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Sermon

BY REV. W. W. PERCIVAL, M. A.

The following is a synopsis of a sermon preached in the Presbyterian church on Sabbath morning, Sept. 13th:—

"Moreover the law entered that the offence might abound, but where sin abounded, grace did much more abound."—Rom. v., 20.

The preacher first proceeded to show the relation of law to grace, pointing out the importance of having clear and distinct views on this subject. He showed that law was the servant of grace, and that the supreme principle that actuated God in all His dealings with men, even in the giving of the law, was grace. Hence the law is "the schoolmaster to bring us to Christ."

His first topic was—"The natural effect of law is to increase transgression." "The law entered that the offence might abound." To most men in St. Paul's day it would seem that God's purpose in the law was defeated by the sinfulness of man, but Paul did not so regard it. It was evident to him that in the development of evil the law had rendered a definite service. Our observation teaches us the correctness of Paul's conclusion, that the effect of law is to multiply transgression. It is a well known fact that the greater the number of laws, the greater is the number of offences against them; increase the severity of the penalty, and you increase the roll of crime. The explanation of this may be difficult, but the fact remains. It may be that the new law by suggesting its own violation thus tends to defeat itself. Or it may be that the natural impulse of human nature is to rebel against restraint. If you doubt this, the preacher said, just issue a command to your wife, lay the law down to her that she is not to go out of the house for one week, and see if she will not be sure to go out the next day. Perhaps if there had been no law in the case she would not think of going out for a week, but the instant you command her not to go, that instant she wants to go. The natural impulse of human nature is to rebel against restraint. He then proceeded to show that the tendency of law is to produce new forms of evil. That while law may check the manifestations of evil in one direction it will be sure to break out in another. He also pointed out that while many of the Old Testament writers found in the law a theme for thanksgiving, wonder, and delight, yet it was not the law itself that enabled them to do this, but grace. They who sang the praises of the law had learned to know and love the God of grace, who gave it as a God "full of compassion and gracious, slow to anger and plenteous in mercy."

The preacher's second point was.—That the law is a preparation for grace. But in what way does the law prepare the way for grace? 1st.—By giving publicity to the power of sin. This is a necessary step to every remedial process. It is always better that evil be exposed, be made public. This must be done before you can effect a cure. This is the special work that the Committee of Enquiry at Ottawa is now doing. It may not effect the cure—we do not for a moment think it will—but it is preparing the way for the cure, which we think will follow. Its particular mission is to lay bare, to expose to the light of day, those cancers that are now, and have for years, been gnawing at the very vitals of this Dominion. The putrid sores on some of the political carcasses, both at Ottawa and Quebec, must be exposed to view, the bandages must be torn off, that the public may see them in all their utter loathsomeness, the sight may be sickening, the stench may be horrible, yet it must be done before we can hope for a cure. The preacher then proceeded to point out that if the committee did this, it would do all that it could be expected to do—all in fact that law could do in the case. He then proceeded to give an illustration of the weakness of law to cure evil. Some years ago, he said, the attention of the English Parliament was directed to the state of the dwellings inhabited by the poorer classes. It was found that they were put up cheaply, with poor drainage, and they were the cause of frightful mortality. Accordingly an Act was passed making it imperative that all houses should be solidly built. The law thus dealt with the evil. But was it a success? Not by any means. The old evil was removed, but it soon appeared in a new form. To ensure profits to the proprietors the new houses were overcrowded, so that the poor who dwelt in them were huddled together like so many swine. The inevitable result was the outbreak of disease. Thus the difficulty still remained. Again Parliament went to work. An Act was passed which made it imperative that a certain amount of space be given to each person. But did the law accomplish its object this time? No, for the consequence was the rents were raised to such an extent that the poor could not pay

them, and the lanes, and doorsteps, and arches were crowded at night with these poor children of want, and their condition was now worse than ever. The law could do no more. It was powerless. But was it a failure? No, not by any means. It prepared the way for grace. The Peabody's and other philanthropists came forward with their millions, and the result was a wonderful improvement in the homes of the poor.

The preacher then proceeded to point out in a very forcible manner that the committee were inadequate to the herculean task of cleaning out the Augean stables at Ottawa and Quebec, but if they only succeed in showing the public how very filthy they are, they would have accomplished a noble and necessary work. After that it remains for the honest, pure, enlightened electors of this Dominion, of both sides of politics, to forget their party differences to such an extent at least as will enable them to join hands in this present crisis and complete the necessary work of purification. The foul beasts that have so long herded there must be slaughtered, and none of the same breed ever allowed to take their places. This necessary work cannot be accomplished by any law that Mr. Abbott or anybody else may enact, for "by the law is the knowledge of sin" only. Nothing can remedy this evil but grace. Our only hope is that "where sin abounded grace may much more abound." Grace sufficient to enable us to forget our party shibboleths, so far at least as will enable us to clasp hands in the firm resolution that if by no other way than by the united effort of both Grit and Tory, the base, mean, contemptible thieves, be they found at Ottawa or Quebec, who have abused the confidence reposed in them, shall be driven forth with the execrations of all honest men following them like the mark of Cain upon their brow. Let us, said the preacher, as the enlightened electors of this land, demand that no man shall aspire to the honorable and responsible position of a Member of Parliament who is not like Caesar's wife, not only pure, but above suspicion. Until we lay more stress upon the moral qualifications of the men who aspire to Parliamentary honors than we have done hitherto, we may expect repetitions of the same disgraceful kind that are now throwing the dark mantle of disgrace over the fair fame of our country.

The third page of the Toronto DAILY MAIL is noted for "Want" Advertisement. If you want to buy or sell anything. If you want a situation, a mechanic, a business, machinery, lodgings, if you have lost or found anything, or if you want to find out where anyone is, advertise in the Toronto DAILY MAIL and read the advertisements on the third page of that page. The charge is Two Cents a word each insertion, Address THE MAIL, Toronto, Canada.

Markham Council.
Markham Township council met at Victoria Hall, Unionville, on Saturday Sept. 19th. Members all present, Reeve in the chair. Minutes of last meeting read and confirmed.

Mr. Scott, seconded by Mr. Reesor, moved that the mover be and is hereby appointed commissioner to repair culvert, lot 29, Con. 4, and improve approaches to North Town Line, Con. 4, payable on order of commissioner when work is completed.

Mr. Schmidt, seconded by Mr. Scott, moved that the amount expended for opening ditch in Road Division No. 40 be paid on order of Mr. Scott.

Mr. Scott, seconded by Mr. Slater, moved that the Treasurer pay the half of the following accounts for plank and cedar used on east townline, as certified by R. O., viz.: A. B. Lehman, 304 ft. plank, \$4.25; A. B. Lehman, 206 ft. plank, \$3.00; J. B. Hoover, 32 ft. cedar, \$1.60.

Mr. Schmidt, seconded by Mr. Slater, moved that the Treasurer pay J. Webber \$6.00, being 3/4 value of two lambs killed by a dog or dogs, owners of same unknown as testified on oath.

Mr. Scott, seconded by Mr. Schmidt, moved that the Treasurer pay the following gravel accounts:—Joseph Lapp, 87 yds., A. Reesor, R. O., \$8.70; John Perrin, 137 yds. S. Wilson, R. O., \$13.70; A. Russell, 73 yds. S. Miller, R. O. \$7.30.

Mr. Reesor, seconded by Mr. Schmidt, moved that the Treasurer pay J. Snowball \$24.50 for improving road on 7th Con. opposite lot 10.

Mr. Schmidt, seconded by Mr. Reesor, moved that Mr. Scott be a commissioner to make necessary repairs to bridge opposite lot 26 Con 6, also to examine and open ditch, if necessary, on north townline re communication of S. L. Hoover, amount required payable on order of commissioners when work is completed.

Mr. Reesor, seconded by Mr. Slater, moved that the Treasurer pay Adam Scott, 85c. for putting in drain across Church street.

Mr. Slater, seconded by Mr. Scott,

moved that Mr. Schmidt be a commissioner to act in conjunction with commissioner from York, to repair hill on south townline at Con. 3 and that clerk be instructed to notify the York Tp. council of the dangerous condition of the hill and request the appointment of a commissioner, half amount payable on order of commissioner when work is completed.

Mr. Scott, seconded by Mr. Slater, moved that the Treasurer pay R. Good-year, on order of mover, \$3 for planking bridge and repairing guard rail on side line between Lots 25 and 26, Con. 5.

Mr. Slater, seconded by Mr. Schmidt, moved that the Treasurer pay the following accounts, as certified by R. O.:—R. Myers, digging ditch on sideline between lots 21 and 22, Con. 5, \$5.00; putting in culvert, \$3.50; J. Grills, repairing wash-out at bridge, on 6th Con., lot 21, \$200.

Mr. Scott, seconded by Mr. Schmidt, moved that Mr. Reesor and the Overseer of Division No. 74, be and are hereby appointed commissioners to build a culvert on Pickering townline opposite lot 2, on the condition that Pickering council pay half amount required, payable on order of the commissioner when work is completed.

Mr. Reesor, seconded by Mr. Scott, moved that Mr. Slater be and is hereby appointed to act with the Reeve re damages in the Wice case.

The Council then adjourned.

CONSUMPTION CURED.

An old physician, retired from practice, having had placed in his hands by an East India missionary the formula of a simple vegetable remedy for the speedy and permanent cure of Consumption, Bronchitis, Catarrh, Asthma and all throat and Lung Affections, also a positive and radical cure for Nervous Debility and all Nervous Complaints, after having tested its wonderful curative powers in thousands of cases, has felt it his duty to make it known to his suffering fellows. Actuated by this motive and a desire to relieve human suffering, I will send free of charge, to all who desire it, this recipe, in German, French or English, with full directions for preparing and using. Sent by mail by addressing with stamp, naming this paper. W. A. NOYES, 820 Powers' Block, Rochester, N. Y.—14-5-1y.

News Notes.

Mr. Angers, Lieut. Governor of Quebec, has appointed a Royal Commission to inquire into the Mercier-Pacaud scandal.

Ex-President Balmaceda, of Chili, committed suicide by shooting himself through the temple in his room at the Argentine Legation on Saturday morning.

The AMERICAN AGRICULTURIST has been studying up the world's food supply, and calculates that there will be a deficit of 200,000,000 bushels of wheat and rye.

\$8,000 Given Away.
Great fourth half-yearly midsummer literary competition of the Canadian Agriculturist and Home Magazine, closes October 20th, 1891, when the following magnificent rewards will be given to persons sending in the greatest number of words made up out of the letters in the words "Home Magazine." First reward, \$1,500 in gold; 2nd, \$1,000; 3rd, \$500; 4th, \$750 Grand Piano; 5th, \$500 Organ; 6th, \$300 Team of Ponies and Carriage; 7th, \$150 Gents' Gold Watch; 8th, \$100 Ladies' Gold Watch; 50 prizes \$25 each, China Tea Set, 50 Hunting Case Silver Watches, 100 Boy's Silver Watches (all fully guaranteed), 25 prizes \$10 each, 100 prizes \$2 each, and 200 at \$1 each, making a total of 569 splendid rewards, ranging from \$1 up to \$1,500. All prizes delivered free in U. S. and Canada. The words must be constructed only from letters contained in the words "Home Magazine." Foreign or obsolete words not allowed; neither will singular and plurals of same word be allowed. The words must be numbered 1, 2, 3, and so on, to facilitate the awarding of prizes. The list containing the largest number of words will get first prize, the next second, and so on. Each list must be accompanied by \$1 for six months' subscription to the Canadian Agriculturist, one of the best illustrated Home Magazines in America. This is no lottery—merit only will count. The reputation for fairness gained by the Agriculturist in the past is ample guarantee that this competition will be conducted in like manner. Send 3c. stamp for full particulars to The Canadian Agriculturist, Peterborough, Canada. 21

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Richmond Hill, Sept. 7th, 1891.

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