

SPIRITS IN PRISON.

OUR attention has been called to a sermon delivered by a Methodist preacher named G. E. Jayne, in Provo, and published in that miserably edited monthly paper called the *Rocky Mountain Christian Advocate*. We have been requested to notice the discourse. It is based on 1 Peter III, 18-20.

"For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the spirit;

"By which also he went and preached to the spirits in prison, that they might be judged according to what they had done in the flesh, but in wait for the day of judgment."

The discourse is designed to "shatter to atoms" and "send back to hell" the doctrine drawn from this scripture that "the gospel shall be preached to souls beyond the grave." To accomplish this the speaker proceeds to make an elaborate explanation of the meaning of the text, which, boiled down to its essence, is, that "Christ by his spirit preached to the antediluvians," or to use one of his own sentences:

"The idea is that to those spirits who were then in prison who had formerly lived in the days of Noah the message had been delivered."

This is a very common attempt to wrest the scriptures from their plain and simple meaning. It has been used by sectarian preachers, ever since the glorious doctrine of the redemption of the dead was revealed to the Prophet Joseph Smith and declared to mankind in the flesh. No one but a practiced perverter of the written word of God, could imagine that the inspired writer endeavored to convey any such meaning. His statement is clear and explicit. He is describing the work of the Savior. Let the above and two following verses be read in connection, and it will be seen that these facts are presented:

First, that Christ, the just, suffered for the unjust, being put to death in the flesh. Second, that he was quickened by the spirit. Third, that by the spirit he then went somewhere. Fourth, that having gone to that place he preached. Fifth, that those to whom he preached were spirits, and that they were in prison. Sixth, that they were those who were disobedient in the days of Noah. Seventh, that the salvation of the just by water at that time was a figure or type of baptism. Eighth, that Christ was resurrected. Ninth, that he then went to heaven to sit at the right hand of God. The narrative is connected and clear. It has nothing to do with the days of Noah except to show who the spirits were to whom Christ preached and why they were in prison. It takes us from the crucifixion to the ascension, leading us through the scenes that intervened, accounting for the time that elapsed between Christ's burial and resurrection.

But Mr. Jayne, to help out his theory, tries to give a little different rendering to the text. He puts it thus:

"In (by) which also having (he went and) preached unto the spirits in prison."

He also makes the word "sometimes" read "sometimes," that is, that the spirits were "sometimes" disobedient in the days of Noah. Why does he change the words in this manner? Simply to twist them out of their evident signification. The word "sometimes" is used by Peter in the sense of "foretime." That is, that Christ preached to the spirits who "foretime," in the days of Noah, were disobedient. Not that they were sometimes disobedient and at others obedient. And the words of Peter are not "having preached," but "he went and preached." The object of the Methodist preacher's perversion of Peter's teachings is apparent.

Now, if the text of the old version is not sufficiently clear, let us take the verses from the new version. If we are to depart from the letter of the old and long-established standard, let us not depend upon the garbled and private interpretation of an obscure preacher, or of a biased sect, but refer to some recognized authority. The old version is good enough for us, but for the benefit of others, we will quote verbatim from the new:

"Because Christ also suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the spirit, in which also he went and preached unto the spirits in prison, which aforetime were disobedient when the long-suffering of God waited in the days of Noah," etc.

This is, if anything, plainer than the standard translation, and is fatal to the perversions of Mr. Jayne. But one admission of his own is equally so. In answer to the question, "What is meant by their being in prison," he answers, "Nothing more or less than that they were in a place of confinement in the invisible world about the time Peter wrote." Now while there is no evidence that these spirits were in prison at the time that Peter wrote—the indications being to the contrary—the admission that they were "spirits in confinement in the invisible world" is against the theory that they were men in the flesh. If they were in confinement at the time Peter wrote, they must have been when Christ died, and it was to them that he "went in the spirit" and to them that he "preached."

This is just what Peter declares and what we maintain, but which the gentleman has attempted to disprove.

Mr. Jayne assumes because the disobedient antediluvians are here specially mentioned that Christ preached to no others, and

he wants to know "how there could be such a separation that only these sinners could hear the Gospel." If this were the fact their separation could be accounted for easily enough, but there is no need to go into that question because it is an unwarranted assumption. The fact that these spirits are here specially alluded to does not prove that none others heard the glad tidings of deliverance. If such an inference can justly be drawn because these were spirits in confinement, it can be drawn with equal justice in regard to men in the flesh, and thus by the preacher's reasoning, Christ preached to no one in the world, but to the people in the days of Noah. Into such absurdities do men rush when they shut their eyes to plain truth because it is hostile to their creeds, and wrest the scriptures to tally with their dogmas.

He quotes the saying of Jesus to the thief on the cross, "To-day thou shalt be with me in Paradise," and jumps to the conclusion that he could not have gone into Hades because, as shown in the parable of Dives and Lazarus, a great gulf was fixed between the two conditions. That is as much as to say that the Son of God, to whom all power was given both on earth and in the heavens, and who grasped the keys of hell and of death, after passing out of the body into Paradise—the abode of the spirits of the just—had not power to cross the "gulf" and enter the portals of the doomed. All that we have to say on this, is, we do not limit the powers of the Redeemer, who held the keys to all heights and depths, and could enter Paradise, descend into Tartarus and then, bursting the barriers of the tomb, arise to the heaven of heavens to sit at the right hand of God!

Another objection offered to the doctrine taught by Peter is that "it is founded upon a single passage." This is a mistake. In the next chapter—1 Peter IV, 6—it is explained:

"For this cause was the gospel preached also to them that are dead, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit."

We might refer to other passages bearing on the subject, and indicating not only that Christ would "preach deliverance to the captives" and the opening of the prison to them that were bound," but that after the tribulations of the latter days and the punishment of the wicked by being "shut up in the prison house," "after many days" they also "shall be visited." But this second statement of Peter's ought to suffice. He makes it plain here that others besides the contemporaries of Noah heard the gospel in the spirit.

The gospel was preached to "them that are dead." They were not in the flesh, but in the spirit, and the same gospel was preached to the "dead" as to the "quick" (see verse 5) that they might be all judged alike. Those who had passed into the spirit state heard the gospel the same as men in the flesh, so that in receiving it they might "live according to God in the spirit."

Mr. Jayne's final objection is that "it is pernicious because it encourages men to sin." This shows that he does not understand the doctrine. It offers no such encouragement. When properly presented it sustains the claims of eternal justice, and shows that all men will receive "according to their works." But it does not sustain the doctrine of an implacable Deity, most of whose own children are doomed to an everlasting hell of literal flames, in which they are to blister and burn and roast for endless ages without a moment's mitigation of their inexorable torment, on which Methodist preachers have dwelt with unctious and with which they have scared timid souls to their anxious seats and mourner's benches. But the question is not what the Provo preacher or his friends may pronounce "pernicious," but what is it that Peter teaches in the texts referred to? Has Mr. Jayne "shattered to atoms" and sent "back to Hades" the doctrine that the dead may hear the gospel as well as the living? We now say: He has "shattered to atoms" his own argument, if it be asserted that there was any substance to it, which we should dislike very much to admit. And now we testify that the doctrine did not come from Hades. It came from the courts of glory. It brings joy to every believing soul. It shows that the mercies of God are over all His works. It brings tidings of salvation for the heathen, and all the races who never heard in the flesh. "The only name given under heaven whereby man can be saved." It strikes a blow at Satan and his dominions and their results. It opens up to view the possibilities of the final triumph of the Redeemer, and depicts the glorious scene when all shall be brought up by the blood of the Lamb from death and hell, and both in heaven and on earth and also under the earth and in the sea the song of salvation shall be heard, and "every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that Jesus is the Christ to the glory of God the Father."

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Big Railroad Suit.
Denver, Col., 24.—A special from Santa Fe, New Mexico, says: The case of the Texas Pacific Railroad Company vs. the Southern Pacific Railroad, came up in the United States Circuit Court to-day. Complaint, through attorneys filed a bill which sets forth that defendant is the owner of the right of way to the lands of complainant, and that defendant has wrongfully used the same for the purpose of preventing complainant from occupying and enjoying its land grant. Complainant therefore asks the court to award to it a just and equitable value, all the line of railroad, rolling stock, improvements, etc., in the Territory of New Mexico, owned and controlled by defendant. The answer of the defendant sets forth that the complainant has not proceeded with the construction of the road within the time prescribed by Congress, and furthermore, denies that the grant constitutes a franchise, but avows that the United States never held

any property in this territory save as a private proprietor. Defendant expressed a willingness to buy the complainant's \$200,000, which it says is more than the actual value of the land taken. At the conclusion of the reading of the bill an adjournment was taken until tomorrow morning at 10 a. m. Both parties are represented by able counsel and the greatest interest is manifested in the suit.

Mr. Head of Horse Thieves.

LITTLE ROCK, 24.—Sheriff McElhenny, of Neucha, Mo., ferreted out considerable information in regard to horse thieves in Arkansas and Missouri. According to his statement there is a regular organized gang of horse thieves, with headquarters in Arkansas, southwest Missouri and south-west Kansas. They have a regular semi-annual meet, grips, pass-words and an organization, the whole cemented by the most diabolical oath enforcing secrecy. They have a list for running out stock extending the entire distance from Fort Scott to Fort Smith, with friendly houses at Fort Creek, Coplay, Neucha, Virgo, well, Bentonville and Fayetteville. The officers have the description of 75 stolen animals, and it is said they are making arrangements to begin the pursuit of the thieves, which is to have no ending until the desperadoes are brought to justice. Owing to the great number of stolen horses a portion of the territory named is not considered safe in which to buy or trade in stock.

Bad Feeling Between France and Italy.

NEW YORK, 25.—The *World's* London yesterday says: Bismarck, who is rapidly recovering his health, is reported to be tickled over the success of his policy in settling France and Italy by the ears, and well he may be, for it is complete. This is the anniversary of the battle of Solferino, and the allies of that day are much nearer war than they have ever been in these 22 years. The Italian government is doing its utmost to suppress the anti-French demonstrations, but the feeling is too intense to be smothered either by force or argument. In the southern towns of France where thousands of Italian workmen are employed, the police have to escort the Italians to and from their work. Mass meetings are forbidden, but the French workmen discuss the matter in their shops and at night. The cry of "down with Italy" is almost as popular as "on to Berlin" was on the eve of the Franco-German war.

A well informed correspondent says this anti-Italian feeling will make itself felt at the coming elections, and unless Gambetta makes an appeal for peace, the candidates in many of the southern departments will be pledged to an aggressive policy against Italy. In Italy a similar condition of things exists. The elections cannot be much longer delayed, electoral bill or no electoral bill, and the fierce animosity of the people to France, which the radicals are fanning by wild speeches, will be a potent factor in the contest. Meanwhile as I have said, Bismarck is happy. The German papers openly boast that when France seeks to avenge Alsace, Italy will avenge Tunis and Marseilles.

Enough on Russia.

The *Tribune* says: It has been said by admirers of Conkling that he was a very proud man. The question arises whether his pride was all a sham. A gentleman does not willingly thrust himself forward if he is not wanted even if he has no more than ordinary pride. He shrinks from begging, but four-fifths of the members of the legislature and more than two-thirds of the members of his own party have been showing to Conkling in the most formal and emphatic manner for several weeks that they do not want him for a Senator. Still he persists in thrusting himself upon them, keeps the legislature in session for weeks at a great loss to the people and a great loss to himself in order to press his impudent demands for office and goes up and down begging for votes and begging members who are sick of his tyranny to stick to him yet a little longer, with an utter lack of shame which doesn't indicate that he has either pride or self-respect.

Big Swindle.

SAN FRANCISCO, 25.—Frank Braga, secretary of the Portuguese Protection and Benevolent Society, has absconded, being a defaulter to the amount of \$100,000. Braga was a saloon keeper near the city front and was implicitly trusted by his countrymen, who deposited with him for safe keeping, investment and stock operations, their savings. He left the city June 16th, ostensibly for Tuolumne County, on business. It is now ascertained he has made a sweep of the money, stocks and bonds of his clients, and even the more valuable furniture of his saloon.

BRIEF TELEGRAMS.

Bismarck is rapidly recovering. The situation in Bulgaria is still becoming more serious.

It is expected the emigration from Copenhagen this year will be 70,000. Herring, the safe inventor, died yesterday at Plainfield, New Jersey.

Dr. Chapin, of Charlotte, Mich., over 100 years old, succumbed to-day. Bismarck is so unwell to the lower limb that his Kissinging trip has been postponed.

Professor Stone says the comet is moving rapidly north, and is not that of 1812, but may be that of 1877.

Dr. Boynton transpired Mrs. Arnold, President Garfield's sister. She is still alive, but in a very critical condition.

Morgan, of the ministry of South Australia, has resigned, and Bray has formed a new ministry himself as premier.

The Michigan Central only declared one per cent dividend in place of four and the Canada Southern declared none.

Yesterday a trading steamer came in collision with and sunk a Turkish guard ship at the entrance to the Bosphorus.

At a meeting of the anti-Monopoly League yesterday, Conkling made a severe attack on Legislative Monopolies.

London Papers point to the probable failure of negotiations between England and France for a new commercial treaty.

A prelate starts from Rome next week on a confidential mission from the Pope to Ireland to report the true state of affairs.

A Washington dispatch says the reason the comet was not discovered sooner was because it was following in the sun's track.

Judge Donohue, of New York, fined Agnes Bonham \$200, a year's temporary alimony in her divorce suit against Dion Bonham.

Catholic Bishops in America are specially instructed to exhort their flocks to abstain from any action calculated to provoke civil war in Ireland.

At Philadelphia, Wool is in improved demand; Oregon fine, 30¢; 34¢; Medium, 35¢; 36¢; Coarse, 27¢; 28¢; New Mexican and Colorado, 18¢; 19¢.

That of A. H. Knickerbocker, a wealthy citizen of Chicago, was purchased this morning. It leaves his entire property, \$1,800,000, to his widow.

In the French Senate to-day, Deschamps, republican, was elected senator for life in the place of Litre, deceased, receiving 180 votes against 113 votes for Vocher.

R. S. Hayes, manager of Gould's southwestern systems of railroads, will remain resident at the International and Great Northern of Texas, St. Louis to be his headquarters.

The register of the treasurer mailed to holders of five extended per cents a total of 157,000,000 and 40,000,000 remain in the office of the register and will be issued in three days.

Congressman Choate, of North Carolina, says the democracy divided on the temperance question as well as the republicans, and that politics will be badly mixed up there.

In the Christianity case the defense was allowed 60 days more to prepare evidence. Counsel for the defense gave notice that he proposed to rip up Christianity's character here and in Peru.

At Burlington, Iowa, a comet was seen in the northwest last evening. It was beautiful and distinct. This can hardly be the comet seen elsewhere, as the position and time do not tally.

Charles F. James, a son of P. M. Gen. James, and A. R. Conkling, a nephew of ex-Senator Conkling, have been appointed assistant district attorneys by Dist. Attorney General Woodford.

The Pope has appointed Dr. McMullen of Chicago, bishop of Davenport, and a new diocese out of the southern half of Iowa, and including Keokuk, Des Moines, Davenport, and Council Bluffs.

The French government has acceded to the request of British Government to reopen the question in regard to the rights claimed by French subjects engaged in fishing in the waters of the Newfoundland.

Strikers from the Wabash Railroad inaugurated a riot at Antioch, Ind., and tried to force open a saloon. The saloon keeper fired into the crowd as the door was forced and fatally wounded one, hurting several.

It is stated that important changes in the head officials of the Interior department in Washington, are pending, and that Commissioner of Patents Marble will be made assistant secretary of the Interior, vice Bell.

The poet John G. Saxe is a confirmed case of hypochondria. He believes he is a hopeless invalid. He has refused to go into company since the death of his daughter, and even refused to go to the cemetery to bury her.

Surrogate Calvin, of New York, today refused to probate the will of C. A. Merrill, who left an estate of \$500,000 to various Catholic bishops, including \$300,000 to Bishop McCloskey, thus disinheriting her nephew.

A Montenegrin officer went to the Czar's Winter Palace yesterday, and demanded an audience with the princess of Montenegro. Being refused, he stabbed the officer on duty. A Russian officer then shot the Montenegrin dead.

Ambrose Cooper, a private of Company K, Fourth Cavalry, was drowned in the Gunnison River to-day. He was attempting to cross while hunting. The body was not recovered. The deceased came from Baltimore, Maryland.

Rev. E. B. Herat, pastor of the Baptist church, of Clermont, Ohio, accused of adultery with Mrs. Boutwell, was found not guilty by counsel, but on account of certain admissions he made, he was advised to resign, which he did.

The convention of the Patriotic Sons of America, adjourned to-day, after mixing a bottle of the water of the Pacific with the quantity of the Atlantic and distributing the waters in small phials among the delegates.

The Turkish minister of foreign affairs has informed the ambassadors that a commission for the execution of the territory ceded to Greece will assemble at Atrax. The European members commission start from Constantinople to-morrow.

The London *News* believes as far as England is concerned the conclusion of the monetary conference which meets Thursday is practically arrived at. A pledge will be given in behalf of India not to support a single gold currency.

Harriet Stone, aged fourteen, on trial in Troy, N. Y., for murdering a comrade left in her charge, was acquitted because her testimony showed the infant's father had criminally assaulted her and its mother murdered the infant to furnish a pretext for a charge.

A policeman found a young man and woman shot in Newark, last night. They told a story about being fired at by an unknown man, but the woman finally confessed that the man had shot her in the head and then himself, probably from jealousy.

Prof. Draper says the comet is entirely distinct from that discovered at Buenos Ayres. The value of the comet lies in the fact it can be photographed and is capable of spectrum analysis. There is not the faintest danger to be apprehended from its proximity.

Brady has entered a protest but it was for effect only. He said his attorneys would show that the government was not ready and therefore was unable to collect evidence. There is no significance whatever in the delay of the case.

Charles Schneider *alias* Smith, a notorious confidence man, of New York, is arrested for defrauding a cigar firm out of 10,000 cigars. He is to be sent back to New York where they got large quantities of goods and sent them to New York to sell at auction.

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