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Our Outlook

THE CHURCH AND THE WORK-MAN.

What is the relation of the church to the working man or the working man to the church? Has the church neglected the working man or has the working man neglected the church?

These questions have been answered by many specialists from both sides. Some of the most sincere and earnest labor leaders have declared that the church has "alienated the masses" while the ablest champions of the church have declared that the door of the church swings wide open with the golden word "welcome" over its portals.

The subject is reopened in a very able and fairly stated article in the November number of the Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science from the pen of Dr. Joseph Wilson Cochrane.

Dr. Cochrane points out that the church rests upon the Bible as its charter and that "there is scarcely a book of the sixty-six that does not appear to be written from the view point of the people" while the "founder of Christianity was a carpenter whose hand was roughened by the toil and whose feet trod the highway of the multitude; and his parables dealt with the common experiences of the field, the home and the market place." His disciples and colleagues too were "fishermen and trades people."

THE FUTURE PRESIDENT.

Two figures are looming up before the great electorate of the United States.

In spite of all that is said to the contrary—either by himself or his friends—Theodore Roosevelt continues the one dominant name for the Republican nomination. And to such a man as Roosevelt the opposition to it is the thing that will do more towards a change of mind on the subject than all the arguments or pleadings of his friends.

Something similar may be said of William Jennings Bryan. He is the logical nominee of his party with a measure of decided opposition which will accentuate his choice.

At whoever may be the chosen

champions of the two great parties respectively, the final result is by no means a foregone conclusion. The personality of each man is striking and popular, but to what extent certain issues may change the current or divert large minority votes, no one can prophecy with any degree of verity.

There are at least three issues which may affect the result very substantially, viz.: Finance, Socialism and Prohibition.

The first named would not look with any very cordial eye toward Bryan and is not very sure of Roosevelt.

There are thousands of Socialists outside of the Socialist party and to what extent these may swing for Bryan or run a candidate against him remains to be seen.

There are, perhaps, millions of prohibitionists outside of the prohibition party. If these should regard this issue with the same practical attitude that has characterized recent local option votes, it can hardly be supposed that they would weigh down the Roosevelt scale.

The President is not only not an abstainer but he has made no note of the liquor question as an issue in politics.

Bryan has said little about it but he is a personal abstainer and a man of high moral convictions on the subject.

If the prohibitionists can swing the whole prohibition vote for their candidate it will not affect the relative strength of the two great parties. But this they have not done in late years and it is an open question whether they would not gain their end sooner and better by supporting the nominee of one of the great parties conditionally that he gives them some promise of support in turn.

THE CONGO OUTRAGES.

Many of us have been living in the hope that oppression of the weak for the sake of gain exists only in the more refined form known to many in Christian countries.

But there come to us cries, every now and again from different parts of the world that are shocking beyond description. Such, indeed, seem to be the truth of the atrocities in the Rubber districts of the Congo.

Prof. Starr made some rather cheap notoriety a few months ago by de-

nying the existence of these conditions. He claimed that having traveled through portions of the Congo without seeing such, they could not exist—although he admitted that he had not been in the Rubber districts.

But from the mouths of many reliable witnesses there come to us the certain evidence that the most monstrous and unspeakable crimes are committed against men, women and children.

Miss'ary Clark, who has been speaking to numerous audiences in and around Chicago, comes direct from the field and reports the most revolting of crimes against the poor natives, principally by the Belgian soldiers under King Leopold who derives vast revenues from the slave labor of the territory.

The government of the United States is urged to take action and it seems that there is every reason to believe that they have power to suppress these conditions.

All persons interested are urged to write to Secretary Root, Washington, D. C., urging that the government take such action as may lead to the suppression of these evils in Congo.

SCHOOL AND BIBLE.

The Bible as a school book is again to the fore. The press has much to say on the subject and certain men of what is known as "liberal" thought are opposing the use of it in the public school. Recently a Hebrew Rabbi of Chicago has joined in the cry.

The contention is that the Bible is a sectarian, religious book and cannot be taught without teaching sectarianism.

But why sectarian? Is there anything essentially sectarian in a school reading of the book upon which the nation is founded,—which its Congress and Courts of law recognize and the vast majority of its people accept?

It surely argues against "liberal" thought to be denied the use of the Book in our public schools which is accepted in the literary world as the greatest of all books,—which is the best authority on much that is historic, and which is the basis of the religion of the nation.

If it were asked to have either the Catholic or Protestant prayer book, or the Westminster Confession

of faith in the school there might be something in the sectarian cry, but the Bible is the Book of Catholic and Protestant of all denominations and the greater portion of it, of the Jew also. No Christian sect but rests upon it. Even the modern body of Christian Scientists make it their authority.

It is, moreover, the greatest book in circulation and popular acceptance. Shakespeare's works which come next are taught in schools. Most of the modern literature, including Shakespeare, pay homage to it and draws inspiration from it. And yet, there is a cry that the youth of our land must be defrauded of it, so far as our public schools are concerned.

Surely it argues a fear of the principles of liberty to deny the reading of any book to our children, and above all the Bible.

STEALING A RIDE.

What is the difference between a tramp stealing a ride on a freight and local trains and a merchant riding on his acquaintance or "on his face?" We see none except that the tramp may have the excuse of poverty and the merchant has none. The following little anecdote told by Geo. T. Angell in "Dumb Animals" for November illustrates our point:

"A young Boston merchant told us this morning that he was going to take a certain train to pass a Sunday with his family who are in the country, but had concluded to take another train because the conductor always passed him without taking up his ticket. We at once replied: "Would you like to have that man in your firm where a single partner can ruin the whole concern? I would not employ in our humane societies over night a man whom I knew would be doing what this conductor is doing. He is simply a thief, stealing from the corporation, and the partaker is as bad as the thief." The young merchant, who is really a pretty likely man, said we were right, and that he would hereafter pay for his tickets."

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