

## STARTLES AUDIENCE IN BIBLE DISCOURSE

Says Luke, Matthew and John Didn't Write Books

Every neighborhood of Winnetka is discussing last Sunday's Morning Men's class session at Community House, at which Prof. Fred Merrifield of Chicago university Divinity school sounded the keynote of what resolved itself into probably the most animated discussion in the history of that group of Winnetka men.

In speaking on his subject "Where We Got Our New Testament," Prof. Merrifield made startling statements.

### Arrangement Incorrect

The books of the New Testament as now arranged in the Bible are in an incorrect order chronologically and otherwise, he said. The natural arrangement is a chronological one. In most cases, he stated, the books of the New Testament were not at all written by the men whose names they bear. For instance, he explained, the

Book of Luke was not written by Luke, nor was the Book of Matthew or John, by those famous Biblical characters. Instead, they were written by unknown men, in some cases long after the passing of the men whose names the individual books bear, but they were given these names by the writers because of the added authoritative influence which they would have. Professor Merrifield cited probable exceptions to this in the case of the Book of Mark, and Paul's Letter.

### Luke a Scholarly Work

He gave a very interesting and graphic description of the men who wrote the various Books of the New Testament, based on the literary style and general construction of these books. He devoted some time to a discussion of the Book of Luke, which he said, was evidently written by a very learned scholar who undoubtedly entertained the fundamental idea of swinging the entire Roman Empire over to Christianity, and, in the course of his efforts to do this, was endeavoring to educate and persuade Theophilus, the Roman official who is mentioned in the very opening of

the Book. In order to more firmly establish his teachings with Theophilus and with the empire at large he wrote the Book of Luke, which is, in a large measure, a compilation or gathering together of the most important parts of all the literature available at that time—mainly, the Book of Mark and the Sayings of Jesus.

It is Prof. Merrifield's contention that, largely, through the influence of the Book of Luke the Roman Empire later swung over to the Christian Church.

The discussion was so interesting and the questions and answers shot back and forth so numerous that arrangements have been made for another meeting Monday evening, November 6, at the Dr. J. O. Ely home at 592 Cherry street, at which time Professor Merrifield will be asked to continue his very interesting discussion.

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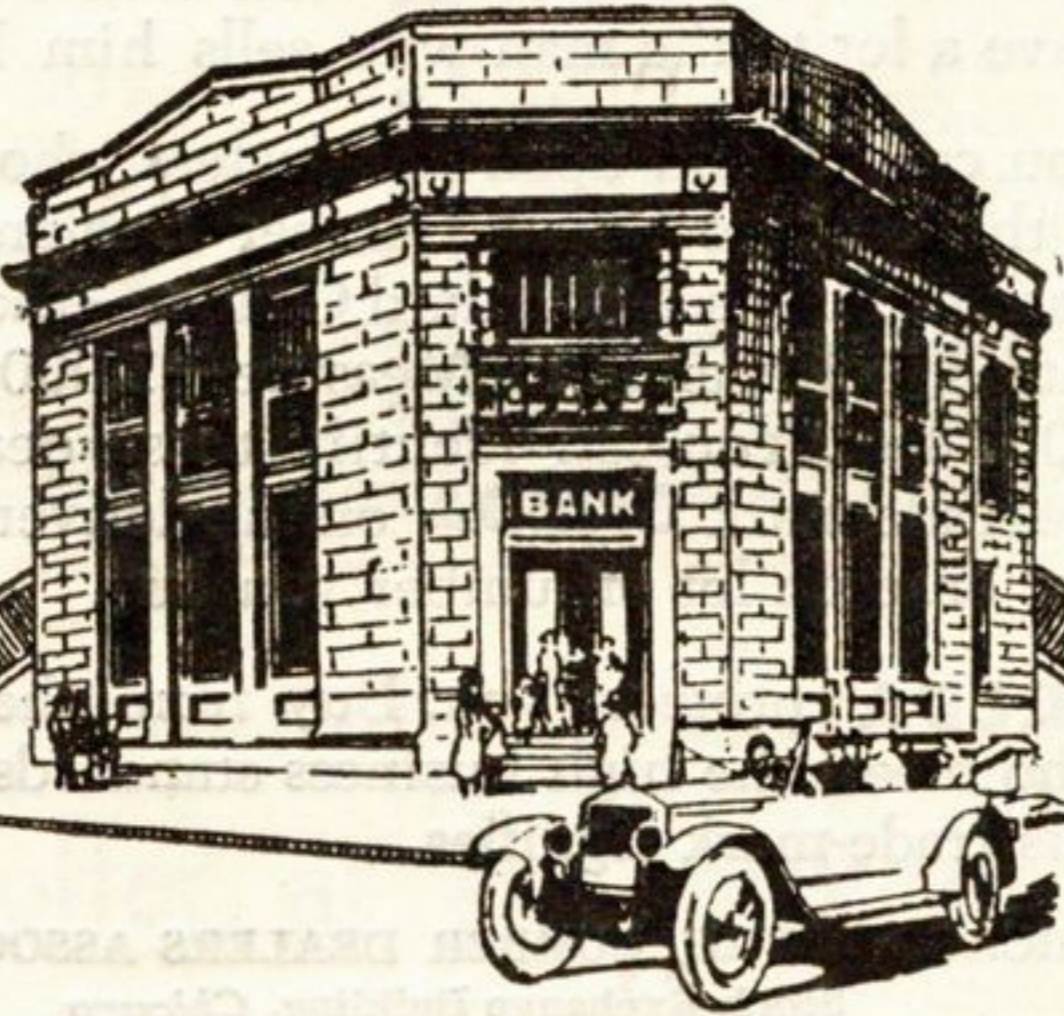
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