

DESERET EVENING NEWS

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SALT LAKE CITY, - DEC. 2, 1909.

FOR CIVIC RIGHTEOUSNESS.

Rabbi Eichler, of Boston, a few days ago, in an address on "Saving the City," expressed some truths that voters all over the country are beginning to realize as never before. He said, for instance, that the question to answer in Boston is not whether this or that set of men should be at the helm of the city government, but whether the forces that work for civic righteousness should triumph over the forces that work for civic corruption. This, it is obvious, is the great question before the voters of most of the larger cities of this country, and not only Boston.

The speaker suggested a radical change in municipal politics. Politics, he said, "used to mean the art of getting something out of the city. It should mean the duty of giving our best, indeed, of giving ourselves, to the city. Many a good man refrains from taking an active interest in civic affairs, and excuses his course by saying, 'I am not a politician,' and we can hardly blame him, remembering the stigma attached to that word."

Then he pointed out the place of the churches in the work for civic righteousness. He said:

"Another old notion must be changed. The bugbear of the church mixing in state affairs, that so many people dread, must be banished. The church is a mighty force for righteousness, as the school of ethics must be an important factor in the salvation of the city. There is no nobler theme for pulpits than civic righteousness. Why speak constantly of saving souls and calmly allow a city of half a million souls to go to perdition?"

The speaker was alive to the necessity of union effort for the accomplishment of the desired result. On this point he said, in part:

"All the varied elements must unite and should be given a chance to help save the city. No particular group is good enough to be the exclusive ruling class; no group is so bad as not to be able to help in this crisis."

Zabbi Eichler, though referring particularly to Boston, gave utterance to some thoughts of general application. There is not a large city in the Union in which the forces of evil are not striving for supremacy over the opposite forces, and sometimes with temporary success. But their victory is always due to the failure of too many citizens to do their duty. They do not realize that the ship is theirs, and that they float, or sink, with it, and so they permit the most flagrant frauds to go unchecked, as if they were not concerned in the result.

An illustration of the influence of churches brought to bear for the establishment of civic righteousness comes in a recent newspaper report from Winnipeg, Canada. There several pastors, one Sunday, dealt with what has been called the social evil, and one of them, Rev. Dr. C. W. Gordon, expressed the view that if the names of those who had placed a "segregated" district in North Winnipeg were known and were published, which he believed would be likely in the near future, they would not be able to remain in the city. If this is so, Winnipeg is, indeed to be congratulated.

At a meeting of the men of the First Baptist church, the following resolutions were adopted:

"That all candidates for office at the coming municipal elections should be asked whether they are, or are not, (1) to take such action as is in their power to secure the enforcement of the laws now on the statute books against immorality, and more particularly against immoral houses; (2) to vote only for such persons as members of the police commission will enforce the existing laws against immorality, and bring immediately to an end the immoral traffic on Rachel street, and in its vicinity. That in the judgment of this meeting, the chief of police should be called on, either to enforce the law against immoral houses impartially, or tender his resignation. That in the opinion of this meeting the nature of the duties of the police magistrate is such that it is inexpedient that he should be a member of the police commission, and that legislation to this effect should be introduced by the city at the next session of the legislature. That the police authorities should proceed impartially against frequenters as well as inmates of the houses, giving the same publicity to their names and imposing like fines as in the case of women."

It is evident that the ministers and church people of our Canadian sister city are less afraid of being accused of meddling in politics than are the ministers of American cities; also that they believe in fighting "stockades" and their promoters, at the ballot box.

EARLY CHRISTMAS SHOPPING.

As the Christmas season draws near, the advice given for a number of years at this time may be repeated: Do your Christmas shopping as early as you possibly can, and do not leave it till the evening either, if you can spare the daytime for it. The advantage of this is mutual. The work is made easier for the clerks because distributed over a longer period of time; and the early shopper is sure to have the advantage of a large assortment.

In the choice of gifts, do not overreach your financial ability. The kind remembrance is worth more than the gift itself. Usefulness or beauty are properties that should not be overlooked in presents selected for older friends, but Christmas is especially the children's festival, and whatever will most gladden their hearts is appropriate as gifts to them.

Christmas should not be made an occasion of anxiety and toll, but one

of joy and gladness. Its real meaning should never be lost sight of. The exchange of gifts, no matter how costly, is no better than common barter, unless it reminds both giver and receiver of the great Gift of God to mankind. That is what makes Christmas gifts significant. That is what adds to them their peculiar value.

But at present the public, in the true Christmas spirit, should remember the numerous employees in the stores, and shop early. Undoubtedly the Christmas trade will be unusually heavy, for there is general prosperity throughout the country, and plenty of work for all. By shopping early the work of clerks and delivery-boys will be made easier.

The postoffice employees should also be remembered, and their tasks made more pleasant by an early dispatch of Christmas mail. We believe the campaign for early Christmas shopping has had its effect and that the public now is more generally than ever convinced of the necessity of distributing the rush of the Christmas business over a reasonably long time and not keeping it all for the last day.

SAVE THE BIRDS.

When the early inhabitants of New England fancied that they had a grievance against the blackbirds for eating corn, they passed a law offering "a bounty of threepence a dozen for dead maize thieves."

The blackbirds, by these means, were practically exterminated. A few years later, we learn upon the authority of Dr. Benjamin Franklin, who is quoted to this effect by Peter Kalin, the Swedish naturalist, that "in the summer of 1749, an immense quantity of worms appeared in the meadows, which devoured the grass and did great damage."

The people thereupon "abated their enmity" toward the blackbirds; "for they had observed that these birds lived chiefly on these worms, before the corn is ripe, and consequently the birds extirpated them."

Neither birds, nor worms, nor human beings have changed in the century and a half since then. The birds would still continue to save the crops from insects, if the people would only save the birds; but they won't.

Some otherwise well informed people seem to treat the preservation of the birds as a rather small, or at least, as a merely sentimental, matter; but the government experts, who have made a close study of the facts in these matters, have shown that approximately one-tenth of the entire agricultural products of the eastern United States, is annually destroyed or rendered worthless from the ravages of insects, the percentage of loss, moreover, is on the increase, owing to the decreasing number of birds.

A special bulletin just issued by the North Carolina Department of Agriculture, entitled "Some Common Birds on the Farm," emphasizes anew what many tolling scientists have recently revealed and agricultural publications have sought to make known as to the value in dollars and cents, to say nothing of aesthetic values, of the presence of birds on the farm, whether in field, orchard, or garden.

The writer, T. Gilbert Pearson, estimates that eighty species of wild birds are residents of that state; that eighty other varieties spend the summer months in the yards, fields, swamps, and shores of that region, making one hundred and sixty kinds that nest there. Add to this number, says Mr. Pearson, some sixty-five species which pass in the autumn on their long trip southward to spend the cold months in a tropical climate, seventy species at least which come from the frozen North to pass the winter in this latitude, and twenty or thirty birds which have been recorded in the state as stragglers from their usual range, and a total of three hundred and thirty species of North Carolina birds is reached.

This enormous or at least surprising number of species to be found in one state is probably duplicated, but with many different species, in every other commonwealth of the Union, observers in Utah placing the number of different birds already noticed here at nearly three hundred.

The special economic value of the birds consists in "the tremendous number of harmful insects" which they destroy and the vast quantities of harmful weed seeds which they consume."

"It is no small service," writes Mr. Pearson, "that a pair of robins render when they honor you by living a summer in your garden, and each day probably eat more than their weight of worms and insects. It is no little thing to have a pair of peewees nest in a tree near your house, and every day for weeks and weeks rid the air of hundreds of harmful insects that seek to destroy the foliage or to sting the fruit of your trees. I once watched a peewee capture sixteen insects during a period of ten minutes, and in company with twenty-five witnesses saw a chipping sparrow one summer seize thirty insects in one minute."

He remarks that he has known farmers who raised bees to shoot all the Kingbirds (bee martins) which came upon their premises, because they supposed the birds sometimes ate bees. Apparently, they had failed to observe that the Kingbird ate anything else, and that they kept hawks and crows away from the poultry yard. Professor Beal examined the contents of 213 Kingbirds' stomachs and found that only fourteen contained the remains of bees, most of these being drones, while 88 per cent of the Kingbirds' food was found to consist of injurious insects. Many of the birds that have fed largely upon an insect diet change the character of their food, upon the approach of cold weather, and during the cold months subsist chiefly upon seeds, with some wild fruit and berries for desert. "Here," says this writer, "is where the twenty-five species of native sparrows of North Carolina render their greatest service. They search the fields, eating the grass seeds which abound there. When the snows come and cover this food the tall weed stalks are still holding their stores of grain high above the snow, and to these the birds now turn."

Most farmers think they have trouble

enough already with the grass and weeds in their growing crops, but it would be a much greater task to keep these subdued if it were not for the assistance of the birds.

As in Carolina, so in Utah, there have been recorded some eight or nine species of hawks and nearly as many kinds of owls; and there, as here, most people have recognized but little distinction between them. Tens of thousands of these useful creatures have been killed by persons who sincerely believed they were doing the country a service. We now know that a very large per cent of the food of the sparrow hawk consists of grasshoppers and other insects. "The red-shouldered hawk feeds to a large extent on field mice, shrews, young rabbits, and other injurious vermin. To kill a sparrow hawk, therefore, means an increased opportunity for the grasshoppers to eat the grass, and to kill the red-shouldered hawk means that a further invitation is extended to annoying rodents to increase and gnaw the fruit trees or eat the grain in the field."

A recent year book of the Department of Agriculture says that of late years the acreage under cultivation in the United States has increased rapidly. With increased acreage the number of rodents has multiplied accordingly, because of the abundance of nutritious food and also because their natural enemies have been destroyed by man. The services of hawks and owls were never so much needed as now, and these faithful helpers of man are likely to be more needed in the future; yet thousands of hawks and owls are yearly slaughtered because the part they play in nature's scheme is misunderstood or ignored. Unquestionably, individual hawks that have learned their way to the poultry yard should be summarily dealt with, but because occasional individuals of two or three species destroy chickens it is manifestly unfair to take vengeance on the whole tribe. The very name of 'hen hawk' is a misnomer so far as the bird to which it is chiefly applied is concerned.

So far has popular misapprehension in regard to these birds gone that again and again states and counties have offered bounties for their heads, thus depleting treasuries and inviting heavy losses to the farmer through the increased number of insects and rodents which it is the function of these birds to hold in check.

The North Carolina publication is a timely and valuable one, and we could wish that something similar might immediately be produced for general distribution in our own State.

A chef is an ornament; a cook is a jewel.

The rain is good for the ground and the sellers of umbrellas.

NEW NEWS OF YESTERDAY

THE \$10,000 THAT FILLMORE KEPT FROM THURLOW WEED.

By E. J. Edwards.

This daily series of anecdotes and incidents that throw new, interesting and frequently dramatic light on famous events and personalities of the past have been collected by Edwards during nearly forty years of more or less intimate acquaintance with many of the country's leaders since the Civil War. Each anecdote or incident is fresh from Mr. Edwards' notebook, and, either in whole or in part, it constitutes New News of Yesterday, garnered from the men who made the news—the history—or from equally authoritative sources. In this way, the contributions of the "Human Interest" sort to American history, these articles have a distinctive value all their own.

Yesterday I told of the bow that reconciled Millard Fillmore and Thurlow Weed, two men whose names cannot be dissociated if one is to get a clear understanding of either's character or career. Today, my story is of the \$10,000 that the ex-president kept from the great New York politician after getting; and it goes to illustrate William H. Seward's declaration that "Fillmore is a good fellow, but a bad business man. He is very methodical, somewhat cautious, and as a lawyer he has been well trained to take nothing for granted. He is one of those men who believe that everything should be committed to writing."

I repeat the anecdote as it was told to me by a gentleman who had in told Mr. Weed because a stockholder in the railroad known as the Albany & Schenectady, he said, "but I do know that he always had a sentimental interest in it. I often heard him describe his ride upon it. He was one of the passengers who made the first trip on the railroad after it was built, and, you may remember, it was the first railroad in the United States to run regular trains."

"He became the owner of one hundred shares of the road's stock quite some time before its consolidation with what is now the New York Central system. The stock appreciated in value until it was at last worth par, so that Mr. Weed's investment represented about ten thousand dollars. "I don't know what the reason was, but Mr. Weed did not hold the stock in his own name. It was held in the name of the president of the railroad, Mr. McIntosh. This was the fact, and that Mr. Weed bought the stock of Mr. McIntosh, and possibly because of his political leadership, he did not wish to carry it in his own name. "At any rate not until some time after the widow of this railroad president had become the second wife of Millard Fillmore, did it occur to Mr. Weed, who was notoriously careless about money matters, that it might be well to

A man will get out of breath much quicker than he will out of hot air.

A musician who plays by ear should be lugged away from his instrument.

There are two kinds of homesickness; sick for home and sick of home.

Which will be the first to strike their colors, the switchmen or the railroads?

Fortunate it is for mankind that there isn't an evil return for every evil thought.

Mrs. Hetty Green is lending money in Wall street. Just now she is its good fairy.

Instead of demanding independence for Porto Rico why doesn't the Anti-Imperialist league grant it to the island?

The estimate of the cost of the Panama canal grows apace. It is now put at five hundred million dollars. But will it stay put?

The struggle between the house of lords and the house of commons will be a near-battle royal, the king being an interested spectator.

There has been another shake-up in the New York custom house. Give them the quinine for though bitter it is the thing for the age.

Abu Reuf's physicians say that his confinement in jail is undermining his health. They forget that he was not put there for his health.

When a man gives way to temptation it is almost as hard to get him back into the right path as it is to put Humpty Dumpty on the wall again.

Mr. Gifford Pinchot is among the country's foremost warriors. Once again has he thrown down the gauntlet to Secretary of the Interior Ballinger.

Why do not statesmen and politicians have their views photographed? If they would do this they could have a lot struck off whenever there was a demand for them.

Just as surely as the barons beat King John at Runnymede, just as certainly will the commons beat the lords. It is a necessary part of the disintegration of centralization in government.

Mrs. Pankhurst has sailed for England and when she gets there she will serve a thirty-day sentence in jail. She declared that she and the other suffragettes would bring on a hunger strike. If they do, the authorities will bring on the stomach pump.

tallor, "how is it you have not called on me for your account?"

"Oh, I never ask a gentleman for money."

"Indeed? How, then, do you get on if he doesn't pay?"

"Why, after a certain time I conclude he is not a gentleman, and then I ask him"—Tilt-Bits.

Internal or External Use?

Young Woman Customer—I'd like some rice, please. You have different qualities, haven't you?

Grocer—Yes, miss—wedding or pudding?—Boston Transcript.

Awful to Contemplate.

Myer—According to reports there are no cats in the arctic regions. Gyer—That's a fortunate thing for the natives, isn't it?

Myer—How so?

Gyer—Well, just imagine cats in a country where the nights are six months long.—Chicago Daily News.

Both Coming and Going.

Tommy—Pop, how would you define a gambler? Tommy's Pop—Well, my son, a man's wife thinks he is a gambler if he loses and his friends think he is a gambler if he wins.—Philadelphia Record.

Going a Little Too Far.

Dick—Desert, I will follow you to the end of the earth. Drusilla—No, you won't, either. That is the north pole, and you are not going to get me mixed up in any of these foolish explorers' controversies.

Resourceful Management.

Actor of provincial company—Can you give me two pence on account? I must get a shave. I have been playing Hamlet for four days, and my beard is beginning to grow.

Manager—Well, that's easily remedied. We'll put on "Othello."—Bon Vivant.

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Assisted by FRANCIS ROGERS, BARITONE and EDWARD J. LA FARGE, PIANIST. Prices—Box Seats, \$3.50; Main Floor, \$2.00; First Circle, \$1.50 and \$2.00; Family Circle, \$1.50; Gallery, \$1.00. Seats now selling by mail. Send check, with self-addressed stamped envelope, and tickets will be forwarded. Regular sale begins Monday, December 6.

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The Explanation.

She—The West Point boys are so handsome. He (sighs)—Yes, uniformly good-looking.—Cornell Widow.

Didn't Expect Too Much.

Mrs. Housen Hohm—What is your name? Applicant for Cookship—Miss Arlington.

Mrs. Housen Hohm—Do you expect to be called Miss Arlington?

Applicant—No, ma'am; not if you have an alarm clock in my room.—Brooklyn Life.

A Logical Deduction.

Mr. P., said a gentleman to his

Half Price Sale of Millinery At Z. C. M. I.

This is our great clearance sale of Millinery—there is a nice variety to select from, and the prices are cut from one-third to one-half.

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