

INGERSOLL'S REPLY

To the Criticisms of Clergymen on His Christmas Sermon.

THE BLASPHEMY OF A DAY

He Calls an Impossibility, Even if He Intended Such a Thing.

HE IS A REAL SENTIMENTALIST.

One of the Charges Brought Against Him That He Doesn't Deny.

INFIDEL OR PREACHER FOR REVENUE

SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE DISPATCH.

NEW YORK, Jan. 5.—The reply of Colonel Robert G. Ingersoll to the criticisms of the clergymen who attacked his recent Christmas sermon was given to the public today. The Colonel says:

"Rev. James M. King—who seems to have taken this occasion to become known—finds fault because blasphemous utterances concerning Christmas were published, and were allowed 'to greet the eyes of innocent children and pure women.'"

"How is it possible to blaspheme a day? One day is not, in and of itself, holier than another—that is to say, two equal spaces of time are substantially alike. We call a day 'good' or 'bad' according to what happens in the day. A day filled with happiness, with kind words, with noble deeds, is a good day. A day filled with misfortunes and sorrow and misery we call a bad day. But how is it possible to blaspheme a day? A man may, or may not, believe that Christ was born on the 25th of December, and that he may fill that day, so far as he is concerned, with good thoughts and words and deeds. Another may really believe that Christ was born on that day, and yet do his worst to make all his friends unhappy.

An Argument for Both Sides.

"But how can the rights of what are called 'clean families' be violated by reading the honest opinions of others as to whether Christmas is kept in honor of the birth of Christ, or in honor of the triumph of the sun over the forces of darkness? Are Christian families so weak intellectually that they cannot bear to hear the other side? Or is their case so weak that the slightest evidence overthrows it? Why do all these ministers insist that it is ill-bred to even raise a question as to the truth of the improbable, or as to the improbability of the impossible?"

"A minister says to me that I am going to hell—that I am bound to be punished forever and eternally, and thereupon I say to him: 'There is no hell; you are mistaken; your Bible is not inspired; no human being is to suffer agony forever;' and thereupon, with an injured look, he asks me this question: 'Why do you hurt my feelings? It does not occur to him that I have the slightest right to object to his sentence of eternal grief."

Expressed Charity for His Enemies.

"It is perfectly easy for any one with the slightest imagination to understand how other people differ from him. I don't attribute a bad motive to a man simply because he disagrees with me. I don't say that a man is a Christian or a Mohammedan for revenue only. I don't say that a man joins the Democratic party simply for office, or that he marches with the Republicans simply for position. I am willing to hear his reasons—with his motives I have nothing to do."

"Mr. King imagines that I have denounced Christianity 'for revenue only.' Is he willing to admit that we have drifted so far from orthodox religion that the way to make money is in denouncing Christianity? I can hardly believe, for my part, that liberty of thought has advanced so far. I regret exceedingly that there is not an absolute foundation for his remark. I am indeed sorry that it is possible in this world of ours for any human being to make a living out of the ignorance and fear of his fellow-men. Still, it gives me great hope for the future to read, even in this ignorant present, that there is one man, and that man myself, who advocates more liberty—the absolute enfranchisement of the soul—and does it 'for revenue'—because this charge is such a splendid compliment to my fellow-men."

Ingersoll's Definitions of Blasphemy.

"Under no circumstances can the expression of an honest opinion, couched in becoming language, amount to blasphemy. And right here it may be well enough to inquire, 'what is blasphemy?' A man who knowingly assaults the truth, who knowingly endeavors to stain the pure, who knowingly maligns the good and noble, is a blasphemer. A man who deserts the truth because it is unpopular is a blasphemer. He who runs with the bands, knowing that the hare is in the right, is a blasphemer.

FOUR DIE UNDER A TRESTLE.

A Train Runs Away With Its Crew, With Frightful Results.

ASHEVILLE, N. C., Jan. 5.—To-day on the Murphy branch of the Western North Carolina Railroad, 40 miles from Asheville, the engine of the westbound freight train, while detached at a heavy grade, became uncontrollable and dashed down the track at a fearful speed. At Duke Ridge trestle it left the rails and plunged into the gorge, landing in Scott's creek, more than 100 feet below. The following men were killed: Sam Francis, engineer, of Asheville; Sam Archer, fireman; Rufus Hemphill and a colored hand.

A Castle for the Royal Copie.

DUBLIN, Jan. 5.—It was recently officially announced that a wedding present from Ireland should be given to the Duke of Clarence and his bride. It is not known what shape the present will take, but it has been proposed that it take the form of a residence in Ireland. One of the estates mentioned is Clifden Castle.

Chicago Getting Good Professors.

ITHACA, N. Y., Jan. 5.—Charles Gardner Hale, Professor of the Latin Department, and J. Lawrence Laughlin, Professor of Political Economy, in Cornell University, to-day accepted offers of chairs in the Chicago University, at \$7,000 salary each. They were receiving about one-half that compensation here.

Harrison Working on a Proclamation.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 5.—The President is now engaged in the preparation of a proclamation of retaliation against those countries which have refused to enter into reciprocal trade relations with this country, and will probably have it ready for issue before the end of the present week.

Anarchists Protest With a Bomb.

ROME, Jan. 5.—At Grosseto to-day, some Anarchists exploded a bomb in front of the Prefecture, as a protest against the arrest of their riotous comrades. The explosion caused much excitement but did no damage.

Ravages of the Grip in Italy.

ROME, Jan. 5.—The public schools at Genoa and Milan have been closed in consequence of the epidemic of influenza. So many of the inhabitants are prostrated that the transaction of business is greatly impeded.

FORAKER'S ONE HOPE

Is That the Voting at To-night's Caucus Be By Secret Ballot.

SURE DEFEAT STARING AT HIM,

And Many Friends Begging Him to Withdraw from the Contest.

SHERMAN NOW HAS FROM 50 TO 60 VOTES

(SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE DISPATCH.)

COLUMBUS, O., Jan. 5.—Senator Sherman has whipped his man to a standstill. The managers of Governor Foraker's canvass for the Senate have relinquished all effort to-night and are anxious for the agency to be over, and await the finishing touches of to-morrow night's caucus with the anxiety of one seeking relief. There have been no additions to the Sherman forces from the non-conciliatory members to-day, and his managers now surely count upon a vote of 56, and every thing in readiness for four more to pronounce themselves in his favor to-morrow. The Foraker followers, when they learned this, at once began to scheme for a secret ballot, that the humiliation might not be so great. It is well understood that Foraker would have withdrawn from the contest yesterday or to-day had he been in position to do so, but the fight reached the point where he could not do so with any credit to himself, and his managers concluded to go to the finish and get as many of the members as possible to vote as they originally intended, that the Governor may have the benefit of a reasonable showing in the caucus.

Efforts to Have Foraker Withdraw.

Many of the members who are the best friends of Foraker have insisted for two days that he get out of the way, but he refuses to do so, and now the secret ballot is sought to give the discouraged Legislators an opportunity to shield themselves from the disfavor which comes of being on the losing side. Senator Sherman informed THE DISPATCH correspondent this evening, that he had not felt so well since the contest began as he does at this time. The exercise has been rather in the nature of a relief from routine duty, and he has enjoyed it, rather than grown weary of it, as was originally intended. He expressed the hope that the Governor would not withdraw, but would continue to the caucus, that the public may know how really weak he is compared with what has been claimed for him through his managers during the past two weeks.

Sherman Solid With the Ladies.

The Senator left his quarters and the hotel for the first time this afternoon since he came to this city. William G. Deslier, a leading local banker and financier, called to take him for a drive, and called upon a large number of the old friends of the Senator, principally ladies, and the majority widows, whose husbands were strong friends of the Senator during their lives. He also visited Judge Thurman's family, and Mrs. Governor Dennison. The engagement is so agreeable that it has in reality reduced itself to a social frolic on the part of the Senator, and in addition to about two-thirds of the members, Senator Sherman will have all the wives on his side when his nomination is announced to-morrow night.

Foraker the Young Men's Idol.

Another correspondent writes: The night before the great Senatorial battle finds the streets still starting the fight of opinion, almost as usual. Turn whichever way they may, they cannot escape it. To them all the indications of the political situation point to but one result—defeat. But they have made up their minds to do a struggle as established before contradiction one significant fact—that J. B. Foraker is the unshaken idol of the young Republicans of Ohio. His magnetic qualities of leadership have bound to him a loyal following whose enthusiasm knows no rest, and, despite the strenuous efforts that are being made by the Sherman forces to demoralize his ranks and create a stampede to the venerable leader, the young men are still remaining steadfast to him in the coming fight with him to glorious defeat.

The Declarations to-day of Representatives Dunn and Daugherty for Sherman add

two more to the Senator's majority, and his friends are now claiming that he will have 58 votes, while they give Foraker but 24, the remaining two being doubtful. Of course, Foraker people do not concede these claims. They maintain that Sherman has not now positive support, and going down with him to glorious defeat.

Ballot Reform Dragged Into It.

The Sherman people are loud in their demands for an open ballot by roll call, and say that every citizen has the right to know the names of the voters who vote for Sherman. To this argument the Foraker people reply that the Sherman forces found no objection to a secret ballot in the Speaker's caucus on Saturday, and in support of the argument for an open ballot, they cite the fact that all the ballot reform laws which provide that the private voter's ballot shall be secret, and maintain that what is good for the public at large is good for a Senatorial caucus. They also argue that a secret ballot, however, is based upon their claim that many members are being coerced into voting for Sherman, and that they should have an opportunity to secretly vote their preferences.

To all this the Sherman managers reply

that the comparison drawn is misleading; that the private voter represents himself alone, while the assemblyman represents his constituents; that the Foraker men who have come over to Sherman acknowledge that they have done so in obedience to their constituents, and these have a right to know that their representative is carrying out their will. This public knowledge, they maintain, can only be given through the medium of an open ballot.

The Open Ballot Now on Top.

It looks to-night as though the open ballot idea would prevail, as the Sherman people apparently have votes enough to carry it through the caucus, even though the Foraker people should make a fight for secrecy. The State Trades and Labor Assembly met in this city to-day, and as was anticipated, attempted to settle the Senatorial question. The President in his opening address recommended that the assembly do not interfere in the matter, but despite this a resolution was this afternoon introduced denouncing Mr. Sherman's Senatorial record. It was defeated, after considerable wrangling, but it is understood that the Foraker men will revive the controversy to-morrow. A telegram from Washington, says: General H. V. Benson, being asked if he had sent any reply to a telegram which the Columbus Law Committee addressed to him, said:

No such dispatch reached me yesterday,

from which I could not recall what was wanted before their convention met to-day. As to the Quinsie question, concerning which this committee has been asked by inquiring, this is true, that Senator Sherman's record from first to last on that subject, as well as on all other subjects connected with labor, is one of wise, continuing and earnest efforts to advance every interest of American workmen. As to his attitude toward questions, which is challenged by the questions asked, his position, which this committee represents as hostile to the soldiers, was distinctly stated in the debate by Senator Sherman to be based upon his conviction that the proposed measure would go far enough to do the veterans full justice.

BYNUM'S BEE IS BUZZING.

He is Seriously Considering the Subject of Running for Governor.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 5.—Representative Bynum, of Indiana, said to-night there is no truth in the report that he was so disgusted with Speaker Crisp's committee appointments that he proposed to retire from Congress and be a candidate for Governor of Indiana. He added that while he was disappointed at Mr. Mills' defeat he certainly had no cause to complain of his own committee appointment, as to his gubernatorial aspirations, Mr. Bynum said: "I have been earnestly solicited by many friends to run for Governor, but I have not yet fully determined in my own mind whether I shall be a candidate or not. If I do become a candidate it will be because I prefer that position to the one I now hold."

BULKELEY STILL BOSS.

So Decided by All the Supreme-Judges of the Nutmeg State.

MORRIS NOT DECLARED ELECTED

By the Legislature, Consequently the Incumbent Holds Over.

A LAW ON THE SUBJECT BADLY NEEDED

HARTFORD, CONN., Jan. 5.—The Supreme Court unanimously sustained the demurrer of Governor Bulkeley, the hold-over Governor, in quo warrant suit of Morris, the Democratic candidate. The Court says that the declaration of the result is an indispensable adjunct to the choice of Governor as it furnishes the only authentic evidence of an election. Judge Morris has not been declared elected by the House.

The Court says the right to choose any State officer, unless the result of the choice can be published in some way so as to be obligatory on the whole State, would be no better than a mockery. It would be to give the form of a choice without the reality. The declaration is the only evidence by which the person elected can know that he is entitled to the office or the previous incumbent know that his term has expired.

A Declaration Is Necessary.

The courts can take judicial notice of the fact of an election, but never of the result of an election or who is elected until some declaration is made. The declaration is the only evidence by which the other departments of the Government and the citizens generally can know whom to respect as such officer, and in order that declaration shall be made of the result of an election for Governor in a way to be obligatory upon everybody the constitution has fixed the time and manner in which the General Assembly shall make that declaration. Unless the declaration is made in the way so provided the process of the election is not complete.

It is found in the case that there has been no declaration by the General Assembly;

that the relation had been elected Governor and it is not claimed that there had been any equivalent act by any other authority. It follows that the relation, whatever any future inquiry may show, cannot now be said to have been elected to the office of Governor, and that respondent remains the de jure, as well as the de facto Governor of the State. It is, therefore, the duty of all citizens, of the courts, of all departments of the State Government, and of both Houses of the General Assembly to respect and obey him accordingly.

The Disregard of the Houses.

The court then proceeds to consider whether the present General Assembly has power to declare the result of the election and recognize that the two Houses are not in accord. It says: "The case of the House has approved upon its journal a conclusion radically antagonistic to the conclusions of the other upon the same subject, it can only be regarded as an announcement that they are unable to agree."

The court says, however, it is still possible for either House or both to recede, and so the power of acting on the case is not yet lost by the General Assembly. The lack of a law to determine such disputes is pointed out, and the fact that the Governor is responsible for such lack, since the Constitution directs it to make laws to that end. The court says in conclusion:

The Superior Court of this State, as a court of last resort, is sufficient to give the Superior Court jurisdiction over that matter. The trial by the Superior Court of the questions in the information would not be an infringement upon the co-ordinate branches of the Government.

Nor of the legislative, if it has been made to appear that the present Legislature is wholly unable to act in the case.

Incidentally, it is pointed out that the courts always have jurisdiction unless the decision of this special tribunal is final and conclusive, and where such special tribunal exists, if it refuses to act, or from any cause fails to act, then the courts, upon general principles, and to prevent the failure of justice, and perhaps to prevent anarchy and misrule, would seem to be authorized to make the decision.

Why the Courts Have Jurisdiction.

The fact that no other court has exclusive jurisdiction in any matter is sufficient to give the Superior Court jurisdiction over that matter. The trial by the Superior Court of the questions in the information would not be an infringement upon the co-ordinate branches of the Government.

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Francis Joseph Decorates a Rudini.

VIENNA, Jan. 5.—Emperor Francis Joseph has conferred upon the Marquis di Rudini, the Italian Prime Minister, the decoration of the Grand Cross of the Order of St. Stephen, Hungary. This order was founded in May, 1764, by the Empress Maria Theresa.

One Who Tried to Form a Cigarette Trust

Wanted in Texas for Conspiracy. ALBANY, N. Y., Jan. 5.—Gov. Flower gave a hearing this afternoon on an application for a requisition from the Governor of Texas for the custody of J. B. Duke, a cigarette manufacturer of New York City, who is wanted in Texas for conspiracy to defraud an agency—a felony under the laws of Texas. Duke was indicted there on a charge of having conspired with one other man to regulate the supply of cigarettes to be manufactured and the price at which they should sell.

He appeared at the hearing with his counsel.

As the Texas officer was not represented by counsel, at his request the case was postponed until Saturday.

COSTLY TAR AND FEATHERS.

The Maltreaters of an 18-Year-Old Married Woman Are Sentenced.

FLEMINGTON, N. J., Jan. 5.—There was a large crowd in the Hunterdon County Court of Sessions to-day when John T. Banghart and Austin Lusk were arraigned for sentence for tarring and feathering Julia Beam, the 18-year-old married woman, at Glen Gardner on the night of October 17.

Banghart was convicted of being the ring-leader in the assault on the young woman,

but Lusk pleaded guilty. Banghart was sentenced to serve 90 days in the county jail and to pay a fine of \$100. Lusk received a similar sentence.

An Eye After Confederate Flag.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Jan. 5.—First Assistant Postmaster General Whitfield has sent an inspector to Baird, Tex., to investigate the charge that the Confederate flag is kept flying over the postoffice there.

WEISSER GREAT FIRE SALE! CONTINUING IN FULL BLAST! An Ample Force of Clerks in Attendance.



THE ENTIRE STOCK SAVED From the Late Liberty Street Fire Purchased from PORTER & DONALDSON. \$40,000 WORTH OF GOODS Slightly Damaged by Water WILL BE SOLD AT ABOUT 10 CENTS ON THE DOLLAR! Corsets, Silk Mitts, Silk Gloves, Yarns, Men's Handkerchiefs, Ladies' Handkerchiefs, Ladies' Ties, Kid Gloves, Lace Collars, Aprons, Laces, Buckles, Hairpins, Elastic, Thread, Needles, Pins, Belts (leather and silk), Ruchings, Ladies' Pants, Ladies' Vests, Misses' Underwear, Combination Suits, Silk Ribbons, Jersey Jackets, Stockinette Jackets, Etc., Etc., Etc. Why visit Reduction Sales when you can buy at one-tenth the manufacturer's cost? WEISSER'S 435 MARKET STREET. 437

AT LATIMER'S Big Slaughter of Prices---Nothing Spared. Finest to Cheapest Are Subject to the Knife! 598 Dozen Men's Balbriggan Shirts and Drawers, Former prices, 50c, 75c, \$1. Your price now, 20c. 496 Dozen Men's Merino Shirts and Drawers, Former prices, 37c to 60c each. All reduced to 20c. 983 Dozen MEN'S MERINO SHIRTS, \$1.25, 87c, 75c, \$1.00. Now 49c each. 857 DOZEN Children's Gray-White Heavy Scotch Ribbed Underwear, Different grades and qualities—all in one pile—at 24c each. 138-140 T. M. LATIMER, 45-46 Federal St. ALLEGHENY, PA.