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SALT LAKE CITY, JAN. 21, 1902.

INFANT SALVATION.

The principal subject discussed by the Ministerial association in this city on Monday was "Infant Salvation." That there should be any diversity of opinion as to the fate of the little ones who die in their early childhood, is due to the notions and creeds of theologians, who have not been authorized or inspired of God to declare His will or expound His word. The most awful doctrine that has been taught in this connection, is expressed in the sentence pronounced by extreme predestinarian preachers: "There are children in hell only a span long."

The dogma of infant damnation seems to be rather of diabolical than heavenly origin. It has found encouragement in two doctrines, that have been held in Christendom by some of its most prominent divines. The first is that "original guilt," that is the sin of our first parents, descended to all their posterity; that "this infection of nature doth remain," and "therefore, in every person born into this world it deserveth God's wrath and damnation." This is the language of the ninth article of religion of the Episcopal church. But it also avers that "there is no condemnation for them that believe and are baptized." Little children too young to "believe," when represented by their "godfathers and godmothers" are "christened" by the use of water, in a form which is viewed as baptism, and if they die in their childhood's years they are considered as "saved." But unbaptized infants are counted, even in the present day by some orthodox ministers, among the lost. And all mankind outside of Christendom are also doomed to everlasting woe, according to existing creeds. Faith in Jesus Christ being postulated as essential to salvation, and this world being named as the only "state of probation," all who do not believe are irrevocably condemned. This includes infants as well as adults.

The other is, that before the foundations of the world, God foreordained and predestinated a certain number, which cannot be lessened or increased, to everlasting salvation through Jesus Christ, and that without regard to any acts of their own. All the rest of mankind, and this includes all the heathen without exception. He pleased to ordain unto eternal wrath and endless misery, for the good pleasure of His sovereign power and everlasting justice. Those who are saved are called "the elect." Among them it is declared are "elect infants." That pre-supposes there are some infants who are non-elect. And this has been the view entertained by the foremost exponents of that creed.

Latterly the horror of this doctrine has impressed the minds of rational people, to the extent that a revision of fundamental doctrine has been called for, and even the predestinarians endeavor to explain that all children who die in their early years are among the elect infants. This appears to be the conclusion arrived at by the ministers who met with the association on Monday. We congratulate them on this advanced step in Christian theology.

But it would be pleasing to learn how this doctrine can be made to harmonize with that of baptismal regeneration, and of the essentiality of faith in Christ as a condition of salvation, and of the condemnation of all the heathen because they do not believe in Christ, especially in view of the dogma that after death there can be no repentance or salvation for any who die in unbelief. The abandonment of the repellent dogma of "infant damnation" removes a brick from the sectarian wall, that weakens and may bring down the whole decaying structure.

Christ's doctrine as to little children, declared when He was on earth, is that "of such is the kingdom of heaven." He blessed them, not baptized them. Baptism comes after faith and repentance in His system of religion. Until a child is old enough to believe and repent, baptism is not required, for it is an ordinance for the remission of sins, and sin is not counted against any one who does not know enough to commit it with intent. "Where there is no law there is no transgression."

In the establishment of His Church in the last days, the Lord revealed His doctrine as to little children, requiring them to be blessed by the Elders before the Church, and declaring:

"But, behold I say unto you, that little children are redeemed from the foundation of the world through mine Only Begotten.

"Wherefore they cannot sin, for power is not given unto Satan to tempt little children, until they begin to become accountable before me—Doe, and Cov. pp. 128, 147.

This truth was revealed as long ago as September, 1829, and has been preached extensively by the Elders, which has certainly had a marked effect upon religious thought, and added in bringing about a more liberal sentiment, and

a more rational understanding of Divine purposes. It is so with other principles revealed in those latter days, and they will eventually accomplish the work of dispelling spiritual darkness, for they have come from Him who is the light and the life.

Every child that dies before reaching the age of accountability, which differs according to individual capacity, is among the redeemed no matter whether of Christian or of Pagan parents. Every soul of Adam's race will have an opportunity, either in the body or out of the body, to learn the way of salvation. God is not an avenging monster nor an implacable sovereign. He is love, mercy and justice embodied. He is our Father as well as our God, and His loving kindness endures forever. "Infant damnation" emanated from beneath, and it is marvelous that it could ever be entertained by sane persons, or by anyone who believes in the glorious attributes of the Divine Father and the loving Son, our Redeemer.

A SINGULAR NOTION.

The idea that because Mr. Glanmann is Mayor of Ogden and ex-officio chairman of the health board in that city, he is authorized to assume the functions of the health physician, inspect an alleged smallpox patient at the pest-house, diagnose his disease, require his discharge, and thus ride over the quarantine laws, ordinances and regulations, is a most astonishing notion for any one to entertain. And yet that seems to be the position taken by the editor-mayor and pseudo-physician, as set forth in his paper, the Ogden Standard. Argument is needless, and the only further comment that appears requisite is that which will come from the court that will consider the case and pass upon it according to law. A good deal of fun has been made of this affair, but it has its serious side, and that should be seen in the vindication of the civic regulations of Ogden, which the Mayor ought to be the first to recognize and obey.

NATIONAL MUNICIPAL LEAGUE.

The secretary of the National Municipal League, Mr. Clinton Roger Woodruff, has just issued a statement concerning the plans and labors of that organization.

From this statement it is gathered that the League, as a national association, dates from January, 1894, when a largely attended conference, called by the municipal league of Philadelphia, was held in that city. On that occasion a committee was appointed to take the necessary steps to form a national league, and another conference was held in New York, when the organization was formally completed.

The objects of the league are stated as follows:

"First—To multiply the numbers, harmonize the methods and combine the forces of all who realize that it is only by united action and organization that good citizens can secure the adoption of good laws and the selection of men of trained ability and proved integrity for all municipal positions, or prevent the success of incompetent or corrupt candidates for public office.

"Second—To promote the thorough investigation and discussion of the conditions and details of civic administration, and of the methods for selecting and appointing officials in American cities, and of laws and ordinances relating to such objects.

"Third—To provide for such meetings and conferences and for the preparation and circulation of such addresses and other literature as may seem likely to advance the cause of good city government."

Annual meetings have been held since then. The members have made it a point to study the municipal situation of the leading cities of the country, and the results have been embodied in the proceedings of the annual meetings.

In 1897 a suggestion was made that the league adopt a definite program, and a committee was appointed to report on the feasibility of such a program. This committee worked for two years and finally presented "A Municipal Program," which was adopted. It suggests certain constitutional amendments, and a municipal corporation act which is said to have been favorably considered by the general public.

Later the league turned its attention to the question of instruction in municipal government in American schools, and uniform accounting and statistics. It is claimed that, as a result, within the next five or ten years, courses in municipal government will have become an established part of the curriculum of practically all of our educational institutions, both higher and secondary. The efforts for uniform accounting and statistics are also said to have met with much encouragement among city auditors, controllers and accountants.

The chief work of the league, however, is its propaganda in behalf of higher municipal standards. Large quantities of leaflets and pamphlets have been published and syndicate articles distributed. The regular and occasional publications, the former amounting to seven volumes, have been given a very general distribution throughout all sections of the country.

There can be no doubt that the work of an organization of this kind will have a beneficial influence upon city government. It strengthens the sentiment for high standards, and points out the ways and means of obtaining them. Its publications are valuable for the data furnished, and the suggestions made are generally founded on an intimate knowledge of the problems, such as can be obtained only by close study and observation.

THE ARID LAND QUESTION.

Senators and Congressmen from western states have come to an understanding as to the legislation they want passed for the purpose of reclaiming arid lands. Upon this one subject, regardless of their political beliefs otherwise, these gentlemen are a unit; and the presentation of so solid a front in the effort to secure the passage of their measure must surely count for much. The amount of land that may be brought under the fruitful hand of the tiller, through the operation of a properly framed law, is almost incalculable, as will be the revenue which shall later on be realized.

Millions of dollars are annually spent by the national government for the deepening of harbors and the betterment of ports—all very necessary work—and the westerner is quite fair in asking a little money to help him cultivate a vast territory which, he is unaided, is now beyond his control.

PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY.

Bishop Potter spoke truly, when, in an address before students of the Columbia university, he appealed for personal methods in charity. He called attention to the fact that the well-to-do are more and more inclined to avoid all personal contact with their unfortunate fellow-men, and discharge all their obligations by issuing a check, and leaving the relief of the poor to the managers of charitable institutions. Of course it is pleasant in this way, to satisfy the demands of conscience, and at the same time avoid the sight of poverty and suffering in the many forms in which it exists in the world, but is charity, in this way distributed, what it is intended to be? There can be no question that this form of benevolence has a tendency to widen the gulf between the social strata, instead of drawing them together through that sweet influence, without which the best deeds are counted as worthless.

The speaker illustrated the tendency to social separation, so noticeable at present, by referring to the fact that, while in years past the great private art galleries have been accessible to all accredited visitors, now they are generally closed, although the widely-accepted theory that wealth is in a sense held in trust for the common good, should hold doubly true of possessions, like the rarest book and works of art, which are far more valuable to the social body than the actual money which they represent could be. One can only say, he said, in a society which hides away great works of art from the sight of all except a favored few, an unfortunate lack of the sense of social responsibility.

There is food for thought in the implied rebuke. It aims at one of the fundamental errors of our day, and one to which but few pay any attention.

THE POPE'S HEALTH.

The reports concerning the physical condition of the pope have been alarming lately, but Mr. William Curtis in a letter to the Record-Herald, dated Dec. 25, tells of the reception he gave the day previous to visiting ecclesiastics, and according to that report, his holiness was at that time strong and vigorous. He spoke in a clear voice, strong enough to be heard by all present. His eyes were bright, and he gave no evidence of fatigue. The correspondent continues:

"A good deal of time is wasted by the politicians of the church in counting the days of the years he has lived and speculating as to the possibilities of the future, and the reasons why his blessed and useful life has been spared so long. The doctors say that his appetite and digestion are excellent, although he is very frugal in his diet and limits himself to a few ounces of food and wine daily; his circulation is normal and all his organs are perfect. I am assured by a physician who sees him frequently and is constantly consulted by Dr. Lapponi, his regular medical attendant, that the pope is entirely without disease, and that his vitality is extraordinary for a man of his age. He has so little flesh that it would be difficult to take hold of him. Nothing but his soul and his will are left. One of the archbishops who saw him yesterday said that he is almost ethereal, and that his hands were actually translucent as he held them up to pronounce the benediction. The doctors predict, however, that his light will be extinguished suddenly when the time comes, and without suffering."

BOERS FOR CHILL.

A colonel of the Chilean army is now said to be in Europe for the purpose of offering, through Dr. Leyds, free passage to Chill for Boers who may be willing to leave Africa and settle there. They are also to be offered free grants of land, and other facilities for colonization.

The Boers who may be unwilling to settle under British rule ought to accept the offer. In the Andes mountain regions they would find a country very much similar in climate and physical features to that which they have lost in the war, and probably much richer in natural resources.

As for Chill a few thousand Boers, with their families, would be a most valuable acquisition. Their industry and frugality would add immensely to the national wealth, and in case of war the Boer soldiers would be simply immense. If Chill could buy Cronje and his fellow prisoners, Dewet and Botha, and their followers, the Chileans might become the dominating power in South America.

But it is not probable that there will be any exodus on a considerable scale from the conquered Boer republics, to Chill. When peace is restored, Great Britain will want to retain as many as possible of the men and women who have made that region habitable, and love for home will keep them there, even under changed conditions, as long as no efforts of oppression are made. Some of the Boers, probably, will emigrate, but they will rather go to North America than to countries where revolutions are the order of the day. The Boers, like most good fighters, love peace.

Have this year's calendars been correctly printed? Is this winter time?

Uncle Sam can pay \$40,000,000 for the Panama canal without turning a treasury hair.

That old soldier in Los Angeles who "coughed up a bayonet," must indeed have been a hardened veteran.

Kansas and Nebraska don't need to be cold and stiff towards us just because they have been getting some snow.

Nothing is being done in a small way nowadays—witness even the alleged shortage of Herbert H. Matteson, the Great Falls, Mont., banker.

Montana has been three years building a state house at Helena, but now that it is finished the community is very proud of it. The dedication will occur on July 4th next.

After all, \$40,000 is a very small

amount to pay for Washington's entertainment of Prince Henry; but some fellows could do a awful lot of good with that much money.

General Bell's proclamation with reference to dealing with unruly Filipinos ought to "hold" Webster Davis and his crowd. Either Bell must be muzzled or American pro-boers should be.

It has about been decided that the matter of the sale of the Danish West Indies to Uncle Sam shall be submitted to a vote of the Danish people. In that case title to the islands will not pass.

It is to be hoped that Senator Teller's bill, creating a new judicial circuit with Salt Lake as its center, may become law. The sitting here of such a tribunal would obviate no end of trouble and expense. If people will "law," let 'em have it handy.

Lord Cranborne's statement as to the position of Great Britain as occupied with reference to the war of the United States with Spain confirms what has all along been mostly thought to have been the true state of affairs. It was quite kind of the "old country," and the new is returning the favor in the British-Boer misunderstanding.

A syndicate of Americans and Englishmen is trying to get possession of a valuable piece of real estate in the business heart of London. These gentlemen wanted to lease it for 99 years, and upon that condition promised to build an American-plan office building to cost \$10,000,000. Should J. Pierpont Morgan and a few of his friends take it into their heads that they want King Edward VII., doubtless his purchase would be announced in a very short time.

A report from Paris has it that the police authorities recently offered for sale a number of jewels and trinkets which had been connected with criminal cases, and it was found that they brought prices far above their intrinsic value, owing to the number of bidders who were eager to have something associated with a famous murder or other crime. As long as that kind of insanity flourishes outside the asylums, there is little prospect for the triumph of law over criminal tendencies.

While we in this region are having a remarkably mild winter, heavy snowstorms are said to have been raging in Europe. The winter has been especially severe in the southern countries, and even in northern Africa. Recently, in southern France, a large landowner was overtaken in a snowstorm while attempting to ride only five miles. His horse came home, but the man was found frozen to death. In Algeria trains have been greatly delayed. One from Algiers to Lagnouat was held up in the snow for six days.

OUR CORONATION ENVOYS.

Baltimore Sun.
The President has selected Mr. Whitelaw Reid, of New York, as the special ambassador of the United States at the coronation of King Edward VII. on June 26. Mr. Reid is the editor of the New York Tribune, is recognized as a very good friend of Great Britain, having long exerted his influence to promote cordial relations between the two countries, and will for this reason and doubtless for many others be personally gratified to the British people and the court of St. James. Mr. Reid, of Delaware, will attend the coronation as the representative of the United States army, while Capt. Charles E. Clark, who commanded the Twelfth Cavalry during the war with Spain, will represent the American navy. Captain Clark is a gallant officer, well worthy of the honor bestowed upon him, but why should Admirals Dewey and Schley have been overlooked and why should Lieutenant-General Miles have been forgotten when the coronation honors were being distributed?

New York Journal.
Mr. Reid will shine upon a background composed of General James H. Wilson, representing the army; Captain Charles E. Clark, representing the navy, and J. Pierpont Morgan Jr., Edmund Lincoln Baylies and William Wetmore, secretaries. General Wilson is one of the best of the subordinate officers of the army, but why not Miles? Captain Clark ranks next to Schley among the heroes of Santiago, but why not Dewey? When we pass over the ranking officers of the army and navy on an occasion like this do we not put ourselves in the position of exhibiting to the world the domestic squabbles that disgrace our military and naval services?

Springfield Republican.
Whitelaw Reid's diplomatic status is doubly assured, now that he has been appointed coronation ambassador to the court of St. James. He is without competitors in his particular class. It is Whitelaw Reid who will represent us at the gorgeous ceremonies accompanying the crowning of the king. His choice as the special ambassador from the United States is well chosen, in one respect, very fitting. Mr. Reid is emphatically persona grata at the British court. An Anglophile to the core, a great admirer of British imperialism, and one, also, who has reviewed with satisfaction the destruction of Dutch republics in Africa, in order that the British monarchical system might expand. Mr. Reid will be received with the utmost cordiality in London.

New York World.
President Roosevelt's selection of special representatives of our government at the coronation of King Edward is very satisfactory in view of all the circumstances. Whitelaw Reid as special ambassador is well chosen, alike on account of his character and accomplishments and because he filled with distinction a similar mission on the occasion of Queen Victoria's jubilee in 1897. The veteran Gen. James H. Wilson is a fine representative of our army, and in choosing Capt. Clark, former commander of the Oregon, to represent the navy the President wisely avoids any aggravation of the unfortunate controversy in that branch of the service.

Boston Herald.
Whitelaw Reid appears to have a recognized claim to figure as the representative of the United States upon occasions connected with the ceremonies of royalty. He was at the queen's late jubilee in Great Britain as the special ambassador of the United States, and he is said to have had the promise from President McKinley that he should have the position in the pageant of the British king to which President Roosevelt has now appointed him. We fear it will hardly be so fitting to see this as a compliment to the press, for though Mr. Reid is the editor of a great newspaper, we are inclined to think that he bases his claim to recognition on grounds aside from this.

Milwaukee Wisconsin.
Young Mr. Wetmore denies the story that his mother affronted King Edward VII. when the latter was Prince of Wales, and that the hereditary taint, so

to speak, of royal displeasure adheres presumably to all the members of the house of Wetmore. In the latter case, of course, young Wetmore would be persona non grata at the English court, and sending him thither as one of the secretaries of the American delegation to the coronation might lead to international complications which would shake the world of etiquette.

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