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SERMON.

Preached by Rev. W. O. Wright, of Milesburg, before Geo. L. Potter Post, No. 261, G. A. R., at Milesburg, Dec. 24, 1882.

TEXT.—"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."—Luke, 2:14.

Men, brethren, soldiers of the Grand Army, and all men, we greet you, we welcome you to God's house this day to join this angelic chorus "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." God's glory ranks everything in heaven and on earth. "The material universe proclaims his glory." "The heavens declare the glory of God." "Man's chief end is to glorify God."

Behold, then, what God hath wrought! A single event! and lo, man is saved! restored to Paradise! By one act he fell, by one germinal event he is saved. "Glory to God in the highest." "Let the earth rejoice." "Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord."

It was an obscure event. He was born in a stable, laid in a manger. The news came from heaven, proclaimed by angels. The stars glitter over him, the Magi come and worship him:

Who is He to wonder still,  
At whose feet the angels fall?  
It is the Lord, the King of glory,  
It is the Lord, the King of glory,  
At his feet, now let us fall,  
Crown him, Crown him Lord of all.

This one event has brought "Glory to God in the highest" heaven. It has proclaimed "peace on earth, good will toward men."

He lived in obscurity, only one flash of his glory in thirty years, then heaven opened, the spirit rested upon Him. "He healed the sick stilling the tempest, raised the dead, cast out devils." He made the dumb to sing, and praise the God of Israel. They rejected him, they persecuted him, they crucified him, they crucified him, "He rose again." "He ascended up to heaven." He sat down on the right hand of God. "He sent his spirit as a tongue of fire. He sat upon each of them." They were all filled with the Holy Ghost. They began to preach Christ crucified. Men's hearts were melted, and lo! "four-hundred million" worship Christ this day. It has swept around the globe. It has come even to us, let us give "Glory to God."

Does it seem strange (to you) that my theme to-day should be "God's glory" "peace on earth, good will toward men?" No, surely on this natal day of "the Prince of peace," it proclaimed peace, but it brought war. It brought persecution. It brought death, and so it has ever been. Conflict, war, death. What is the aim and end of all legitimate warfare? It is "peace," and though paradoxical, it is "good will toward men." No conflict, no victory, "no cross no crown," no suffering, no true peace. It is the saddest fact "in the annals of time," that hitherto liberty, righteousness and peace have been purchased at the price of human blood. That man must suffer and die or forego liberty, righteousness and peace. It was at such a price that our forefathers purchased this (our inestimable) inheritance. This broad continent, these fertile valleys, these snow-capped mountains, with their untold wealth of coal, of lead, of iron, of silver and of gold. This was the price. The blood the life was the price they paid for these material blessings. How much greater are "life liberty and the pursuit of happiness?" And how much greater still is "liberty to worship God?" So far the price has been war, suffering and death. This was the price they paid for these open Bibles, these free sanctuaries, these hymns of praise, our free schools and for the "glorious gospel of the blessed God." Hitherto such has been the price, but the end was peace. From the battle of Marathon to that of Gettysburg, it has been one long tremendous struggle, often unwittingly, to assert this liberty, to secure these blessings. Blood, human blood, has been the price of human liberty of "peace on earth," and blood, pure, sinless human blood was the price that God paid for our redemption, for "peace with God," for heaven and eternal life, yes, the son of God was born to bring peace to this earth. But to purchase it "he shed his precious blood." We therefore hail you, soldiers in a righteous cause, as under God the assertors of our "liberties," you, perhaps have had to shed human blood, to assert these liberties, to secure this peace. But you offered your own blood, you vented your own lives. How much we owe you! How much your country! How much human liberty! How much the generations of men to the end of time! Under God, you were the bulwark, the defence the "Palladium" of your countries liberties, you have offered all that men can give, your very lives. This is the climax of human nobility, of human heroism. This was one link in the chain of God's providence, to secure "peace on earth and good will toward men," accept then all we have to give, our heart-felt everlastingly gratitude, this day. Nor do we admire you less this day, that you have laid aside the sword and are now cultivating the blessings of "peace and good will toward men," toward the poor, the

fatherless, and the widows, yes, this is the end, these the legitimate fruits of just and righteous warfare. On these heaven has set the seal of its approbation.

Nor do we admire less your choice of a name. The name of Dr. George L. Potter is endeared to all who knew him. He was a true man, a perfect gentleman, a rare physician, a philanthropist. What a blessing he was to hundreds of suffering men, women and children. His heart ever responded to the cry for help, nor was there one grain of mercenary in his whole composition. "The blessings of the poor, and those ready to perish," have fallen on his noble head, and on his nobler heart, you have chosen wisely and well, such men deserve "to be had in everlasting remembrance." "Requiescat in pace," may he rest in peace.

Yes, brave men, you have "stood together" in the face of battle and of death, where "ensanguined war" drove her cruel car over the dead and the dying to purchase this peace, and God has spared you to see this natal day of "the Prince of peace," to join in the refrain of God's angels, "Glory to God in the highest, on earth peace good will toward men."

We rejoice that you have caught something of its spirit, may God bless you, and make you as victorious in peace as he made you in war; for it was God alone who gave you the victory. And now, may the triumph of peace go on till we shall know no north, no south, no east, no west, but one united, happy people. May this be the aim and the reward of every citizen, "peace on earth, and good will toward men."

Let us receive this heaven sent message. Let us act in its spirit. Let us take it up, repeat it, lift it higher and higher, waft it toward heaven till it shall cover and bless the whole earth. Let this be our aim, this our mission to herald the "good tidings of great joy to all people," till war shall cease from the earth, when "Nation shall not lift up sword against nation," "neither shall they learn war any more."

Soldiers turn this day to the "Captain of our salvation" you have fought well the battle of earth, now fight manfully the battle of heaven, you once obeyed your earthly captain now obey your heavenly. Believe in him, trust in him, "take up your cross and follow him," "press on toward the mark for the prize." Let this be your greatest your most glorious victory. O, do not fail "in the battle for the Lord," you offered your blood for your country. He gave his blood, his life for our salvation. The price was "the precious blood of Christ." Let me urge you, and all men this day to become soldiers of the cross of Christ! Join with all your hearts in his service, join in the marching hymns.

"Pass along the watchword soldiers of the king!  
Through your bannered legions let our war cry ring!  
Pass along the watchword as you onward go,  
Victory, victory over every foe!  
"He that walked unto death, and will give you a crown of life."

The earth is waiting for this benediction, this peace of heaven. It is coming. The proclamation has been made, the peace purchased, the blood shed, the Christ ascended, the spirit poured out, Christ is preached. The peace has already come to millions. It is still coming. It will come and fill the whole earth and stand forever.

"Sound the loud shofar,  
O'er Egypt's dark sea,  
Jehovah both triumphed,  
His people are free."

"Soldier of the cross arise,  
Look upon that glorious prize,  
Christ is set before your eyes,  
If you gain the day  
Often with your Captain be,  
Off to let him know the cause,  
Then your foes are sure to fly,  
And you'll gain the day."

"Glory to God in the highest, on earth peace, good will toward men."  
W. O. WRIGHT.

Life Insurance.

What Governor Hoyt Says About the Business in His Message—Some Valuable Suggestions.

The magnitude of this interest may be estimated by the fact that in the years 1880 and 1881 the regular life companies of this and other states authorized to do business in Pennsylvania received premiums from their business in this state amounting to \$10,483,836. Of this sum, \$3,025,109 was received by companies of this state, and \$7,368,306 by companies of other states, upon which last named sum a tax amounting to \$221,768.88 was paid into the state treasury for the privilege of doing business in this commonwealth.

During the same years companies organized under the laws of this state to insure lives upon the assessment plan, received in premiums and assessment the sum of \$5,500,980 upon which no tax was paid to the state and paid for death claims the sum of \$2,959,302. The balance of \$2,541,678 was appropriated by the companies to agents, officers and expenses. Most of these companies engaged without warrants of law in business of a purely speculative character and entire communities were demoralized by their nefarious operations. The evil attained such magnitude that it was found necessary to institute legal proceedings for their suppression, which has been happily accomplished through the instrumentality of the proper authorities. It is to be hoped that this impressive lesson will not be lost or forgotten, and that it will in the future deter the public from placing their trust in methods of life insurance—or specious substitutes therefor,

which are without solid foundation in morals or mathematics.

The act of 1873, establishing an insurance department, prescribes a standard of solvency without conformity to which no regular life company is permitted to do business in Pennsylvania. This standard is one universally recognized where ever life insurance is treated as a science, and is absolutely exact, inasmuch as it compels each company to have assets equal to its present and future liabilities. Without such computation of future liabilities, and the possession of present assets, life insurance is based upon nothing actual or tangible, but becomes a mere venture or experiment. What is known as co-operative insurance, more commonly as graveyard insurance, is not in fact, worthy as the name. In many instances it may operate as a beneficial society, and when honestly conducted worthy answer present and pressing emergencies; but as a system of insurance it is without substance or stable foundation and may degenerate into mere speculation, or fall to pieces any moment. Without cohesive power other than the voluntary action of members, companies conducting business upon this plan may dissolve without much warning, and entail loss and disappointment upon hundreds confiding in them for the future maintenance of themselves and their families.

These co-operative insurance companies claim a warrant for corporate existence under section thirty-seven, act of May, 1, 1876, being a supplement to the act of 1873, "to establish an insurance department." Justice to the good name of the state and protection to the people demand that the recommendations of the insurance commissioners in this behalf should be acted upon. The firmness and intelligence which have marked Mr. Forster's administration of that responsible office are worthy of all praise.

The Chicago Tribune has a long letter by telegraph from Hon. E. B. Washburne, now at San Antonio, Texas, giving a reminiscence of Gambetta while Mr. Washburne was United States Minister to France. He says: "A great light has gone out, and the world loses one of the most gifted, brilliant and eloquent men of the age. He was distinguished in 1869, though young, as a member of the chamber of deputies, and being in the front rank of a little band of able and courageous men who made face against the empire in the pride and arrogance of its power, was concerned in those turbulent and exciting scenes in the chamber before war was declared and the emperor fled." He was cool when the people broke up the chamber of deputies and fled to the Hotel de Ville, where the dethronement of the Emperor was to take place. Appearing at one window of the palace, Gambetta proclaimed the republic of France and threw the crowd below the lists containing the names of deputies who were to constitute the provisional government of France under the name of "Government of National Defense." Such a shout of deliverance went up from the great throng as has rarely been heard in the world's history. The new ministry—Gambetta at its head—immediately took possession of their portfolios.

He relates his own difficulties in protecting German interests there while the empire lived, and the astonishing grasp with which Gambetta at once understood the whole question. Calling on him, he found a young man of ordinary height and size (he afterwards became heavy), with fine manners and agreeable address, handsome face, long black glossy hair and full beard. He did everything possible, and did it immediately, to mitigate the troubles of the Germans. Gambetta being selected as the representative to the Tours mission, he did not shrink from the hazardous trip from the city in a balloon, and made the trip safely. He soon became in fact the dictator, and the true history of that dictatorship has yet to be written. It will become one of the most interesting episodes in the history of France. Single handed and alone, he aroused the drooping spirits of the people, raised and equipped armies, and accomplished all that mortal could in stemming the tide of disaster which was overwhelming his country. He raised and disbursed the millions gotten through Morgan & Co., in England, and the most rigid examination of his affairs by enemies when the war was over only showed that his hands were clean and his record unstained. After the war his advice was sought more than that of any other man. The greatest speech of his life was that made at Versailles, upon the occasion of Pres. McMan's *coup de etat* in turning away his republican ministry and replacing it with a ministry hostile to the republic. Washburne has at his home a portrait of M. Gambetta, painted expressly for him.

The Muskraat as a Delaware Dainty.

Sussex Letter in the Wilmington Gazette.

Very few of the city readers of the Gazette probably know anything of muskrat hunting on the sussex marshes. When the marsh is frozen over nicely the sport is very enticing and not without its spice of danger, a bro-

ken arm or leg, or even a dislocated neck, provided the rat-hole you slip into is large and deep enough. The spear is the weapon used, and, in expert hands, never fails to bring the rodent impaled on the point from its hole. Down in Cave Neck the marsh farmers, besides making a snug sum of money by the sale of muskrat hides, use the meat on their tables with great relish. Put a brace of fringed rats before a Wilmington epicure and the odds are that he couldn't tell 'em from rabbit.

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