gold dollar, which would mean sixteen times as many grains of silver in the silver dollar as there were grains of gold in the gold dollar. But to a lot of voters it did not mean that at all. Mark Hanna, the financier of McKinley, had been more successful in gathering a campaign fund and more generous in spending it than had ever been known in any political campaign in America, so that some voters thought it meant sixteen dollars for one vote, while those of the opposite faith held that it meant sixteen dollars for each one they had.

A Changed Situation

But when Bryan with his silver theory and his winning personality tried again for the presidency in 1900 the situation had changed. Alaskan gold had come into circulation, prices had risen according to Bryan's prediction in his quantity theory and therefore silver was not needed to reach the result. So the proving of Bryan's argument aided in defeating him again.

Now Franklin Roosevelt

Now comes Franklin Roosevelt trying to end another depression by making money cheaper. What he is trying to do is plain enough to him that reads as well as runs, but to understand the manner of doing it is puzzling even the wise men of the University classrooms. What he is aiming at is to make the dollar have about the same purchasing power that it had in 1926. That necessarily means a cheaper dollar. And cheaper dollars mean higher prices. That would mean more dollars for wheat and cotton and corn. That would mean that the same number of bushels of wheat, or pounds of cotton would pay the debts contracted in 1926 as when they were made. It also means that, as he thinks, the value of the dollar can be so manipulated as to end the disastrous rise and fall of prices, now to the loss of the creditor, more often to the loss of the debtor. It stands to reason that if the measure of values can be made elastic, made to expand and contract according to the needs of the time, prices may be made fairly uniform and crises prevented.

Why Not the Commodity Dollar?

Why did not President Roosevelt adopt the commodity dollar, which would have served his purpose? For if the value of the dollar was determined, not by so many grains of the single commodity, gold, but by the index figure of a hundred staple commodities on January 1, or July 1, 1926, then you restore the 1926 level of prices and also relieve the unjust burden now resting on the debtors

of the country by enabling him to pay his debts with the same amount of commodities that he borrowed. Also five minutes would explain it to the ordinary audience.

The commodity standard of value is what President Roosevelt is trying to reach. Why not go at it directly? At present he is proposing to reach his end by buying gold at high prices and so reduce the value in a dollar. Will it work? Not many pretend to know. And here comes in—apparently—politics, in which intricate game our President has few superiors. If he threw away entirely the gold standard of value, replacing it by a common standard, it might unite against him and his program all the reactionary Pilates and Herods of the business world. But against the present method it is not easy to unite because the thing is so intangible. It is not easy to organize a campaign against a spook. So there is little open opposition to the money program. At least that is my guess about the President's reason for getting at his end in a roundabout and doubtful way. It is scarcely necessary to add that whatever money system we may have, the international balances will be settled in gold until the money standard of the other nations is changed.

As Things Are Today

At the present time the dollar is said to be worth about fifty-nine cents. By the rules of the game domestic prices should have risen about forty per cent. If this is the case, the money plan of the N. R. A. is working out the President's program. But if prices have not risen more than the general rise of world prices, it is not working.

In the meantime we may possess our souls in patience with the assurance from the President that if this plan does not work he will try something else. There is one thing harder than getting money and that is to understand it.

Friday, May 4. If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him! Luke 11:13.

This momentous question swings on two hinges. First, "Give," not sell, the Holy Spirit, for who could earn such wages? Nor is it lend the Holy Spirit. Second, "Ask." All can ask; none could deserve. In asking do not look for an answer in your feelings!—W. N. Hirst.

And when sometimes I feel unspeakably
The need of you who answered every call,
I chide me then that I should selfish be
And smile, through tears to think that
after all

How well it is with thee.

—Margaret Tackett Forsee.