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REV. LOVE'S CHRISTMAS TALK

At Baptist Church Last Sunday Morning—Were Introductory Remarks to His Sermon.

"Thou shalt call His name Jesus for He shall save His people from their sins."—Matt. 1-21.

For more than nineteen hundred years the life of Jesus Christ has been the most interesting and helpful subject upon which the mind of man has dwelt, and it will continue to be so for all men of every age. It is no mark of imbecility or mental weakness to dwell upon this, the greatest of all themes.

The world's greatest intellects have paid their homage to the Christ. Tho' in many instances they have withheld their hearts from Him.

Jean Paul Richter describes Christ as "the holiest among the mighty and the mightiest among the holy, who lifted, with His pierced hands, empires off their hinges; turned the streams of centuries out of their channels and still governs the ages."

Men like Galileo, Kepler, Bacon, Newton, Milton and the wonderful Shakespeare, with millions of others of less fame, have placed Jesus above all other men and set His name above all other names.

The world's most famous infidels, agnostics and sceptics have been forced by reasoning, if not by conscience, to acknowledge Christ's superiority to ordinary mortals.

"Christ is the symbol of divine wisdom," says Spinoza.

"Jesus Christ," said Thomas Carlyle "is our divinest symbol, higher than the human thought not yet reached."

No one would accuse Napoleon of being a pietist or a weak minded religionist. His was a gigantic intellect, however worthless and depraved he was morally.

One day at Saint Helena he was conversing with a group of noblemen. He was ambitious and his pride and self-conceit was not sheltered under a cloak of self deprecation.

He boldly compared himself with many of the great men of history and unhesitatingly declared that he was equal to, if not superior to any of them. But suddenly turning to one of the party, he said, "Can you tell me who Jesus Christ was?"

The man was shocked and stunned by the question. After a moment he replied that he had never given the subject much thought.

"Well then," said Napoleon, "I will tell you."

He then compared Christ with himself and with the various heroes of antiquity and showed how Jesus far surpassed them all.

"I think I understand somewhat of human nature," said he, "and I tell you that all these were men, and I'm a man, but not one of us is like Christ. He was more than a man. Alexander, Caesar and Charlemagne founded their great empires by force; Jesus alone founded His empire upon love, and to this very day millions would die for Him."

Such is the testimony of a man who acknowledged Christ as his superior, even tho' he did not accept Him as his sovereign.

The character of Jesus Christ still retains the superior charm by which it attracted the greatest minds and called forth the deepest affections in the early years of christianity, and His life must still claim above all others our reverent and thoughtful study.

"Thou shalt call His name Jesus for He shall save His people from their sins."

Jesus and Joshua are synonymous and mean Saviour.

For ages the Jews had been looking for the promised Saviour, but alas! when He came, they rejected Him.

"He came unto His own and His own received Him not."

The annual return of the Christmas festivities is but an annual reminder of the Father's greatest gift to the world.

The incidents relative to Christ's birth and early life are too well known to necessitate recounting, yet there are a few traditional and legendary things recorded which, tho' not in the inspired record, are interesting to say the least.

For example we are told that Mary, the mother of Jesus, was given to her father and mother in answer to prayer when three years of age her parents left her in the temple to be educated.

At the age of fourteen, the high priest, told her to go home to her parents and have them seek a husband for her. She declined to go, declaring that she had been given to the Lord. Whereupon the high priest sent for the marriageable men within the district to come and present themselves in the temple at Jerusalem, and the man out of whose staff a dove should fly, should receive Mary for his wife.

When the men came and presented

their staffs to the high priest, Joseph, a widower, was in the crowd.

He had several grown sons and daughters and had been a widower for many years, but he had lived a godly life. When he presented his staff to the high priest, a dove flew from it and circling around the temple alighted upon the head of Joseph, which was regarded by the high priest as emblematic of Joseph's purity; whereupon he gave him Mary to be his wife.

The legendary writers add but little to the account of Christ's birth. But with reference to the flight into Egypt they gave one or two interesting incidents.

They tell us that after weeks of weary travel over the burning sands of the desert Joseph and Mary, with the infant Christ, approached Heliopolis, a town in Egypt, where many Jews lived. As they neared the gates of the city, a large date tree, worshipped by the Arabs, bowed its branches to the ground in honor of the infant Christ, and when the little group passed through the gate into city, the great idol worshipped by the citizens as well as the small in the town, fell prostrate to the ground.

Both sacred and profane history as well as legend upon the subject of the stay in Egypt. But after two or three years, when the news reached Joseph that Herod the great, was dead, he and Mary with the boy Christ started on their return to Bethlehem. Here the legendary writers supply an incident which the inspired writers failed to give and which more than likely did not occur. These legendary writers tell us that on the road back two robbers who watched while their partners slept, halted the holy family. The name of one of the robbers was Titus and the name of the other was Dumasus.

Titus besought his companion to let the little party go by unknown to their sleeping confederates, but Dumasus protested, whereupon Titus promised him forty goats and gave him his belt to hold till he paid the debt.

Dumasus accepted the bribe and the party was allowed to pass on, but as they started, Mary said to Titus: "The Lord God will receive thee to His right hand and grant thee pardon of thy sins," and Jesus said to His mother, "When thirty years have expired, the Jews will crucify me at Jerusalem and these two thieves shall be crucified with me. Titus upon my right hand and Dumasus upon my left; and from that place Titus shall accompany me to Pardus."

These are only fabulous stories, which were doubtless born in the imagination of the Apocryphal writers.

The only other incident recorded of Christ's infancy was that of His visit to the temple at the age of twelve. Here again the legendary writers attempted to supply some lack, as they regarded it, in the sacred biography of the Christ child.

Hence they undertake to tell us the subjects discussed by Christ before the elders in the temple.

They say that he discussed the formation and nature of the human body, told the number of bones arteries and veins and gave the reasons for the various changes in feeling and when asking about the stars and the heavenly bodies, he spoke with wonderful knowledge and assurance.

He told not only of their numbers but of their names, their size and location. Christ no doubt knew all about the human body for he had made it.

"With out Him was not any thing made that was made. And for the same reason he knew all about the heavenly bodies.

Infact he had infinite knowledge of every subject. But his mission to earth was not to teach men these things. He came to seek and to save the lost. He came that "whosoever would believe in him should not perish but have everlasting life."

He came to save men from sin. "Thou shalt call his name Jesus, for He shall save his people from their sins."

Judge Boyd, who was holding Federal Court in Charlotte, said to an Observer reporter the other day:

"I'll name a national Republican ticket that will carry with a whoop. Here it is: For President, Theodore Roosevelt; for Vice President, ex Judge W. S. O'B. Robinson. All the fellows who would like to eat with negroes would support Roosevelt, and all those who wouldn't like to eat with colored brethren would be enthusiastic for Judge Robinson. That's the right ticket: Roosevelt and Robinson."

After the sale of their lands the Philippine friars are going to leave the islands.

Burned and Crushed Over 700 Perish in Chicago Fire

A Mad Stampede Follows Cry of Fire in Chicago Theatre

MOST HORRIBLE IN HISTORY

The Number of Dead Estimated at 738—Many Children Trampled to Death—Stores and Other Buildings Turned Into Hospitals and Morgues—Strong Men Weep.

Chicago, Dec. 30.—Amid scenes of the most awful horror, a great number of people, variously estimated at from 200 to 600, very many of women and children, were burned or suffocated or trampled to death this afternoon in a fire which destroyed the new Iroquois theatre. Firemen who were in the burned building fixed the number of dead at from 500 to 600.

More than a hundred bodies, blackened and mangled, were taken from the blazing ruins within an hour from the time when the fire was under control. Inside the theatre the dead bodies were corded and piled up through the seats and aisles like logs of wood.

Hundreds were injured, many of them fatally, in the frightful, panic stricken rush for safety when hysterical screams and shouts of "Fire!" rang through the theatre as the flimsy draperies flared and blazed up during the second act of the afternoon performance of "Mr. Bluebeard."

According to firemen the bodies were piled five feet deep in the pit where the balconies collapsed, while the frightened, maddened rush of men, women and children for the doors was on, all fighting like demons under the swirl of the flame for safety.

The fire broke out in the scenery of the wings of the theatre during the second act of the afternoon performance of "Mr. Bluebeard." In a moment the great audience was in a wild panic.

From the ground floor to the dome of the closely packed theater came wild screams and cries of "Fire!" and in that moment began the death dealing and panic stricken rush for safety. In the mad rush to get to the doors men, women and children were struck down, trampled on or fatally crushed.

Half faint, bleeding from wounds and carried along in the crowd, scores met injuries which may prove fatal. All buildings and stores in the neighborhood of Randolph and Dearborn streets have been turned into temporary hospitals and are filled with the injured.

The fire broke on the stake and chorus girls, actors and actresses were driven to the wind swept streets attired in their light stage clothes and wounded and cut in the crush. A number were carried out unconscious, and it is believed that several chorus girls were cut off from escape while they were far up the files in the seventh tier of dressing rooms.

CAUGHT FROM CALCIUM LIGHT.

The flames from a calcium light caught the flimsy curtain on the stage. In a flash all the stage draperies were in flames, and the fire had eaten its way to the auditorium.

Women and children leaped from the balconies to floor only to be swept under foot by the crowd that tried to fight its mad way to the street.

Fire Marshal Champion, when he came out of the building reported that at least fifty dead were lying in the aisles piled up in heaps. He placed number of dead at from 200 to 500. The dead were conveyed to a restaurant in the neighborhood which had been turned into a morgue.

CHORUS GIRLS AND PHYSICIANS.

In the work of rescue chorus girls clad in tights and light costumes in which they had been driven from the blazing stage, their heads out and faces covered with blood, aided the physicians and policemen. Men, their clothing torn off in the crush, aided in caring for the wounded and placing them on boards that had been laid on cots in stores and other business establishments.

LEADING MAN TALKS.

Eddie Foy who played the leading role in the extravaganza of "Mr. Bluebeard," escaped with his head cut and his light clothing torn to shreds. He told how the fire started, spreading panic and death as it swept the playhouse from pit to dome.

"We were all on the stage in the moonlight scene of the second act," he said, "suddenly at the right of the

stage the curtain caught from a spur of flame from a calcium light. In a moment the stage was one mass of fire. The capacity of the theatre was 1,500 people. About 200 people were standing the aisles when the performance began and when the cry of "Fire" was sounded, 1,700 people as one man began the desperate struggle to gain exits.

DEAD ESTIMATED AT 738.

At this writing the work of identification has just begun. There are pitiable scenes at the improvised and the regular morgues. The city is in a ferment. Thousands besiege the police for information. The latest report, compiled from good sources says the dead number 738. Many names of the missing are published in newspaper extras but not one can be verified. The theatre is total loss but the members of the company are all reported safe.

WAS A FIREPROOF BUILDING.

Chicago, Dec. 30.—The Iroquois theatre was the newest, house of amusement in Chicago, and one of the finest homes of the drama in the country. It was opened Monday night, November 23, last, with the spectacle "Bluebeard." It had a frontage of 90 feet on Randolph street, 125 feet on Dearborn street and seating capacity of 1744.

The building was put up in less than seven months, record breaking time, by the Geo. A. Fuller Construction company. It was planned and erected under the supervision of Benjamin H. Marshall, who also designed the Nixon theatre in Pittsburg, and the Illinois theatre in Chicago.

The site cost \$500,000, a like sum was spent upon the building and decorations. Notwithstanding the rapidity of its construction, the statement was frequently made public by all concerned in the enterprise that the building was absolutely fireproof.

The Iroquois theater was owned by Will J. Davis and Harry J. Powers, of Chicago, Nixon & Semmerman, of Philadelphia, and Klaw & Erlanger, of New York.

JUDGE FRANCIS D. WINSTON

Will Be A Candidate Before the Next State Democratic Convention for Lieutenant Governor.

Judge Francis D. Winston will be a candidate before the next Democratic State Convention for the nomination for Lieutenant Governor. We are authorized to make this announcement. It is needless for us now to elaborate his qualification for this high office. His great ability as a presiding officer is too well known. He has filled many places of trust. For fifteen years he has given freely of his brains, time and means to the party. His record as a party worker and party leader entitles him to the nomination. We will not lengthen this article with quotations from the press or with copies of resolutions passed by the lawyers when he held court. The press and bar and people were loud in his praise.

No judge stood higher; no judge combined more happily pleasant manners and generous hearted sympathy with judicial firmness and dignity. No man surpassed him in his capacity to dispatch business.

Has he failed in any duty? No. Has he met public expectation and demand? Most abundantly. What is his character? Strong and upright. Is he a good speaker and debater? Few in the state surpass him. Is he popular and agreeable? No one more so. Has he rendered sufficient service to the party? Ask the Democratic State, District and County Committees of 1890—and of every campaign since then; and the white supremacy clubs and Democratic Revolutionists of 1898 and 1900.

Why then should he not be nominated? In behalf of the Democracy of Bertie county who have ever accorded due recognition of faithful party service official integrity and efficiency, we ask this nomination at the hands of our great party. Later we will publish a sketch of our distinguished fellow citizen. We now announce his candidacy for this high office.—From The Windsor Ledger.

"God forbid!" exclaimed Senator Pettus in speaking of the Panama affair, "that this giant republic of ours should ever become too great to maintain his own honor."

AN EARLY CAMPAIGN SURE

Chairman Rollins to Call the Executive Committee Together at Once.

Washington, Jan. 2.—Republican State Chairman Rollins tonight authorized the statement that a meeting of the Republican State executive committee would be had during the latter part of the present month. The meeting will be held in Greensboro and the exact date will be agreed upon as soon as Mr. Rollins has an opportunity to consult the convenience of the various members of the committee. At the proposed meeting a date will be agreed upon for holding a State convention, and Mr. Rollins said it was his individual opinion that only one convention would be held, at which time the State officers would be nominated and delegates chosen to the national convention. Leading Republicans have planned an early convention, perhaps about the 1st of May, and when surprise was expressed at this Mr. Rollins asserted that the Republicans would, during the approaching campaign, put more vigor into their efforts than at any time during recent years. The Republican chairman did not elaborate his meaning, but averred that his party would make a great campaign, with the taxation methods adopted by the late Legislature as the paramount issue. Mr. Rollins said he had on yesterday assured the President that the national committee could count implicitly on two Republican members being elected from the State at the next election, from the eighth and tenth districts. Mr. Rollins says the Republicans of the State do not feel in the least downcast, as they are quietly, but continually finding recruits. He says that Mr. Barringer, of Cabarrus, who was one of the "immortal seven" who served in the Senate during the Legislature of 1897, has espoused the Republican cause.

OUR PRISON MAKES \$82,270

Directors Report a Net Balance of \$106,808.

Raleigh, Jan. 1.—The directors of the penitentiary tonight completed their report to Governor Aycock for the year ending yesterday, showing a net balance of \$106,808 in cash, solvent credits and farm produce, with no doubtful items, and with enough corn omitted for use this year. There was a balance at the last report of \$21,538, so that the net earnings were \$82,270. There are no debts of any kind. A brick plant has been established, costing \$3,458, and has proved a good investment. The State farm is in magnificent condition. The general health of the convicts is better than heretofore, with only 22 deaths. The total number of convicts is 706, against 816 a year ago. The prison population continues to decrease because most convicts, now use public road building practically all persons convicted in their borders.

Secretary Moody has issued orders to our Naval officers not to be shot at the Columbians until they shoot first.

If there were a strenuous Roosevelt at the head of affairs in Columbia we would have a mid winter war in the tropics.

Senator Hoar's severe criticism of the President's Panama policy has caused consternation on the Isthmus and in the White House.

The democratic members of the Senate have decided to be bound by the caucus rule, and the republicans will now have to deal with a united minority under Senator Gorman's leadership.

The defeated revolutionists in Sante Domingo are trying to induce our government to help them back in power, for which they are willing to grant us sovereignty over the anarchic republic.

Our Consul at Frankfurt Germany writes that South Africa is a good market for condensed eggs. These eggs are prepared by removing their surplus water and adding water. They are sent to South Africa in hermetically closed boxes and can hardly be distinguished from fresh eggs.

SEN. OVERMAN'S POSITION

He Wants Treaty Without Compromising the Country's Honor.

The Wilmington Chamber of Commerce recently sent a telegram to Senator Overman requesting him to vote for the proposed Panama treaty and received the following reply, which expresses our sentiments exactly. And we believe he voices the opinion of nine-tenths of the people of North Carolina. Here is what he wrote:

"I beg to acknowledge receipt of your telegram urging me, on behalf of the Washington chamber of commerce, to support the Panama treaty, and to thank you for the same.

"I am always glad and anxious to know the wishes of my people in regard to any and all great public questions pending before the Congress, and it is my desire to reflect their sentiments as near as I can by my vote. I would be untrue to my people and to the people of the South, as well as untrue to myself, did I not heartily favor the building of the canal and do all in my power to secure it, believing as I do with them that it is for the best commercial interest of the whole nation that the canal should be built. I shall most cheerfully vote for the Panama treaty, provided I can do so and at the same time not sacrifice the national honor and not violate my own sense of morals and of what is right and wrong. With me the question rises above politics and dollars and cents.

"Why the Republicans will not consent to the passage of the Hoar resolution is very suspicious. It only asks for the facts, and I think you will agree with me that I ought not to determine definitely what my action will be until I know the facts. I do not wish to be a party to the building of a canal in wrong, dishonor and blood. Did those in authority in this country encourage and connive at the revolution in Panama with a sinister design? Is this country a party to the revolution, propose to get by force that which it could not get by treaty and engage in war with a helpless little republic? Is this nation to exhibit itself to the world as guilty of sharp practice? These are some of the questions I must answer and to do so must have all the facts, which as yet we have not been able to obtain, and for these reasons I have not made up my mind definitely to support the treaty.

"If the Panama treaty should fall of ratification the law is already written upon the statute books and the money appropriated to build the Nicaraguan Canal. Except for delay, in my judgment, there is no trouble about getting a canal in any event, and heretofore a large majority of the people of the South, as shown by the votes of their Senators and Representatives in Congress, has been for that route. So far as our immediate section is concerned it is believed to be the best route. So it is not a question of canal, but is the country's conscience to be debauched and shall we have the Panama Canal at a sacrifice of honor and war or shall we have the Nicaraguan Canal with peace and honor? If all that is alleged be true, to ratify the treaty would be compromising with an outrage and we would be temporizing with unfair dealings. To me it is a very serious question. I want all the light I can get upon the subject. I want to know the truth. And after getting the facts I trust that I may be able to carry out your wishes, and what seems to be the wishes generally of my people. I shall get the facts, give the matter due consideration and do what is best for all the people. I do not wish to be considered in my manner an obstructionist, neither do I wish to set myself up as 'holier than thou,' but I am sure that you and the people of the State will appreciate my position.

Thanking you again for telling me what are the wishes of the good people of Wilmington, and sincerely hoping I may see my way clear to vote for the treaty, I am

"Yours truly,
"LEES OVERMAN."

Secretary Root has given a list of General Wood's qualifications to be major-general; chief among them seems to be that he is in the prime of life.