

A SERMON FOR SUNDAY

AN ELOQUENT DISCOURSE ENTITLED "THE UNIVERSAL IN RELIGION."

The Rev. C. L. Palmer Directs Attention to Certain Forms or Doctrines Common to All—Every System of Religion Has Some Conception of God.

KINGSTON, N. Y.—In the Reformed Church of the Comforter on Sunday morning the Rev. C. L. Palmer delivered a scholarly discourse entitled "The Universal in Religion."

By which he means, that one cannot adequately appreciate any system of faith and practice without some knowledge of the history, doctrines and customs of systems other than his own, any more than one can master his native tongue without any knowledge of its cognates. It is undeniable that a study of the various systems discloses a religious substratum and phenomena, of which no intelligent student is willing to be deprived.

The population of the world is estimated at 1,392,000,000. Of this number 100,000,000 are pagan or heathen, which represents the very lowest grade of humanity. There are supposed to be 400,000,000 Brahmins. The nominal and professed followers of Buddha and Confucius are estimated at 420,000,000. Mohammedans number more than 200,000,000. Christians, including Roman Catholic, Greek Church and Protestant, are computed at 400,000,000. The whole of Eastern Asia is occupied by the Buddhists, India by the Brahmans, Africa, Australia and the South Sea Islands by the pagan tribes. Parts of Europe, Asia and Africa by the Mohammedans, the largest part of Europe and America by Christians.

The conservative traditions of the religions of the world were such as these—true and false religions, natural and supernatural, pagan and revealed, spiritual and superstitious. Such a classification is not only confusing to the student of comparative religions, but is unjust, for every system contains some truth. A better classification is: 1. Tribal. 2. Ethnic. 3. Catholic. The tribal includes all systems which have no ritual, priesthood, creed, sacred writings, architecture or music. The ethnic religions are confined to one nation; such, for example, was the religion of Egypt, which for a thousand years was limited to its national borders. The system of Assyria was confined to Assyria; the religion of Greece was confined to the Hellenic race; that of Rome to the Romans; of Confucius to China; of Brahmanism to India, and the faith of the Eldas was limited to the Scandinavian or Teutonic races. The Catholic systems, in spirit and method, know no limit in either time or territory. They aspire to conquer the world. Such were Moses, Zoroaster, Buddha, Mohammed and Jesus. Ethnic religions were evolved out of their own life. Catholic systems were formulated, introduced and promulgated by an inspired prophet.

It is not my purpose to trace the origin of religion, the evolution or development, or to compare the various systems, but very briefly direct attention to certain forms or doctrines common to all.

Such conception is either just or unjust, true or false, right or wrong, though faith, even among the most degraded, is entirely destitute of some truth concerning God. Christianity is the one system which has an adequate disclosure of the attributes of Jehovah, because Jesus became incarnate the reveal the Father. "He that hath seen Me hath seen the Father." And even Christianity cannot condense in a single definition a comprehensive revelation of the Supreme Being, for the idea is not simple but complex. The lowest conception of God is known as animism, which is belief in spiritual powers as opposed to materialism. It is the universal religion of the most undeveloped tribes, and has no place in the Christian system except as clarified and perfected in angelology and demonology. Polytheism was found principally in the ethnic systems. In Egypt the divine elements were seen dwelling in nature. The Greek deities were not personifications, but persons, vine men and women. In the Vedic Hymns of India the forces of nature are spiritualized into objects of reverence and love. The most marked form of pantheism appears in the Hindu religion, which in its extreme development, that the universe is God, and God is the universe. Christian science savors of it. The doctrine of the divine nature may be traced, as to eliminate the personality of God. Dithemism is belief in two hostile powers which was a tenet of Zoroastrianism. It also appears in the ethnic and Catholic systems. The Christian doctrine of the trinity is a necessary and natural conception of God, and becomes clear if it is understood to represent Him as one in essence but three in form, and that the personality characteristic of the Catholic systems, though traces are found in the pagan and ethnic. Deeply imbedded in every heart is the sense of the infinite, but its mighty personality, and that such personality is back of all forms and images, and that the latter becomes efficacious because of the power of God.

At possible theories about the origin of the universe are reducible to four: 1. That it had no beginning, but has always existed either in its present or another form. While the eternity of matter has been advocated by some, it never has become a popular belief, and it does not appeal to modern science. But among the primitive tribes we presume, many think that the handwork of God without commencement and culmination. 2. That it came by a process of evolution. This theory had been modified in recent years by Biblical scholars and philosophical thinkers, with the result of a most hearty acceptance on the part of some thorough students and devoted scientists. 3. Another view is that it came by a process of emanation. The difference between evolution and emanation seems to be, that the former is a growth up to and including a certain completeness, while the latter began "with the dark abyss of infinite being, and by means of a series of emanations or fallings away from this inconceivable first essence, gradually reached an intelligent Creator and an intelligent creation." This theory is Oriental in its origin, appearing first in the cosmogony of the Hindus. 4. Conservative Christian scholars are divided on this doctrine. Some hold that God created, that is, actually made, brought into existence, the material out of which all things were formed. Others hold that He simply cut, carved and fashioned the universe out of pre-existing material. It is difficult to say just what form is acceptable to the majority of Christian scholars. Evolution as we now understand it is certainly accepted by men whose sincerity we cannot question and whose scholarship commands universal admiration.

There is a spirit in man and the inspiration of the Almighty giveth it understanding. The lowest and most ignorant pagan, and the most intelligent Christian is born in possession of it. The practice of the human family from the very first confirms the statement, "that the spirit of man goeth upward." All believe in a spirit world and that access is had to it through prayer. Men pray either because they obtain what they ask for, or because the act is a blessing in itself. The Sioux Indians pray—"Spirits of the dead, have mercy on us." The Zulus of Africa pray to their ancestors—"People of our house, people of our house, cattle, people of our house, good luck and health." A Delaware Indian prayed thus—"O Great Spirit above! have mercy on my children and my wife.

WHERE IT RAINS EVERY TEN YEARS.

Almost as Bad as Verkhoyansk, with Variation of 176 Degrees.

Should the western citizen be asked to name the hottest and coldest places on earth he would most likely mention Yuma, A. T., for the former, and some spot in the northwest territory for the latter. In such selections, he would be some considerable distance out of the way, though neither has a great deal in the way of climate to recommend it.

For instance, says the Chicago Chronicle, neither the Bahrien islands in the Persian Gulf, nor Yakutsk, Siberia, would be a wise selection as a place of residence. In Bahrien you cook and in Yakutsk you freeze. Bahrien is said to be the hottest place in the world. The thermometer often registers between 110 and 120 degrees, night and day, for months at a time. This rather beats Fort Yuma, A. T., which is considered the hottest place in the United States.

Yakutsk is called the coldest city in the world. The thermometer frequently registers 73 degrees below zero. Though it is the coldest city in the world, Verkhoyansk, in northwestern Siberia, claims to be the coldest inhabited place on the globe, the thermometer registering 90 degrees below zero in January.

It also claims to be the place possessing the most variable climate, for while it is 90 degrees below in January, it is 86 above in the shade in August during the day, with a drop down to freezing every midsummer night. The wettest place in the world is Greytown, Nicaragua, where the annual rainfall is 269 inches. The driest place in the world is probably the rainless coast of northern Chile. They have a shower there about once in every 10 years. Nothing grows on the desolate strip of barren coast, and the dreary towns from which the nitrates and minerals mined in that region are shipped depend for their subsistence upon food brought to them in the ships from the fertile strips to the north and south of the desert.

Northern Russia and the shores of the French Congo are said to be the cloudiest places in the world, and for fog there is no region like the Grand Banks, the southern coast of Newfoundland and the waters of Nova Scotia.

This region is one of fog for a large part of the year, and the very home of the fog is the island of Grand Manan, at the entrance of the Bay of Fundy.

England's Self Made Men.

England, long disparaged by American boasters, particularly by those American boasters who thing America the only land of unlimited opportunity, is beginning to count up her self-made men. Says the St. James's Gazette: "We hear so much of American captains of industry, of John D. Rockefeller, the farm laborer's son; of Edison, the newspaper boy; of Yerkes, the youthful soap jobber, that we are apt to forget British giants of perseverance. Livingstone worked as a factory hand until twenty-five; the man who sought and found him in the wilds was born in a workhouse. The great firm of W. H. Smith & Sons was begun by two brothers so poor that the wife of one had to go into domestic service. The house of Tangye began in a little workshop, whose rent was but 4s. a week; that of Lever Brothers had a scarcely more pretentious start at Bolton. A coffee stall on a London curb was the fount and origin of Pearce & Plenty; 700 pounds once formed the total capital of the 'universal' Whitley. Bass's brewery was founded by a carrier; the Elder Dempster's Line of steamers by a ship's apprentice, now Sir Alfred Jones. The inventor of Bessemer steel was once a poor, almost starving, boy in London, the poorer for having devoted his labor to an invention of whose profits the government robbed him. So one might go on throughout the whole range of our industries. The sergeant and the plain constable of life's affairs who have made this nation industrially great, and carried its flag and fame to the needs of the earth.

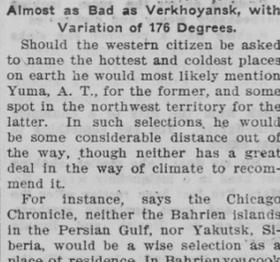
Costly Keys.

Under Philip II of Spain and his successors the ministers of the crown were possessed of what the Spaniards termed a clave maestra, or master key, which gave them admission to the royal palaces. During the reign of Charles II (1675-1700) gilt master keys were conferred on the nobles and gentlemen in attendance on the king. These keys corresponded with and gave admission to all the rooms of the royal palaces. They had huge, oblong bow handles, which projected from the right-hand pocket and were attached to the person by a ribbon. The subordinate members of the royal household were honored with similar keys, though they were not gilt. It is recorded that if one of these keys was lost the unfortunate loser had to warn a high official of the court, who at once had all the locks changed at a cost of over 10,000 Spanish dollars. This large sum had to be paid by the unlucky individual who lost the key. Another curious custom in vogue in the peninsula at that time was the giving of dummy keys as badges to officials and to certain nobles who held no court post as a mark of favor and distinction.

Won, Only to Lose.

"After he married that rich widow she made him resign from all his clubs." "Poor chap—and all he married her for was so he could pay his club dues."—7uck.

Woman kind



Open Work the Vogue. The open-work doilies, tablecloths, centerpieces and napkins show the vogue for openwork designs as much as the gowns do.

A Word to the Child. Train your child to always wipe his face on his own individual towel. Begin when he is very small, too. It will prove a good habit to get into.

Unbecoming Eyebrows. About the eyebrows which spread unbecomingly at the ends, it is better to consult a first-class operator of the electric needle. He will be able to narrow the line of the brows permanently. The best one can do for oneself is to remove the undesirable hair with tweezers and to keep on removing it as it reappears. Peroxide of hydrogen does not destroy superfluous hair. It acts upon it just as it does upon the hair of the head, bleaching its color. A growth of down upon the face or arms can be made almost imperceptible by this method, but it would not help one out of the difficulty.

Repose of Manner. The air of distinguished repose so sought after by nervous society women may be acquired by any one if they will remember that the secret of a reposeful manner simply means the power to totally relax. Much of your nervous energy is lost in nervous fidgeting. One beauty specialist goes so far as to declare that nothing will make wrinkles quicker than the habit of moving and jerking, and that nothing is so fatal to beauty as coughing and wheezing. All such habits are really nervous complaints. To cure all these fidgety movements cultivate the habit of sitting perfectly still, keeping the hands and fingers motionless as long as possible and relaxed.

Good Designs for Needlework.

A talent for adaptation, and using to the best advantage what the clever brains of others have produced, may not rank nearly as high as originality, but it often produces far better results than a poorer original. A clever needlewoman, who has the reputation of making her own designs, said the other day that she generally looked about her and adopted any good pattern that she discovered on ordinary household articles. "The patterns on lamaks are generally well adapted to embroidery," she said, "and are often beautiful. Oriental rugs afford excellent motifs for cross-stitch effects. The decoration on china gives one particularly good color schemes, as well as graceful designs, and so on. One need never be at a loss, if one only looks about. The other day I wished to make a white afternoon tea cloth for a present and was rather at a loss for an idea. As usual, I strolled through the rooms looking for a suggestion, and found a most satisfactory one in a common white crocheted bedspread! I had taken up what is called Mountmelick embroidery, consisting of raised work and curious stitching, and found that my spread was not at all dissimilar to it in character. So I copied its pattern approximately on my linen canvas, using mercerized linen floss, and the result was immensely admired."

An Unusual Gown.

An unusual gown in cream and brown was worn at a fashionable restaurant at a small dinner. The foundation was of the cream silk, and the brown taffeta was used in strappings, a stripe the bodice and the upper part of the skirt. The large hat worn with this gown carried out the brown and cream idea, it being a large round affair, with a wide brim that curved down a little all the way around, and was raised from the hair by a ban-lean. It was also set back a bit on the wearer's hair, which was also brown, as were her eyes. Brown ostrich tips, with cream-colored stems, the tips themselves shading to cream toward the centre, rodded from the crown over the brim, and wide white shawls of brown messaline ribbon were brought from the back around to the front, where they hung below the knee.

Remember Your Silhouette.

The trouble with loose coats and, indeed, with the style of dress in favor just now is that the lines of the figure are too apt to be neglected. In other words, the wearer is swamped in her own clothes. The best known of dressmakers, Redfern, said a clever thing in describing his methods: "My specialty," he said, "is the line of a woman's figure, but always to see it through her dress. Whether gown or coat or mantle, for street or evening wear, simple or elaborate, I insist upon the preservation of certain lines. I start with the old Greek lines. I modify them in a thousand ways, but I never lose them."

What the French call the silhouette, meaning the outline of the figure, is too often neglected by dressmakers, and completely overlooked by their customers. No woman who ever thought of her silhouette would wear a tight sheath skirt for example. It is hideous when she is standing still and grotesque when she is walking. It is a pity that there is no way of seeking a good shadow of one's self in every hat that it tried on.—Indianapolis News.

The Neat Little Darn.

"I love to see a neat little darn in household nappery or garments of any kind," said an observant old lady. "It always suggests to me care and neatness and good management. Silvers never darn tidily or take the proverbial stitch in time that saves some useful possession. When I was a little girl nurse used to tell us a story about a beautiful and rich and altogether delightful and desirable young man, who liked two sisters. One was much prettier and livelier than the other, and naturally he rather preferred her to the quieter sister, but on one unlucky day for her he took a walk with her. Her slipper stuck in the road and came off, and he was horribly shocked to see a great hole in the heel of her stocking. Of course, he did not like her after that. And the next day, by a strange coincidence,

PEARLS OF THOUGHT.

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The most profound joy has more of gravity in it.—Montaigne.

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We trifle when we assign limits to our desires, since Nature has set none.—Brand.

How oft the sight of means to do ill deeds makes ill deeds done!—Shakespeare.

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"Health brings wealth," but this is another of those rules that will not work both ways.

No man ever did a designed injury to another but at the same time he did a greater to himself.

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MEN GROWING TALLER.

Our Ancestors of Mediaeval Times Puny Compared With Athletes of Today.

A walk through the Tower of London will convince any person that the armorial knights of mediaeval days were puny men compared with the athlete of today.

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"The tallest men after the men of Galloway, who have an average of nearly six feet, are the Fulahs of the French Sudan, and the Patagonians are believed to hold a very good average."

In London the average is as low as in South Wales, and the little man frequently asks why he should have to pay the same price for a suit of clothes as a country bred giant.

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"We have been compelled on one or two occasions, however, to charge more when a man is exceptionally tall or stout. One of our customers, who is over six feet high and 44 inches around the chest and 47 inches around the waist, takes five and a half double width for a lounge suit. We ask another guinea, and he pays it readily."—London Express.

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There Is Plenty of Coal Yet.

It does not look as if we shall get out of coal, at any rate this winter. It is estimated that beneath the earth's crust there are about 8,000,000,000 yards of coal at depths available for the use of man—in round numbers a little over 7,000,000,000 tons.

Of this store Great Britain has available for use about a fifteenth part, or, according to the best estimates, 145,000,000,000 tons. One would hardly believe that Great Britain, though it has hardly reached the fullness of its growth or the full development of its civilization, consumes more than 150,000,000 tons each year, at a rate of consumption that would exhaust her whole store in about 300 years. The world's store, it is estimated, will be exhausted in about 2000 years.—Boston Globe.

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while walking with the plainer sister, she, too, in some way or another lost her slipper, and this time he noticed the neatest, nicest little darn imaginable on the toe of her stocking, and loved her at once and always. Perhaps our nurse's tale has had some thing to do with my liking for people who darn their things neatly, and I think it shows a delectable characteristic," concluded the old lady.—Indianapolis News.

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