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THE DEBATE ON DAMNATION.

Opposing the Report in Favor of a Revision of the Confession—The Rev. Dr. Robinson Thought the Presbytery Might Better be Saving Souls Instead of Tampering With the Old Creed.

New York Sun.

When the New York Presbytery resumed its debate on damnation in connection with the proposed revision of the Westminster Confession in the Scotch Presbyterian Church in West Fourteenth street, the Rev. Dr. Francis Brown of the Union Theological Seminary took the floor in behalf of the report of the committee containing the suggested changes. He said that the very discussion of the matter was an evidence of a desire for relief from some of the needlessly harsh and emphatic doctrines taught in the Confession.

"We insist on the sovereignty of God in election," he continued. "What kind of a God is it whose sovereignty we confess? If it be a God the most perfect we can conceive, than whom no being more lovable is conceivable, to believe in His sovereignty is no harsh dogma. But to insist on His justice standing alone and to leave love out is as false as it is cruel. When we are told that God would be just if He saved none of His creatures, as He is under no obligation to save any, such a view of God is contrary to Scriptural teaching, and such a notion of God I can't accept."

Dr. Brown thought the committee's suggestion as to a new creed a good one, and urged that the love of God, as manifested in Christ, be made the central truth of such a creed.

The Rev. Dr. Charles S. Robinson said he was opposed to the report of the committee, root and branch. He thought those present might be better employed in saving souls than in wasting time in tampering with the creed of the old church.

"The committee," he said, "is not qualified to make any creed which could safely be as a member of the Presbyterian Church. Dr. Parkhurst, who belongs to it, once said in his pulpit: 'I don't believe there are five persons here who have read the Westminster Confession. I never did and I never shall.' Yet when he was ordained to the ministry he said he accepted it."

The speaker was here called to order on the score that such personalities were unparliamentary, the Moderator sustaining the appeal.

Dr. Robinson had this to say of the decision: "The Magna Charta of the Church is under discussion, and yet we who defend it must not speak of the admissions of our adversaries because of it being personal. We are trammelled by parliamentary rules while we are pleading that Calvinism may be tolerated in the Presbyterian Church. For conscience's sake, for God's sake, I will do all I can to hinder the adoption of this report."

The speaker more than once had alluded to the tears in his eyes. There were tears in his eyes as he concluded.

Prof. McCracken of the New York University said, in regard to revision of the Confession:

"We are better pleased for a successful treatment of the subject than the Church ever was before. The doctrine that one can but do evil before regeneration and evil as well as good after regeneration is contradicted by the Scriptures. Let us join with the Arminians in teaching human freedom and responsibility."

The Rev. Joseph B. Kerr read an address in which he said, apropos of Dr. Paxton's famous illustration of Monday: "The dog is not eating his tag, but is being choked by it."

The Rev. James S. Rainey said on beginning a speech against revision: "If Calvinism in its extreme form be sin and iniquity, I can only say that I was conceived in that sin and shaped in that iniquity." He objected to the committee's report because it was a compromise and because of the ommissions and changes it suggested as well as proposed. He quoted the prohibition against marriage with "infidels, Papists, and other idolaters," etc., and said he personally didn't see any necessity for a change there—he didn't want to marry an infidel, Papist, or idolater. In order to justify the language of the Confession at this place, he said:

"I believe the Papal Church, like a chameleon, changes its color according to nationality, and that if it ever gets a grip on America, the grip will be worse than the Russian one, and amacoda like, it will essay to swallow the Protestant lamb. But when the day comes that the Romish Church is thus revealed in its true colors, a new Luther will nail startling theses on the doors of the Union Seminary, and he will probably be Dr. Briggs."

When Dr. Sutton, the next speaker, began to oppose revision because of unconstitutionality of procedure on the part of the General Assembly in initiating legislation on the subject—a question, he said, which would ultimately have to be decided by the civil courts—he was called to order by Dr. Briggs, and the Moderator ruled that the constitutionality of the revision was not a matter for debate. After

some time had been spent in trying to alter this decision, Dr. Sutton, protesting against it, conducted his argument on other lines. He implied that the apparent sentiment in favor of revision was manufactured.

Prof. Stephenson of the New York University also spoke against revision.

FRANCIS O'REILLY DEAD.

One of the Most Noted Men in Northern Cambria Joins the Great Majority.

Word has been sent the Democrat announcing the death of Francis O'Reilly, Esq., of Loretto, at his home in that place at 11:35 on Friday night. His ailment was heart disease, superinduced no doubt by old age.

Mr. O'Reilly came to this country from County Donegal, Ireland, and first stopped in Hollidaysburg with a relative, Bernard O'Reilly, who was connected with the old canal transportation. Later the deceased came to Munster, this county, probably fifty years ago. He taught school for many years, and was subsequently engaged in the mercantile business. He was always one of the leading men in the community. He was a Justice of the Peace for many years, and did considerable business at settling up estates, writing wills, and at matters of a like nature. There is scarcely a man in his neighborhood who has not at some time found in the deceased a prudent adviser.

Mr. O'Reilly served as County Commissioner also, at about the time the new county jail was building. He married a daughter of Sheriff McGough, who survives him, as do also three children—H. T. O'Reilly, of Loretto; Jane, a Sister of Mercy, and Ella who resides at home.

The deceased had passed the advanced age of eighty years. His funeral will take place this morning. Requiem high mass will be celebrated at St. Michael's Catholic Church, Loretto, after which the remains will be interred in the cemetery at that place.

A LITTLE WHAT MOXAM.

Trouble Between the Johnstown Company and the Westmoreland and Cambria Natural Gas Company.

For some cause, not made public, the Johnstown Company and Westmoreland and Cambria Natural Gas Company are having a little disagreement. The trouble resulted in the Natural Gas Company ordering the supply of gas turned off the Johnson Co's works. When Mr. Thomas Carten entered the works at Moxam last Friday afternoon for the purpose of closing the valve, he was met by one of the watchmen who ordered him off the premises. The stout proprietor declined to go, and considerable force was necessarily used in ejecting him. In fact, according to eye-witnesses, four officers were considerably used up in inducing Mr. Carten to retire. Returning to the G. S. Company's office, he reported his failure to carry out his instructions. The Superintendent, Mr. W. S. Steele, seeing that strategy was necessary, bided his time, and after the shades of night had fallen, repaired to Moxam accompanied by Mr. Carten and another employe, armed to the teeth, so it is said, and closed the valve, shutting off the supply. It is rumored that the gas will be shut off the residence portion of Moxam in a few days.

IT SHOOK UP THE TOWN.

An Explosion of One Along the Conemaugh River Last Night, Causes Some Excitement.

At about twenty minutes of 11 o'clock Sunday night a shock not unlike a small earthquake, made the ground vibrate from one end of the city to the other. In a moment everyone who had not gone to bed was in the street. "What was it and where was it?" was in all mouths. Nobody could give an answer. It seemed to come from the region of the Gaultier mills. Some of the Democrat employes saw a shower of fire in that direction a moment after the shock, and an investigation was made.

It was found out that the shock was caused by dumping a car load of molten cinder on the side of the dump, where it slid into the river. The rapid and irregular cooling caused it to explode with terrific violence, and strange to say no one was hurt. Fragments of the red hot cinder flew high in the air in all directions, some of it falling above the bluff across the Pennsylvania Railroad.

Great numbers of men were out on the streets looking for some supposed wreck of a house or other building. They would hardly believe that an explosion of such violence could be produced by the cinder. A battery of boilers or a house full of gas, would, in their minds, more likely have made such a report.

On a Charge of Embezzlement.

On Tuesday afternoon Officer Boucher, on a warrant from Pittsburgh, endorsed by Justice Bland, arrested W. A. McVey at the B. & O. station, on a charge of embezzlement. It is not known just what the grounds for the charge are. McVey spent Tuesday night in the Millville lock-up. Yesterday morning Officer Boucher took McVey to Pittsburgh, where his home is

HE EATS COAL TO LIVE.

The Strange Story of a Johnstown Flood Victim at Tacoma, Washington.

A half demented hermit, who is supposed to be a victim of the Johnstown flood, has been found living in a hole in a gulch near the Carbon Hill bunkers, not far from Tacoma, Washington. His name is Jasper Milton, and he declares that soft coal is all that he eats.

Jasper's home, if such it can be called, is neither house nor hole, but a combination of both. It is located half way up the hillside, and is both difficult and dangerous of access. A narrow, winding, rock-strewn path, twisting in and out among the dwarf pines and over fallen logs, leads from the bottom of the gulch to Jasper's door. The visible half of the dwelling is built of boards, weatherbeaten and stained by time. A rank growth of grass and bright green moss grows on the roof and in the joints on the sides and end. There is no window or other means of admitting light and air except by way of the door—a rickety affair hung on boot-leg hinges. In fair weather the old hermit sits with the door open, but when the cold winds blow in from the sound he crouches over a small fire of sticks, built on the earthen floor of his wretched house. One joint of rusty pipe projecting from the roof allows some of the smoke to escape when the wind is in the right direction. Jasper is a feeble old man of seventy or thereabouts, with snow-white hair and whiskers.

"I've grown so thin since the flood," he whined, as he tightened the strap another hole, "that I can't wear suspenders any more. My shoulder blades are so sharp they cut the suspenders in two."

The old man made this remarkable statement with an air of great sincerity, followed by a burst of maniacal laughter. Recovering himself, he frowned at his folly, cursing the while like a pirate.

"Were you shipmate with Noah?" his visitor finally asked.

"No, no," he replied. "It's the Johnstown flood I'm thinking about. The bursting of that cursed Conemaugh dam ruined me forever. I was one of the richest men in the valley," he went on excitedly, "but now I'm a beggar. Folks say I'm rich—gold hidden away—but it's all a lie. There's nothing here but coal, and I've had a hard struggle to get that, because they watch the bunkers so close."

"At the time of the disaster," continued old Jasper after a long pause, "I had thousands of money in my house when the flood came rushing down. Before I knew what was up me and the house went floating down the tide. Sixteen million tons of water had broken loose from the reservoir. It went leaping and foaming down the valley, leaving death and ruin on every hand. I lost my money, family—everything; then I came west. If I can get what coal I need I'll stay here until I die."

"How much coal do you need?"

"But very little now; my teeth ain't what they used to be."

"You don't mean to say that you eat coal?"

"To be sure. Coal and slugs is what I live on. Coal for breakfast, dinner and supper. Coal on Thanksgiving Day and on the Fourth of July. Ever eat any yourself? No? Finest kind of diet when you get it fresh. I lived altogether on anthracite, Lehigh Valley small egg being my favorite. Sometimes eaters found their way to my table. But now my teeth are gone, and I'm content with soft coal. South Prairie settlements is what I use when I can get the bunkers. There's enough in that can by the door to last me two days. Every Sunday I try to have a mess of gas-house cokes for dinner, but the weather has been so bad of late that I couldn't go after it."

Coal and the Conemaugh flood were his two great hobbies and he talked of nothing else. Several attempts have been made to draw from him his history, but without avail. It is not exactly known when he came to Tacoma, but he was first seen in the gulch along in the summer. He makes regular trips to the bunkers for "provisions," and can be seen almost any afternoon creeping stealthily about, picking up bits of coal and putting them in his pockets.

Left Rather Suddenly.

William Boston, a colored barber in the employ of Mr. H. P. Derritts since the flood, on Saturday last about eleven o'clock came to his employer and stated that he was obliged to leave town, and wanted the money due him. Mr. Derritts was quite surprised as he always trusted Boston, who was foreman of his shop, and always behaved like a gentleman. He refused to say anything further than that he had been in trouble some three or four years, and that a detective was after him. Upon receiving his money Boston left and has not been seen since. What the trouble was and where he went are not known.

Will Hold a Festival.

The Ladies Aid Society of the English Lutheran Church, of Johnstown, Pa., will hold a festival for the benefit of the Sabbath School of their Church on the 9th, 21st and 22d of next month.

MARRYING THE PEERAGE.

What the American Girl Gains and What She Loses by It.

From the Ladies Home Journal.

Every woman loves a title. If she did not she would not call herself "Mrs. Colonel" or "Mrs. Captain," as she so often does, much to the disgust of "Mr. Captain" or "Mr. Colonel," who is powerless. As lords and dukes are not to be found in America, the ambitious American girl hunts them down in their native lands, and with fair, round, shining dollars buys the title and accepts as she would a chrome the man who accompanies it. And the result? Almost universally, misery. Educated to think of women lightly, to regard marriage as a social duty, and understanding exactly the motive which prompted the American girl to marry him, the husband shows himself in his true colors, selfishness being the most glaring. But can you blame him? And what can you think of she who sells herself that butler and maid may address her as "my lady?" The best husband for the American girl is the man who is lord in his own country and over her heart. The man who believes in the goodness and purity of women; who has been educated to care for them, and to regard them as beings "too bright and good" to be spoken of lightly or irreverently. She who marries such a man makes her home in a land the customs of which she understands; her children are brought up in her own religion and are not subjects for controversy and quarrels.

The husband cares for his own household, and there is not a constant discussion about money, nor a feeling that life is not worth living when so much worry only gains for the girl the privilege of a coronet on her note paper and a re-entertainment at court. The American wife's manner of living, of speaking, and even of moving and having her own being, offends both the English and French women, and after all is said there is no doubt that they do form a great social power, can ostracize the woman who displeases them and make her unhappy and her husband ashamed. This ought not to be, but it is. As a dignified English countess once said when a pretty American girl had married a younger son of an old family: "We must put this down—by this will-she will be marrying the peerage?" Well, they have done it—but at a cost that is degrading. The American girl has lowered herself, made her good for a title a by-word, and her willingness to buy it a jest. It is now time to stop. Marry the man of your own land—the man who has loved you from your youth on, the one who will make you a happy woman, which is after all more than can be given by title or found at the feet of the Queen as you are presented. Look on an international marriage with fear, remember the waters of Marah—beautiful but bitter.

JAMES MASTERSON DEAD.

East Conemaugh Lives One of Its Best Known Citizens.

On Monday night at 11 o'clock Mr. James Masterson, one of the best known and oldest citizens of East Conemaugh, died at his residence on Third street. He was born in Ireland, county Cavin, in 1815, and came to America in 1843. He soon became an employe of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company, and has been connected with that corporation as Construction Foreman since about 1850, with a few months ago, when the Company in consideration of his long and faithful service retired him on full pay. His death is the result of an accident at Crescen, which occurred in the beginning of 1889. A large stone rolled down the embankment at that place, and striking Mr. Masterson injured him internally. He leaves a large family to mourn his loss, the following of whom are those living: Mrs. Wm. Kelly, Mrs. John Hughes, Mrs. B. Rafferty, Mr. Tans, Masterson, Miss Mary Masterson and Mrs. Jos. Plummer, and his wife, Margaret, who came to this country with him. She was Miss Margaret Gibney.

How Is This?

SOUTH FORK, January 28, 1890.

To the Editor of the Johnstown Democrat.

The Pittsburgh Flood Relief Committee held a meeting yesterday, and the Pittsburgh papers publish this morning the names of the persons who received the \$5,000 sent to this place. Across the bottom of the list of the names of the persons who received the money, in the handwriting of J. B. Kremer, Secretary of the State Flood Commission, appears the following: "Forty-two persons in all—out of which nine persons received \$4,000 IS, out of \$5,000 sent."

The names are published who received the money at South Fork, and the \$5,000 is said to have been divided among forty-two of them. Why does not Mr. Kremer, or the Flood Commission, or Governor Beaver, publish the names of the people who received money in Johnstown? It is said one man, or his family, in Johnstown received over \$8,000, and yet Mr. Kremer is troubled about \$3,000 being distributed among forty-two people at South Fork. Let the names and amounts be published of how the money was distributed in Johnstown, and the unfair and outrageous discrimination practiced in Johnstown will so overshadow the paltry \$5,000 at South Fork, that the Flood Commission and Mr. J. B. Kremer will feel disposed to hide their heads. Let the name of every one and the amount he received be published.

A SOUTH FORK SUFFERER.

JOHNSTOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL.

The Electric Street Car Ordinance Passed at the Meeting Tuesday Night.

The Johnstown Borough Council met in special session Tuesday night. The principal matter considered was the Electric Street Railway ordinance, or rather such amendments to the Street Railway ordinance of 1882 as would enable the Street Car Company to operate its lines by electricity. The matter was first taken up by sections, and finally passed as a whole upon third reading, with some slight modifications from the original draft of the Committee, the changes making but a small variation from the ordinance as previously published.

Where a double track is laid the Street Car Company is obliged to pave the whole street lying within one foot beyond the outside rail. The amount of salt that may be used to melt snow on the tracks is left to the discretion of the Burgess instead of the Council as proposed.

The Street Car Company is allowed thirty days time after the Burgess signs the ordinance, in which to accept the terms and sign the agreement.

A motion to change from electric cars to horse cars or cable received three votes.

An amendment to compel the Street Car Company to put down a double track on all streets where cars are run was lost.

An amendment was added to the ordinance exempting the borough or the firemen from being liable for damages from the cutting of the wires or stopping of traffic, made necessary in the management of any fire, was passed and finally carried as a part of the ordinance, as was also a provision of the same kind in regard to the necessary moving of buildings across or along any street, according to permit from the borough authorities.

There was a good deal of quibbling and no little objecting, while on some of the sections several members voted a positive "No." The question "shall the ordinance pass?" received no dissenting votes, and as he announced the result President Kennedy exclaimed with a sigh of relief "Thank goodness we're done."

The matter of the exonerations of delinquent tax payers was then taken up, and exonerations for the several wards, were granted as follows: First ward \$75.82, Second \$129.85, Third \$115.02, Fourth \$41.70, Fifth \$77.22, Sixth \$98.70, Seventh \$23.57, total \$521.86. There were also enough exonerations on saloons and other establishments that had gone out of business to make a grand total of \$1,322.80.

On motion Council adjourned.

Memorial Services at the M. E. Church.

The First M. E. Church was crowded again Sunday, the occasion being the memorial services for the members who were lost in the flood. Among the announcements made by the pastor, Rev. H. L. Chapman, D. D., he read the names of 110 persons who on Sunday next will be received into the full communion of the church. The addresses are all pronounced fine, and were interspersed with singing. The names of the fifty-seven drowned members were read. Mr. W. C. Lewis, spoke in the case of Cyrus P. Tittle, Secretary of the Board of Boardwards. Rev. James A. Lane made an address in reference to Dr. L. T. Beas, member of the Board of Trustees. Rev. Wm. Collier spoke of William Layton, one of the oldest Sunday School teachers. W. A. Stewart spoke in respect to James Rosensteel, a Superintendent of the Senior Department of Sunday School, Mrs. Geo. W. Moses read an address in relation to the official members of the Woman's Foreign Missionary Society, who were lost in the flood.

The following are the names of those who perished in the great flood of May 31st 1889:

L. T. Beas, M. C., Mrs. Jane Phillips, Cyrus P. Tittle, Mrs. Sarah Constable, William Layton, Mrs. Elvira Layton, Miss May Layton, Ella S. Layton, Joseph Kidd, Sarah Kidd, C. C. Himes, Mrs. C. C. Himes, Josephine Himes, J. B. Eck, Mrs. Mary Eck, Miss Lillie Eck, Mary Eck, Jr., Mrs. Mary Cadogan, Miss Annie Cadogan, Caroline Bunting, Mrs. Margaret Fisher, Miss Cora Given, George Johnston, Miss Minnie Fisher, Miss Emma Fisher, Miss Ida Fisher, William Hepburn, George Hummer, Mary E. Keedy, H. E. Moroburg, M. D., Joseph Ross, James Rosensteel, Mrs. Susan Thomas, David Vallence, Amanda Vallence, Ross M. Standfield, Mrs. Priscilla Wearn, Mrs. Fred Hughton, S. Vincent Webster, John W. Stuft, Malinda Stuft, Mrs. Richard Wearn, Mrs. Mary McKinstry, Miss Jesse Nancy Howe, Mrs. Margaret Cope, Mrs. Ella Cope, Mrs. Jennie Jones, Mrs. Ann Lewis, Miss Eva Statler, Mrs. J. H. Palmer, Miss Mary Hamilton, Miss Jesse Hamilton, Miss Lulu Finley, Miss Georgiana Peyton, Miss Jane Given, Miss Emma Bover, Minnie Hoffman.—57.

B. H. Hill, Jr., son of the late Senator Hill, of Georgia will publish, some time this year, a volume of eight hundred or a thousand pages, containing his father's speeches.

THE STAR OF BETHLEHEM.

Revival of the Romance of Its Prospective Reappearance This Year.

Boston Post.

Prof. Pickering of Harvard University, on being shown a dispatch dated Vienna and announcing that the star of Bethlehem would reappear this year, said: "I can scarcely believe that this story emanated from the astronomers at Vienna, for had there been the slightest intimation of the appearance of this star, it would have been cabled to us at once, as is always done in the case of astronomical news gathered in Europe. The report is probably the unauthorized revival of an old rumor that this star, erroneously called the star of Bethlehem, was to make its appearance, but as this statement has been made several times since 1854, when the star was looked for by some astronomers, there is doubtless nothing in it."

The star referred to was the one discovered by Tycho Brahe in 1572, and was named for him. It appeared quite suddenly in the constellation of Cassiopeia, and had a brilliancy greater than any of the planets, so much so that it was visible in the daytime. From certain records, it was believed by some that this star had appeared in the same position 312 years before, or in 1260, and assuming this interval of appearance to be correct, it would have been visible about the time of the Christian era, and it was thus termed by some the star of Bethlehem. If its return was after 312 years, the time of its reappearance would have been in 1854, but nothing has yet been seen of it, although many observers watched for it at that time. Such a phenomenon at the present day would have the highest value to astronomical science, for by the use of modern instruments, observations could be taken and information gathered that would be of the greatest assistance in a series of experiments now in progress. There is, however, so much doubt in the matter that it is of but little use to surmise as to the star's reappearance.

The Presbyterian Church Endorsing.

The public had generally come to the conclusion that after the vote of the congregation, sometime ago, by which it refused to concur in asking Presbytery to accept the resignation of the pastor, the causes which seemed to lead up to it would gradually die out, but such seems not to be the case. The crisis will not be over. The identity of those who abide by the proposed decision of the majority, or otherwise step down and out. Instead of which a spirit of antagonism and a determination to rule or rule appears to have taken possession of them, or at least a few of the leaders, among which are some if not all of the eldership. It seems to be a fight to the finish and the result is looked forward to with a great deal of anxiety on the part of the church and corresponding interest by the public at large.

The latest phase of the conflict in which the minority are reported as holding secret meetings and by means, which, on account of their being secretly employed, will not bear the light of day, are endeavoring to bring a majority of the members over to their way of thinking, seems to be to the mind as an ordinary man at least reprehensible. Also the studied absence of the session from the waiting upon the public ordinances of worship, and by their absence, preventing the admission of persons who wish to become members of the church, is not only uncalled for but decidedly wrong, whatever the cause of complaint may be. Two wrongs never have and never will make a right. For the sake of argument, let us agree that Dr. Beas is guilty of all, and singular of the thing of which he has been charged. Does that justify the eldership of church in openly and persistently violating the solemn vows they have taken upon them? They owe a duty to the congregation which no act upon the part of minister or member will justify them in disregarding. If they are governed by the true spirit of the Master whom they claim to serve, we cannot understand by what process of reasoning they arrive at the conclusion they have. We have never, as yet, found anything in Holy Writ, and we have given it considerable study, which would justify such a measure.

In conclusion may we be allowed to remark, that, if those parties have ever had a real cause of complaint, they are destroying their case by the proceedings indicated above. In the interest of Christianity, for the sake of the social and religious interests of the community at large, and the progress and welfare of the church, and last, but not least, the carrying out faithfully of the command of the Master, when he said, "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature," we pray these parties to stop, deliberate and cease this senseless and unseemly strife.

IN THE INTEREST OF PEACE.

EMINENT physicians everywhere recommend Ayer's Cherry Pectoral as the most reliable remedy that can be had for colds, coughs, and all pulmonary disorders. Ask your druggist for Ayer's Almanic; it is the best publication of the kind, and full of information.