

EVILS OF THE CITY AND THEIR CURE

SUBJECT OF SERMON PREACHED BY THE REV. G. W. WELSH.

Heard by a Large Audience at the Calvary Reformed Church Yesterday Morning—Speaker Used Plain Language—Declares that We, Like Paul the Apostle, Cannot Say that We Live in "No Mean City." Rebukes Tax Officials—Says Vice Is Rampant.

Rev. G. W. Welsh, pastor of the Calvary Reformed church, preached a sermon on the subject "The Evils of the City and Their Cure" to a large audience at yesterday morning's service. The sermon in part follows:

Paul says in Acts, xxi:38, that he was a citizen of "no mean city." And by studying contemporary history we learn that he meant a city which was noted for its education, its free government, its loyalty to the laws, and its commerce. If a citizen of Scranton were asked for the name of his home he could not answer in Paul's speech and say, "I am a citizen of no mean city."

In speaking of the condition of our city I must with this maxim, "A chain is as strong as its weakest link." But like all such sayings, it is only true in part. For if the weakest link is not used the chain is stronger than the weakest link.

So also with the government and life of a city. If the lower elements are allowed to enter into and control the life of a city the life will be contaminated and polluted and the city will fall in the estimation of the onlooker.

We are too inconsistent in our life and work. For instance: We suppress all things as nuisances which endanger our physical lives; we build sewers; we prevent the pollution of water, food and drink; we display cards to warn against disease, and establish quarantine regulations; we cry about dust and germ-laden streets; and we prohibit spitting in our street cars. But, when we start to control or suppress the influences which contaminate and ruin our spiritual being, which means a suffering in this life and a damnation in the next, we are halted by a cry of "personal liberty!" From those restrained; by "rashness," from the lukewarm; by "careless," from the politician; and by a threat of disapproval or removal by those in power. It is this inconsistency that is used by the depraved and those who render to the evil tastes and lusts of their fellow-men to carry on their trade and to reduce the vice-dict.

EVILS ARE MANY. But we cannot dwell too long on the cause, for it is the present condition that we must deal with. The evils of our city are many, so much so that the city is known far and wide as the most wicked city in Pennsylvania.

There is one kind of keen advertiser, reliable nearly always, which are not taken into account. They are the traveling men, and the universal verdict of this fraternity is that Scranton ranks second to none, and has few equals in this city.

Some other cities rank us in particular vice. But nowhere can there be found such a combination of vice and crime as in this city. Some cities are wicked, but in a yearly diminishing scale. But nowhere is there such a system of licensed, black-market, count-nanced and unrestrained wickedness as in this city. The chief evils, too, are the common ones, i. e., infractions of the liquor law, immoral deeds and traffic, obscene exhibitions and Sunday desecration.

DEBAUCHERY AND DEGRADATION. Giving the whole week to business and pleasure, the desire is rooted too deep to refrain from it on Sunday. It is rather a day for more complete debauch and degradation. Our saloons run wide open. Our "demon-strations" are most on Saturday and Sunday. Our thousands of "speakeasies" are crowded, and allow ball games and foot ball and dance. We demand a double service on street cars, and fill our homes with Sunday trash called newspapers. We have no Sabbath. And yet we pray, "for all these mercies, O Lord, make us thankful."

Now the cure. When a member of the Old Guard was under the surgeon's knife he said, "Cut a little deeper and you will find the emperor." So in the case of Scranton, we must cut deep. It is a cancer of no recent growth. Its roots are deep and strong, and like a cancer, they must be cut out one by one, or they will soon assume grave and deadly proportions again.

The young men, for our fathers have drifted so long with the tide that the flotsam and jetsam have fixed themselves upon them and they seem loath to shake it off.

Are the better elements of the town, the self-respecting and religious elements, the lovers of true American life and customs, going to allow the small minority of Satan's agents to discredit all their claims for recognition and respect?

Who builds the city? Does the family, the school, the church? Do the educational unions or associations, the libraries, the manufacturers, the industries? Do good social relations, and clean individual lives, and noble and noble family histories? Do gentlemanly men and womanly women?

Or, in opposition to this, is the city built up by the saloon, the gambling den, the brothel, the free-thinkers' club, the dance house, the pool room, the Sunday amusements, the ballets, the indecent literature, posters and shows?

UNITE AND WORK. What must you do then? Open your mouth and speak, get on your feet and work; unite, combine, form trusts, anything to boom the stock of good things and drive the other stock off the market. And, put on thy strength, O arm of the Lord, and in His strength go forth to fight the battles of Israel, which is your city.

Let us look, then, in resume. The city is corrupt, vile, wicked, the many are governed by the few, the laws are broken, the officers defied. Do we want it continued? No! Let us cry, "From thy tents, O Israel, give us our law, give us pure moral and social atmosphere, give us law and law executors, give us law-abiding men in legitimate trade, give us educated youth, good schools, pure family ties, a higher reverence for Sunday, the church, the Bible and God."

Not in His Power. "The minister has promised to say a few words at the temperance meeting." "He won't do it, though." "You don't think he would break his word?" "Oh! his intentions are all right, but when he gets wound up he doesn't know when to stop."—Puck. A Shrinkage. "The Populists are opposed to expansion." "Well, their vote shows that they haven't expanded."—Puck.

The foods we eat furnish energy for the body just as burning coal makes steam for an engine.

The experiments of Prof. Frankland, Ph. D., of London, shows that cod-liver oil yields two and one-half times more energy than starches or sweets.

Scott's Emulsion is pure cod-liver oil combined with hypophosphites of lime and soda. It forms fat, gives strength, enriches the blood, invigorates the nerves, and repairs tissues.

Scott & Bowne, Chemists, New York.

The claim is made that these can't be suppressed by the present law. It is all wrong. There is enough law and discretionary power vested in the machinery of Lackawanna county and Scranton to wipe out ninety-nine hundredths of all the vice, crime and immorality in the district.

Where, then, is the fault? Not in the legislative, but in the executive machinery. For instance: In the face of all facts and sworn to the monstrous falsehood that no lawbreaking by licensed saloons exists in their district, and that to the best of their knowledge there are no "tippling houses" or "speakeasies." The judges, who are men of intelligence and acumen, receive these periodical perjuries in spite of the law, which says that "if a constable willfully or negligently omits to report any such places that they are compelled to take notice of such negligence or omission."

CANNOT CONVICT. This is not all. When good, reputable citizens undertake to collect evidence and prove the facts, the cases are either thrown by the grand jury or a "not guilty" verdict given by the petit jury, and, most of all, the prosecutor is asked to pay the costs for doing the constable's and sworn duties. Now, any one who has lived here one week and keeps his eyes and ears open would be able to collect enough evidence to close eight out of every ten saloons in the city. And from all evidence gathered, only two of all the number in this city attempt to keep the law.

This same law is in existence all over our state, and in Harrisburg, where you can scarcely buy a clear, Mayor Pritchey, writes, "We only enforced the Mayor Ashbridge of Philadelphia, through his head of the Bureau of Safety, writes: "Philadelphia is made dry by a strict enforcement of the present law, and if the law is kept you need only apply to the court for a revocation of their license." Imagine the effect of such a demand in Lackawanna county court house.

The liquor men excuse themselves by pointing to the "speakeasies." But if the licensed men would determine to keep the law, then combine for action, their best that they run the city would bear fruit in the wiping out of all this disastrous competition. If the festering sores of public and private immorality we want to have little to say.

But the greatest evil of all, after the liquor traffic, immorality, indecent Sabbath desecration, is the "expansion" and condoned in many ways, but the only explanation that can be given is this: All the evils noted are cumulative and the culmination is the utter disregard of all that is sacred and holy.

The church is wholly thrown aside, or else made a mere vehicle to convey paid souls to heaven.

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HEAVY SENTENCE IMPOSED ON WEBBER

SENT TO THE PENITENTIARY FOR EIGHT YEARS.

Judge Edwards in Passing Sentence Said the Term Was Fixed with a View to Having an Effect on Others Rather Than to Reform Webber—Testimony in the Divorce Case of William A. Schlising Against Rena Schlising.

Judge Edwards inflicted a heavy sentence on Adolph Webber in court Saturday. The prisoner was tried and convicted of having criminally assaulted Annie Miller, aged 5 years, in February last. The sentence was 1,000 fine and eight years in the Eastern penitentiary, Judge Edwards, in passing the sentence, said:

"I propose to say but very little about the enormity of your offense. It is not a pleasant matter to consider. The sentence in cases of this kind ought to be such as will have an effect on other people more particularly than the reformation of the individual."

William Navin, convicted of committing an assault on his wife was sentenced to pay a fine of \$1 and the costs. Martin Devine, who was found guilty of false pretenses, was fined \$1 and given thirty days in the county jail. William V. Fuller, for assaulting William J. Jones, will pay a fine of \$15 and costs for doing so.

James Murphy, who was convicted of robbery, will be sentenced next Saturday. Foster Race and Thomas Klesinger, who admitted their culpability in the land of the Lackawanna Iron and Steel company, were let off with a fine of \$1.

Martin Strongas and Balro Chulatto were sentenced to pay a fine of \$50 and spend six months in jail. They were convicted of carrying a horse along on the head of Peter Dalsky, of P.H. township.

Much Married Woman. William A. Schlising, who is applying for a divorce from his wife, Rena Schlising, testified before Judge Archibald in divorce court Saturday that the woman had a husband in the person of Charles Cooper previous to her marriage with him, and since he left her she has married Thomas Farrell, of Plymouth.

The woman was married to Cooper in 1883, Schlising in 1886 and Farrell in 1897. Cooper was divorced from her after she married Schlising, who believed the woman to be Rena Stevens when he married her.

Court House News Notes. By order of court Saturday the hotel license of A. F. Gillespie in the Third ward of Olyphant was transferred to Constantine Shybsky.

A suit for divorce was filed in Prothonotary Copeland's office Saturday, by Isaac W. Copperthwaite, of this city. He alleges that his wife, Augusta May Copperthwaite, deserted him on Feb. 15, 1894. They were married at Herrick Center Feb. 24, 1883.

Eleven witnesses were examined Saturday in the Langstaff-Kelly contest. They are: Moses and Levi Bellas, Alex. Brown, Charles E. Davis, Harvey Greiner, Peter Stark, Anderson, Ira Finkelbaugh, T. S. Hamlin, William Stelmietz, and Milo Coolbaugh.

The Delaware and Hudson Railroad company were made defendant by the filing of a suit for \$5,000 damages in Prothonotary Copeland's office Saturday. Minnie V. Probst, of this city, friend, entered the suit for the plaintiffs, Minnie, Ellsworth W., Dorothy M., and Emma Probst, Welles & Torrey will represent the plaintiffs. The suit grew out of the killing of William Probst, father of the plaintiffs, at Archibald, Oct. 29, 1898, on a grade crossing.

The second week of criminal court begins this morning.

GREATEST OF HUMAN BLESSINGS

A skin without blemish and a body nourished with pure blood. Such is the happy condition produced by CUTICURA SOAP and CUTICURA Ointment, externally, and CUTICURA RESOLVENT, internally, in the severest cases of torturing, disfiguring, itching, burning, and scaly humors.

Hopeless Sufferers

"Hope Deferred Maketh the Heart Sick." In a city like Scranton there must be many hundreds of disease-stricken mortals who, after having been buoyed up by unfulfilled promises made by unskilled or catch-penny doctors for several years, have almost resigned themselves to their fate, and grown sick at heart in despair.

Cheer Up Suffering Ones

Do not let hope die. There are no two physicians in this state that have had more experience or more thorough insight into every form of disease than flesh is heir to than the undersigned have had, and while we cannot cure in every case, we stand ready to prove that the percentage of perfect recoveries to our credit is phenomenally large, and we will at least be honest enough to tell you at the outset whether or not we can cure your case.

Consultations and Examinations Absolutely Free and Strictly Confidential. We have every modern appliance known to medical and surgical science at our command, and examinations made by us are thorough and searching.

J. D. WOOD, M. D., LL. D. ALICE C. WOOD, B. S., M. D. Office—Corner Lackawanna and Wyoming Avenues, Entrance on Wyoming Avenue. Hours—9 a. m. to 5 p. m. Evening 7 to 9 p. m.

Connolly and Wallace

127 AND 129 WASHINGTON AVENUE.

Our Taffeta Silks

In these days of cheap dyeing and flimsy weaving and stinginess, there's a kind of goodness that has come to be called "old fashioned." These are "old fashioned" taffetas, equal to those made in the days when a silk dress was expected to wear for twenty years. Silks are the crucial test of a store. Slowly the recognition came that this store sold them best of all. How widely the fact is acknowledged now. We speak plainly of taffeta silks—silk pure and simple, silk extraordinarily light; yet a silk that a strong man, in our presence, could not tear with his hands, though urged to extreme effort and girded at for failure. Silk that will clean like a plate of glass and wear like sheet steel. And finally, silks at

75¢ yard in black, plain colors and changeable effects that are better than those offered in most stores at 85¢.

CONNOLLY & WALLACE, 127 and 129 WASHINGTON AVENUE

THIRD NATIONAL BANK OF SCRANTON.

Special Attention Given to Business and Personal Accounts. Liberal Accommodations Extended According to Balances and Responsibility. 5 Per Cent. Interest Allowed on Interest Deposits.

| | |
|---------|-----------|
| Capital | \$200,000 |
| Surplus | 400,000 |

WM. CONNELL, President. HENRY BELIN, Jr., Vice Pres. WILLIAM H. PECK, Cashier.

The vault of this bank is protected by Holmes' Electric Protective System.

SEED OATS

Natural Oats. Recleaned. Bright. Heavy. EVERY GRAIN WILL GROW. THE WESTON MILL CO. Scranton. Carbondale. Olyphant.

Carpets and Draperies

Spring 1899. March ushers in the spring season, the busiest time in all the year. New stocks are here in all their beauty. The early buyer has the cream of the stock to select from. See the new novelties in CARPETS CURTAINS. Ingrains, Brussels, Velvets, Axminster, Savonnerie, Wilton, Rugs. Renaissance, Brussels, Cluny, Tambour, Irish Point, Dresden, Nottingham. WINDOW SHADES. WALL PAPER.

Williams & McAnulty

FOLLOW THE CROWD FOR BARGAINS. BARGAINS

—IN—

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| Rugs, Art Squares, Brass Beds and Parlor Suits, Lace and Portier Curtains, Window Shades, Poles. | Carpets, Furniture, Draperies, Wall Paper | Mattings, Linoleums and Oil Cloths, Odd Pieces, Chairs, Furniture Covering, Sash Materials, Fringes, Loops, Etc. |
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BRING THE SIZE OF YOUR ROOM. The entire stock of Siebecker & Watkins, 406 and 408 Lackawanna avenue, Recently Purchased at Sheriff's Sale

Is being rapidly bought up by the shrewd buyers who realize that this is no fake sale but that every yard of goods and every article must be sold absolutely.

ISAAC LONG. WILKES-BARRE, PA. APRIL 24, '99.

Hood's Sarsaparilla NEVER Disappoints. Hood's Pills cure liver ills, the constipating and only cathartic to take with Hood's Sarsaparilla.