

Evangelist.

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The Evangelist.

IN ESSENTIALS UNITY IN NON-ESSENTIALS LIBERTY IN ALL THINGS CHARITY

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WHOLE No. 3598

All Round the Horizon.

The Fifty-fifth Congress adjourned on Saturday after a stormy session in the Senate, in which a strong filibustering attempt was made to prevent the passage of the River and Harbor bill unless a measure for establishing an irrigation system in the arid districts of the West should be added to it. In the end, a slight concession was made and the bill was passed. In the House all was quiet, the Sundry Civil Appropriation bill passed with mutual concessions between the Houses, the Senate yielding its desire for government control of the Pacific cable, and the House consenting to the ill-advised rule fixing at not more than \$300 a ton the price to be paid for armor for battle ships other than those already in hand. A very unusual demonstration in honor of Speaker Reed closed the proceedings.

Governor Roosevelt is probably not surprised to discover that he is likely to be wounded in the house of his friends. He knows too well the stuff of which machine politicians are made to expect that the entire body of Republican legislators will fall in with a policy of unselfish effort to promote the public good. Apparently a sufficient number will go over to the enemy to prevent the passage of four of the most important measures of the season, namely, the Civil Service Reform bill, the Primary Reform amendments, the New York Police and Rapid Transit bills. As to the Police bill, Governor Roosevelt has made it clear that he will sign none which contemplates more than one Police Commissioner and which does not put the appointment of that one in the hands, not of the Governor, but of the Mayor. In consequence of which all enthusiasm for this bill appears to have died out.

It is, however, cheerily manifest that Governor Roosevelt is not the only State official who proposes to go right onward in the path of duty; notably is this true of the State Engineer, the Superintendent of Public Works, the State Architect and the Superintendent of Public Buildings. Thorough investigation having been made, a complete system of economic reform has been established with regard to the canals and the Capitol building. A large number of employes have been discharged, to the saving of many thousands of dollars. Canal contracts are being revised and many claims for damages reduced by nearly two-thirds. Great care is being exercised in the matter of new State buildings and the improvement and maintenance of old ones. All of which promises an important effect upon the State tax rate.

Most important as a measure of true economy is the notification which Governor Roosevelt lately gave that it will henceforth be useless to pass useless laws; he will veto them every one. Few tax payers realize how much special legislation goes on every year in matters for which existing laws make ample provision. For example, the Governor's announcement was made

in connection with his veto of a bill for the relief of a certain individual whose case properly comes under the Commissioners of the Land Office. In many cases legislation is sought simply because it is cheaper to the person interested to secure a legislative act than to institute proceedings under the general law. But the expense to the community is evidently much greater.

The movement to prevent an important thoroughfare of this city from becoming a death trap to little children, the aged, the infirm and the preoccupied is making a strong appeal to the public spirit of the community. Some months ago Dr. Peters of St. Michael's Episcopal Church and Dr. John Balcom Shaw of the West End Presbyterian Church, both situated on Amsterdam Avenue, called the attention of the public to the fact that a second trolley line was being laid on that avenue, on which are many churches and schools, which runs through an important residence district, and which is not exceptionally wide. Thousands of children cross the avenue every week going to school and church, and the danger from the rapid running trolley cars must be very great. The company in question having paid no heed to the remonstrances of property holders, a carefully planned attempt was made to arouse public opinion. The pastor of every church not only on Amsterdam Avenue but in adjacent streets and avenues was invited to use his influence, and in consequence nearly all of them made mention of the matter at last Sunday's service, some of them with much earnestness, calling attention to the public danger and inviting their congregations to a mass meeting to be held this week, and asking persons of influence to go to Albany to-day for a hearing on the subject. Whether or not the result is favorable, the public spirit of these ministers is an admirable example to all citizens.

There has been no one to find fault with the promotion of George Dewey to the full rank of Admiral and Brigadier-General Otis to the brevet rank of Major-General in the Regular Army. The nominations were made by the President on Friday and immediately confirmed by the Senate. The service which these two officers have rendered in the Philippines is beyond praise. True, the islands are not yet at peace; the insurgents are still resisting our forces in Luzon; but conditions in other parts of the archipelago are improving. Though Aguinaldo keeps up a stubborn resistance he has in reality gained nothing. A special despatch from General Otis on Friday declares that the insurgents do not hold nor have they taken a prisoner of war. Unfortunately they do kill and wound our soldiers; eight were wounded on Monday last when our troops made an advance upon San Tola and Mariquina, and were resisted by the largest body of natives they have yet encountered. The natives were, however, dislodged from their position and compelled to retreat.

Arrangements have now been completed at Washington for the permanent garrison of the Philippine Islands and Hawaii by regular troops. The major part of the force is to be sent by way of San Francisco and the Pacific. This will effect a very large saving of time. The journey to Manila by way of Suez consumes sixty days; by the Pacific not more than forty. The saving of expense is not so considerable, though from points west of the Mississippi it is something important.

The Cuban Assembly is in difficulties in the matter of paying its soldiers. So far as reports of the proceedings of secret sessions can be depended upon, the decision has been reached to accept the \$3,000,000 proffered by our Government and endeavor to borrow \$12,000,000 more. The difficulty is to find any one to lend. No bankers can be found who will make a loan unless it shall be guaranteed by the United States. As to the money proffered by our Government, General Brooke is seeing to it that it shall be properly expended. He requires a correct list of the men who claim payment; he stipulates that they shall have been real soldiers, and he insists that the form of payment shall be of a satisfactory nature. General Gomez, who on Monday was appointed Civil Governor of the province of Santa Clara, appears to have some difficulty in meeting these requirements.

The expected downfall of the Sagasta ministry occurred on Tuesday of last week. For a time it was hoped that the Queen Regent could prevail on the Liberal leader to form a new cabinet, but this having proved impossible, and Senor Rios, President of the Senate, having also declined, the Conservative leader, Senor Silvela, accepted the task and on Saturday the new ministry was sworn in, without any of that popular excitement which was anticipated with dread. The Cortes is to be dissolved and a new election will take place in April.

Don Francesco Silvela, though a Conservative, was not in sympathy with the late Canovas government, especially on the subject of the administration of Cuban affairs. He was the leader of a small but strong group called the Dissident Conservatives, but on the death of Canovas he became leader of the Conservative party. Senor Silvela proposes to address himself particularly to the amelioration of the financial situation, to developing the industrial resources of the kingdom, and to electoral reform. The reorganization of the army and navy will also claim attention, although there is no purpose of taking part in foreign politics.

The hearing of the Dreyfus case before the entire Court of Cassation began on Friday last, in conformity with the new Trial Revision law which removes it from the criminal section of the Court. M. Beaurepaire has resigned his seat on the bench because of his opposition to revision, and has been succeeded by M. Beaupré.

The case of Colonel Piquart has been transferred to the civil authorities. The Court of Cassation consists of forty-nine judges, including the Presidents of its three sections and the President of the entire tribunal. These men are, in the main, jurists of the highest reputation, and however different French jurisprudence may be from that of Anglo-Saxon countries, it is not to be for a moment believed that, now that they are free to judge in accordance with the evidence, their judgment will be anything but righteous.

It is cheering to hear on all sides reports of the raising of wages in the great manufactories, and particularly so because in nearly if not quite every instance the increased wage was proffered by the employers, with no pressure from the employed. In cotton mills at Lowell and Fall River and Providence, in woolen mills at various points, in the iron mills of West Virginia and the coal mines of the South, a new prosperity has begun. The lot of miners is so particularly hard, and their wages have been so pitifully, even dangerously low, that it is particularly cheering to hear that a brighter day is dawning for this class. It is said that more than a hundred thousand hands were affected by the advance made in a single day of last week. For years past churches and benevolent institutions have been struggling against hard times and abnormal poverty. Now let all the tithes be brought in, that God's granaries may be full!

After the heavy snow storms of February the bright suns alternated with brisk rains have produced freshets on the Ohio and its tributaries. The danger point, however, has not been reached at this writing.

A ROMANCE OF THE SEA ENDED.

The Pitcairn Island romance is ended. It began in 1790—one hundred and nine years ago, when nine British sailors, mutineers of the ship *Bounty*, landed on that dot of rock in the wide ocean, together with six men and twelve women, native Tahitians. These twenty-seven souls began well, considering their antecedents. Their leader, Captain Adams, had saved a Bible from the ship they destroyed, and in the great leisure and silence of that solitary island, he began to read it, and later to order his life after its precepts. And he so influenced the lives of his companions in crime that when after many years a ship happened upon this island they were found to be, not a band of criminals waxing from bad to worse, but a little company of Christians, after the patriarchal pattern, and desiring to be reckoned as British subjects. And this has been the general tenor of all that has been learned of them from time to time, as ships passed that way or specially visited them—as on one occasion when the Queen sent an organ and prayer-books for their church. They started out well and so continued for full fifty years or more. But now the word comes that little by little they have been overcome by the degenerating influence of a too easy life and the close intermarriages incident to their small number and confined territory.

We recall that it is but two or three years since the first murder was committed there in all their history. The young man who killed his intended bride was in due time tried on board a British war vessel which had come for that purpose, and being found guilty was hung at its yardarm. This incident, so in contrast with all that had ever been written of Pitcairn, led, it would seem, to further investigations, and Mr. Hamilton Hunter, a special Commissioner sent from Australia, reports that the present generation of Pitcairners are "lax in morals, weak in intellect, lazy and rapidly degenerating." In other words—the romance of a hundred years has passed.

IS IT DARK?

Rev. Theodore L. Cuyler.

Some very good people may answer this question by saying—Yes, it is a dark hour with me, and I would be thankful to get some light. This is not strange; those who love God and whom God loves are not always prosperous; he never promises constant sunshine to any of his children. A very righteous man in olden times said, "He hath set me in dark places." Hard as it is to believe, yet it is a revealed truth, that whom God loves he chastens, and oftentimes it is probable that he does it because he loves them. Chemists do not throw sand or gravel into their crucibles; it is only the ores which contain gold or silver which are subjected to the heated furnace. Hot fires often make very bright Christians.

Some of my readers may be passing through very dark hours of pecuniary adversity. Their business has suffered badly, or their incomes have dwindled almost to the vanishing point. Gloomy times these may be to you, but I hope that they are not too dark for you to keep the straight road of integrity, or for you to read your Heavenly Father's precious promises. For your comfort, let me assure you that while I have known hundreds of Christians to be badly demoralized by prosperity, I have rarely known one to be spiritually damaged by adversity. Sharp blizzards are very apt to drive a true Christian under the safe covert of Christ Jesus. When his worldly assets run low, his heavenly assets appreciate. Christian courage shines splendidly in the dark; and a stout heart chants the brave old song, 'although the fig-tree shall not blossom, neither shall fruit be in the vines, yet I will rejoice in the Lord, and joy in the God of my salvation.' It is very uncomfortable to be poor; but grace is not graduated by income, and the man who has a clear conscience, and the Lord Jesus within him and the atmosphere of love all around him, and the glories of heaven before him, is one of the Lord's millionaires.

To those who are suffering sore bereavements it is a great comfort to know that the darkness and the light are both alike to our Heavenly Father. In that piquant and powerful story called "A Window in Thrums," the good Scotch mother, after her boy had been taken away, said, "Aye, but that day he was confined, I found it hard to say 'Thou, God, seest me.' It's the text I like best noo though, and when Hendry and Leebie is at the kirk I turn it up often, often in the Bible. I read frae the beginnin' o' the chapter, but when I come to 'thou, God, seest me' I stop. It's no'at there's ony rebellion to the Lord in my heart noo, for I ken he was lookin' down when the cart ran ower Joey, and he wanted to take my laddie to himsel'. But just when I come to 'thou, God, seest me' I let the Book lie in my lap; for aince a body's sure o' that they're sure o' all." And we may be equally sure that the all-seeing God makes no mistakes. He sees just where to give and where to take away.

Not only sore losses and bereavements bring the Lord's people into dark places; they are often involved in deep perplexities as to the course they ought to pursue. When we have light it is easy enough to walk in the light; no one need go astray at high noon. Then we can walk by sight. Faith is trusting God to lead us in the dark. Prayer is often the cry of the soul in the darkness to an unseen Saviour; and lo! he appears to us in the fourth watch of the night, walking as over the billows, and speaking to us the assuring words, "It is I; be of good cheer; be not afraid." Wonderful guidances and providential openings often come to us in these seasons of perplexity. "He that walketh in darkness and can see no light, let him trust in the name of the Lord and stay upon his God." This is something very different

from an occasional touch of the Almighty hand. It means to lean on the everlasting arm with the perfect assurance that the arm will never fail us, or ever mislead us.

To all my readers who are learning hard lessons, or enduring severe chastenings or working out difficult problems in God's school, I would say, gird up your loins, and keep the strong staff of faith well in hand. Trust your Guide in the dark. You are safer with him in the midnight than without him in the noonday. He will not suffer thy foot to stumble. Why you have been brought into such dark hours, you know not now; but you will know hereafter. Part of the delightful discoveries in heaven will be to find out what was strangely mysterious to us on earth. Push on cheerfully, and imitate that pilgrim in Bunyan's allegory whose song in the darkness revealed him to the other pilgrim who was journeying near him. If sorrow camp with us over night, joy cometh in the morning. It is not a very long way to heaven after all, and the hard pulls, sharp conflicts and dark hours on the road will make heaven all the brighter.

"Meek souls there are who little dream
Their daily strife an angel's theme,
Or that the rod they take so calm
Shall prove in heaven a martyr's palm."

UNION AND BROTHERHOOD AT LAST.

For years the Presbytery of New York has been rent by strife and turmoil. The trouble began with the Revision Movement. Before that had been settled the heresy trial began, and the difficulties in the Presbytery were intensified. A bitter and unchristian feeling existed and constantly manifested itself between the two factions. The meetings of Presbytery, instead of being helpful and uplifting spiritually, were times of bitterness and anger. Scenes sometimes took place upon the floor which were not only unchristian but disgraceful.

Many of the best and most spiritually minded men, both among the ministers and elders, were strongly tempted to stay away from the meetings entirely. Many did often absent themselves.

But happily these things are now of the past. Beginning with the conference at Riverdale last fall a new spirit has come into the Presbytery. At that blessed meeting many of the ministers received a fresh baptism of the Holy Ghost. They came down from that mount of blessing with shining faces and hearts which had been cleansed and warmed by the indwelling Spirit. A marked change at once took place which was most apparent in the meetings of Presbytery. A spirit of reverence and devotion came in where bitterness and strife had been. The prayers were fervent. A kindly spirit of brotherhood was manifest. The spirit of Christ brought together in a bond of Christian love those who had long been separated.

Conferences were held. Confessions were made. Eyes were filled with tears, so deep was the feeling. The leading men of the Presbytery, Moderators of the General Assembly and prominent professors, asked each other's pardon; and the hymn "Blest be the tie that binds" was sung with a fervor and heartiness not heard in this Presbytery in years.

The old days have come back again—the days when the spiritual work of the Church in the city takes the first place in the minds and hearts of ministers and elders.

A series of union meetings, referred to in last week's Evangelist, are being held in different parts of the city. The first of these meetings was held on Friday night of last week in the Central Presbyterian Church, of which the Rev. Wilton Merle Smith, D.D. is pastor. The meeting was well attended. Thus were ministers and elders present from all parts of the city and professors from Union Seminary. The