

Democratic Watchman

Bellefonte, Pa., June 2, 1922.

Country Correspondence

Items of Interest Dished Up for the Delectation of "Watchman" Readers by a Corps of Gifted Correspondents.

THE PHILOSOPHY OF SIN.

By L. A. Miller.

A very good church member recently asked me for my views on the philosophy of sin. This is a rather perplexing proposition for a carpenter or a man outside the ministry to tackle. However, I will endeavor to comply and give my views as I understand the proposition. First, people are wicked because they have not been taught to appreciate the advantages of being good; because they lack moral sense; because they imagine they will find more pleasure in vice than in virtue; because they think wickedness pays best; because they cannot feel the happy emotions that others do; because they are not inclined to do anything they do not have to do; because they are born with devilish natures which are not changed by home influences; because they think it requires greater effort to be good than bad. These are a few of the reasons.

Sin is the voluntary departure of a moral agent from a known rule of rectitude or duty prescribed by God; any violation of a Divine command; a positive act in which a known divine law is violated; the voluntary neglect to obey a divine command or rule of duty implied in such command; neglect of duty; evil thoughts as well as actions.

The seven great sins are: Murder; covetousness; pride; envy; gluttony; idleness.

Theologians talk of original sin, actual sin, and many other varieties. These prefixes, however, only serve to confuse the mind.

It is the same sin and carries its consequences with it, disguise it as you will. The whole matter is very neatly summed up in these two quotations from the New Testament: "Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is a transgression of the law." "Therefore, to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin." There ought to be no difficulty in understanding language as plain as this; in fact, no one who has a grain of sense can misunderstand it. A good many claim that the scriptures must be taken in a spiritual sense, and one not born of the spirit cannot take them in that sense.

In order that the moral law might be easily remembered it was boiled down into ten short paragraphs. This epitome is known as the ten commandments. These are again boiled down into: "Whosoever ye would that men do unto you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets."

Then again, in order to present the whole duty of mankind in such a clear, yet concise light that even his enemies could not gainsay it, the Saviour summarizes the whole moral law thus:

"Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind."

"This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and prophets."

There it is in substance and detail, and so plain and so simple that a man, though a fool, need not make a mistake. It must be remembered that these are laws of nature, as well as of God, and that any infraction of them is punishable either in this life or the next, and that without fail. It is not because men do not know what is right, or how they ought to conduct themselves, but because they have not been taught the importance and necessity of doing right. Children are raised as religious as if they were to be made priests, yet they turn out as mean as skunks. Why? They didn't understand what it was all about. They couldn't see the use of prayers, the catechism was an unpleasant task and the Sabbath sermon an intolerable bore. The result was that they were disgusted with the whole business. The disgust of children is rarely overcome.

Double Acting Remedy.

A druggist had advertised an infallible protection against influenza. A nervous man entered the drug store and bought a bottle of the concoction. Two days later he returned, complaining that he had drunk it all and felt better.

"Drunk it all!" shouted the druggist. "My dear sir, that was a solution to rub on the soles of your shoes to keep the water out."

HAMBONE'S MEDITATIONS

YASSUH, ME EN DE BOSS
ALLUZ 'VIDES WID ONE
'NOTHER -- HE 'VIDES HE
GRUB WID ME EN AH
'VIDES MAH TROUBLES
WID HIM!



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PLEASANT GAP.

Even evil is made contributory good, in overcoming the world by the lesson it teaches.

Miss Emeline Noll, of Philadelphia, is spending a week with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Noll Jr.

Humanity will go farther to see a dog fight than to listen to an able and instructive discourse from the pulpit.

Thomas Jodon is again embarking in the cattle buying business. He brought in a fine bunch of blooded cows on Monday last.

A cripple is valuable as an illustration of what may happen you, either by carelessness or accident, and consequently anything given him is not thrown away.

Mrs. Edna Kirkwood, of Woodlawn, Beaver county, has arrived at the home of Jack Noll. She will remain here until after June 7th to witness the graduation of her daughter Jean.

Mrs. Blanche Fetterhoff, who since her husband's death has been making her home here with her sister, Mrs. Rachel Noll, left for Buffalo Run on Memorial day to remain a week with friends.

Miss Bilger, clerk in the county register's office, spent Memorial day with her grandmother, Mrs. Jonathan Bilger. The venerable old lady is nearing her ninety-second birthday and is exceedingly fond of company.

After all, things are controlled by the law of supply and demand, and the strifes of capital and labor are but the manifestation of its inexorable presence and rigid enforcement, which sooner or later both must succumb to.

Good times follow hard times and vice versa as night follows day; besides the Creator gives each generation a season of plenty and scarcity as a means of education. That is, the one is set against the other that we may be made prudent and appreciative.

Hats off to the officials of the Lutheran Cemetery association. For years back our cemetery presented a very ragged and disgraceful appearance on Memorial day. It reminded one of a rear lot on the mountainous region of Greensvalley. This year all neglected graves were ordered to be cleaned up in presentable shape the day before Memorial day, and the bills will be mailed to all slackers forthwith for neglecting their duties to show the proper respect for their dead.

If the stories that come from the seat of government at Washington be true—and they are not doubted—the old fashion of punch-drinking is coming into vogue again. They call it a new fashion, but can only be called new in the sense that it had been out of style long enough to become new to the present generation. However, that is the way most things become new.

"The thing that hath been, it is that which shall be; and that which is done, is that which shall be done; and there is no new thing under the sun." This is the conclusion that Solomon came to, and he was an uncommonly wise man, and had made diligent inquiry into all things.

Memorial day was duly observed at Pleasant Gap on Tuesday, the day sanctioned to the memory of the soldiers who fell in defense of the flag that represents the unity, peace and prosperity of the nation. The bright folds and glittering stars represented to the heroes the great principles of our government, freedom and independence. Whoever, no matter what his rank or station, offended or denied that flag, was to them a traitor and, as such, an enemy. A more fitting ceremony than strewing bright flowers on the heroes' graves can scarcely be conceived. It recalls the bright days of the past, betokens a kindly remembrance and a recognition of the purity of the cause for which they died. By keeping green and fragrant the memory of those who gathered around our flag, stood between our noble institutions and their sworn enemies, and drove back the tide of war that threatened to sweep the entire face of our fair land, is the more efficient way to create within the hearts of the young, love for their country and respect for their noble ancestry.

The duty of the living is to make their tranquil resting-place an honored and sacred place. Therefore, let it become the pleasure of every comrade to use his influence to at all times secure an observance of the day in keeping with its noble spirit. Statistics show that one hundred of the old veterans of 65 are passing away daily. A few more years and the final Roll Call will end all.

Fifteen years ago Pleasant Gap had fifteen living veterans, today only two survivors are left. Quite a large attendance participated in the Memorial service on Tuesday at 9 a. m. The parade was formed at the Methodist church and proceeded to the Lutheran cemetery. Twenty-four graves were decorated after which two superb addresses were delivered in the Lutheran church. Chaplain Young, of the western penitentiary, was the first speaker. Being an old comrade he is well qualified to do justice to the occasion. He is human, real flesh and blood, and thinks and talks like a philosopher in his senses, and when overwhelmed with emotion, his heart beats in his bosom. The next speaker was attorney Clement Dale, who gave such excellent satisfaction on the same occasion a year ago. Mr. Dale is never dull, and his hearers never seem to be tired when he speaks. His efforts are not of the spread eagle style; there were no rhetorical displays of language, no sophomoric juggling of figures for the purpose of ornamentation. What he said was pertinent, and in the plainest and most effective English. Both speakers did admirably well and all present were delighted with the well arranged program. Great credit is due to our local lodge of the P. O. S. of A., who had charge of carrying out the entire program. They succeeded admirably well.

Blue and Gold Auto Tags.

Harrisburg.—State colors of blue and gold will be the colors on the 1923 automobile tags. The decision to have this new combination has been

approved by officials and the orders placed. The tags will have a blue background with golden letters.

The number to be furnished will be larger than for 1922, although the total has not yet been announced. Shipments will begin in the early fall. In spite of efforts to get persons having chipped or blistered tags on their cars to turn them in, reports are coming that many tags which are illegible have not been returned.

CLARENCE.

Jacob Brooks and family were visitors in Altoona over Sunday.

Andy Koresko is recovering from the injuries he received last Wednesday.

Mrs. R. H. Meek went to Clearfield on Monday to visit her daughter, Mrs. R. H. Lucas.

David Chambers' mines at Gobbler's Knob started work Monday, employing non-union men.

John Parni gave his house a new coat of paint, which very much improves its appearance.

Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Burgantz, of Huntingdon, spent Saturday and Sunday at the home of R. H. Meek.

C. H. Watson and family motored to Williamsport on Saturday, to attend the circus of Ringling Bros.

Mr. and Mrs. Friedman and Mr. and Mrs. Earl Goodyear were visitors at the home of Mrs. Klevansky, in Altoona, on Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Shaffner, of Howard, were entertained over the week-end at the home of their daughter, Mrs. Dewey McLaughlin.

Among the out of town people who were here to attend the funeral of Joe Surovice were Mr. and Mrs. Martin Luther and their daughter Mary, of Morrisdale.

Mr. and Mrs. Bert Gillette were called to Grass Flat on Monday, on account of the death of Mrs. Gillette's nephew, Earl Midlam Jr., aged eight years, who died of spinal meningitis.

Wives and Masters.

The man had been in mission employ for a number of years, giving satisfactory service; but at last it was discovered that he had two wives, a very common thing in Korea.

It thus became the duty of the mission board to convince the man of his error and to persuade him to put away his second wife. However, he demanded a Bible statement to the effect that his course was wrong.

After some fruitless delay a good Korean brother announced that he had undisputed evidence that two wives were contrary to Bible theology, and thereupon read: "No man can serve two masters."—Judge.

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