

"LOVEST THOU ME?" THE BISHOP'S TEXT

Stirring Service Marked Sunday At Methodist Conference.

Apostles Gave Up Hope When Savior Was Crucified and Peter Led the Way Back to His Old Work as Fisherman.

By REV. T. A. SIKES.

The spirit of the inclement weather last Sunday at the North Carolina Methodist conference in St. Paul's church, Goldsboro, an immense audience gathered to hear the address of the Bishop of V. W. Darling. There was a vacant seat in all the house when he announced the first hymn. This hymn was sung as only a Methodist conference can sing. It was the familiar "For a Thousand Tongues to Sing" and almost literally a thousand tongues were singing. The opening prayer was led by Rev. J. E. Underwood, and the frame of mind of the congregation was indicated by the chorus of "Amen's."

The special choir music was unusually attractive. A selection, entitled "Only Thou," which was rendered by the quartette, was especially inspiring. The opening lesson, the first 15 verses of the 1st chapter of John, was read by the bishop, and the second hymn was announced. This hymn was generally a great prayer as "Break Thou the Bread of Life" was sung upwards in an immense wave of song. The bishop then took as his text two references from the third and 15 verses of the chapter which he had read. "I go a fishing," Simon, son of Jonas, loved "thee," and for more than an hour the vast audience human emotions.

The bishop announced as his topic: "The Supreme Test Which Comes to Every Man Sooner or Later." The substance of his sermon follows: "Some of you have said when the apostles gave up their sword at Jerusalem the issues of the war of the Revolution were at an end. All else was incidental to this. It is likewise said that the great fight at Gettysburg settled the issues of the civil war. The same is true of the great fight at Appomattox. When Pickett's men failed in their charge and died in their blood the doom of the Confederacy was sealed.

"There is a time I know not when, a place I know not where, that marks the destiny of men, for glory or despair."

Only God knows when such an hour arrives. It is a most fearful truth that a soul destined to live, whose worlds are burning should come to the hour that settles his doom forever. I have but one desire and that is to help some man to a better life. I shall be supremely happy if this hour shall help some soul to be better. No one knows when the hour is at hand. God Almighty's tests come unannounced. Suddenly we come into the presence of an issue which we must settle and which settles us. Abraham and Lot came to a sudden decision as the division of the field, and Lot was suddenly compelled to decide his future destiny. Lot chose him all the plains east of the Jordan, and from that moment he was a rich man. He had a choice and he chose the better. He had a choice and he chose the better. He had a choice and he chose the better.

"Now, for the result. They went back to their old haunts, and expected to see their Lord I don't know where. Jesus was but a man, and he had walked the shores that night with hands stretched out over Galilee to make the fish stay covered, and thus provide a means of livelihood for his apostles. He is, for it kicks a man out when he is doing. Listen to a voice so full of love, so full of music and sweetness: 'Children, did you catch anything last night?' 'No,' 'Cast your net on the right side of the ship.' The result is known to all the world. And John, who has a spiritual discernment, said, 'Why Peter, it's the Lord!' Peter jumped overboard, swam to shore and found Jesus.

"What did Jesus do? Did He complain? Did He ridicule Peter for going back a fishing? Did He upbraid him for the denial? Many a preacher has hid behind the pulpit and insulted his congregation. What did Jesus do? He asked for the others. He spread the feast. He called down the benedictions of heaven upon them. Oh! what a picture. Nothing in the picture galleries of earth can equal this picture of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of life. He is, for it kicks a man out when he is doing. Listen to a voice so full of love, so full of music and sweetness: 'Children, did you catch anything last night?' 'No,' 'Cast your net on the right side of the ship.' The result is known to all the world. And John, who has a spiritual discernment, said, 'Why Peter, it's the Lord!' Peter jumped overboard, swam to shore and found Jesus.

WINNING VICTOR OF ITALY ARRIVES HOME FROM THE FRONT FOR BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION



The arrival of King Victor Emmanuel of Italy from the battle front to the American delegation at the station in Rome. Inset, King Victor Emmanuel and his family.

(C) Underwood & Underwood.

by the side of his life and heart and were attached to him by bands of steel. But a dark day came. He stood on the hill. Each man heard him groan and saw him die. Each man fled to his own place, and there lost heart. What a dark hour. They said, 'We gave up all we had for Him, and now we have lost him.' The bishop referred feelingly to his own early struggles. His father died when he was a mere lad, leaving his mother with twelve children. The youngest of whom was he himself. They were in destitute circumstances, and many were the times when it seemed as if there were no way out of the dark. But there was faith and hope and they prevailed.

FORESEES CONFLICT BETWEEN THE RACES

Japanese Statesman Believes Time Is Coming When the Colored and White Peoples Will Fight.

Tokio, Nov. 30.—(Correspondence of The Associated Press).—Belief that the next war will be the outcome of racial prejudices is expressed by Yukio Ozaki, formerly minister of justice, and a leading member of the constitutional party. Mr. Ozaki said that in his opinion, the colored races which steadily were developing their civilization would demand finally the same treatment as the white races, and that the result would be an armed collision. Mr. Ozaki recommended that at the peace conference, Japan acting on behalf of the Asiatic races, should introduce the racial and population questions for consideration, and if possible, secure a solution.

AMERICANS IN FRANCE OR ENGLAND AT CHRISTMAS TIME

They Will Be Right Royal Entertainment by the People There.

London, Nov. 30.—If your soul is in France or England at Christmas time you need not necessarily feel that he is losing all the joy of life. Perhaps he is going to have the opportunity to see the English Christmas.

MINISTERS FAIL TO HEED HEALTH BOARD'S REQUEST

(Special Star Correspondence.)

Kinston, Dec. 22.—Pastors of churches here today failed to comply with a suggestion by the board of health that they should be disposed of by burning the present influenza emergency, together with all other gatherings of a public nature, including parties, dances, etc. The ministers said the health authority's action was too drastic and it imposed no legal restriction and failed to check street gatherings or curb holiday shoppers.

HIGHER TOBACCO PRICES IN VIRGINIA PROMISED

Richmond, Va., Dec. 22.—Prospects of still higher prices prevailing for the remainder of the tobacco crop when the market re-opens January 7, after the Christmas recess, is the prediction of brokers and jobbers throughout the state. A conservative estimate discloses the more than \$5,000,000 has been paid Virginians for tobacco this season, higher prices prevailing than in any previous season.

CHARGED WITH EMBEZZLING BIG SUM AT CHARLOTTE.

Kinston, Dec. 22.—Ambrose D. Johnston, a salesman, has been arrested here on the charge of embezzlement of \$1,141.52 from the Home Light & Power Co., of Charlotte. Johnston is alleged to have made collections which he did not remit to the company. He is a man of middle age, of good address, and is well known to traveling salesmen in this section. He is expected to give bail in the sum of \$1,250.

ALEXANDER J. MITCHELL DIES OF PNEUMONIA

Popular Young Railroad Man Passed Away Last Night at Walker Memorial Hospital, This City.

Hundreds of friends in Wilmington will be shocked and saddened this morning upon the announcement of the death at 11:30 o'clock last night of Alexander J. Mitchell, son of Mrs. J. S. Mitchell, No. 113 North Fourth street, chief clerk in the office of the general manager of the Atlantic Coast Line railroad company, and one of the most popular and most liked young men in Wilmington.

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FUNERAL OF GREED IS THEME OF DR. HURT

Another Effect of War is to Curb and Put an End to Selfishness—Newspaper Park Matter.

The subject of the sermon at the First Baptist church last night was "The Funeral of the Rich Man's Soulless Greed," one of a series of sermons Dr. Hurt has been preaching during the past two months under the topic, "Some Funeral Sermons Inspired by the World War." In spite of the rain a fairly large audience was in attendance.

Before taking up his subject for the evening, Dr. Hurt discussed for some minutes the Lakeside park matter and the afternoon paper's comment thereon, to which he had previously referred in another sermon.

"The evening paper declares that because it expressed an opinion I charged it with being a disciple of bolshevism," stated Dr. Hurt. "The evening paper is wrong," he continued. "I charged it with being bolshevism in tendency because of the opinion it did express in an editorial published recently under the title, 'Some Silly Notions and Fancies,' relative to operating amusement features at Lakeside park on Sunday afternoons."

"The suggestion that he is opposed to civic progress Dr. Hurt dismissed as mere camouflage to divert attention from the main issue. I had hardly settled in this city," he continued, "before I joined the chamber of commerce and three of the largest fraternal organizations of the city and started a weekly paper. It tells what I think of being up with the times, but if progress is towards Berlin instead of Jerusalem I want to be left behind."

In closing the discussion, Dr. Hurt declared that he was confident himself to the real issue in the case and had no personal feeling against the editor of the evening paper, with whom he is not even acquainted. "But I advanced the proposal made last summer to lift prohibition laws of North Carolina in so far as they pertained to selling beer to shipbuilders of Wilmington, and that on moral questions the paper prepared a somewhat different point in the wrong direction. I want to do what I can to help get the editorial columns straightened out," Dr. Hurt concluded.

Dr. Hurt, turning to his sermon, first paid a tribute to rich men who have proved themselves neither soulless nor greedy, as shown in their generous contributions to large sums of money toward the successful prosecution of the war. "Public sentiment has been speaking in thunder tones during the war," Dr. Hurt stated, "telling the soulless men that they ought to do more. Many of these have acted under the compelling force of public opinion, but while so acting they have discovered the blessedness of unselfishness and hereafter will be glad to do a noble impulse."

FOUGHT IN AIR BATTLES BEFORE DOWNING FIRST HUN

Philadelphia, Dec. 22.—Major Charles Biddle, one of the four American aces, who returned yesterday from France, said tonight he fought 18 different battles in the air before he succeeded in killing his first German plane.

EX-EMPRESS MAY NOT LIVE TO SEE NEW YEAR

Her Ailment Grows Considerably Worse—Former Kaiser Also Reported in Critical Condition.

Copenhagen, Dec. 22.—The Frankfurt Zeitung, a copy of which has been received here, says the former German empress will hardly live to see the new year. Her ailment, heart disease, has grown considerably worse during the past exciting weeks. Previously, for several months, she had suffered from the effects of a stroke of apoplexy.

PAN-AMERICAN TREATY OF PEACE URGED BY BARRETT

Chicago, Dec. 22.—A Pan-American treaty to secure peace on the western hemisphere and preserve the civilization under the Monroe Doctrine was urged tonight by John Barrett, director general of the Pan-American bureau in Washington, in an address here. He declared the influence exerted by the international committee of the union had undoubtedly prevented several wars among American nations and declared "it has moreover to its credit that at this very hour this moral influence is chiefly responsible in holding back the tide of bloodshed."

FINLAND TO BE FURNISHED FOODSTUFFS BY THE ALLIES

Washington, Dec. 22.—Steady progress in the establishment of a popular government in Finland and a comparatively stable basis for peace negotiations has resulted in a decision by the United States and the allies to furnish that country immediately with foodstuffs for civilian relief.

SWEDEN DECLINES TO WAGE FIGHT AGAINST BOLSHEVIKI

Copenhagen, Dec. 22.—The Swedish consul at Stockholm today to his assistance from the Swedish government against the bolshevik invasion of Estonia. The Swedish foreign minister told the consul that the riksdag would never permit the sending of a Swedish army out of the country. The consul is now seeking aid from the British legation at Stockholm.

DOUGHBOY WINS PIE EATING CONTEST FROM WARRIORS OF EIGHTEEN OF ALLIED NATIONS



Before the world war ended the international pie eating championship had been decided and won by a doughboy, with a United States sailor second and a Belgian soldier a good third. This all happened at the American Y. M. C. A. Bagle hut in London. Soldiers and sailors of 18 nationalities competed.

AMERICANS DESTROYED 854 GERMAN AIRPLANES

In Addition 82 Balloons Were Brought Down—American Airmen Lost 271 Planes.

Washington, Dec. 22.—American airmen in France brought down a total of 854 German airplanes and 82 German balloons, against an American loss of 271 planes and 45 balloons, according to a report cabled by Maj. Gen. Harbord on Dec. 15, and made public today by the war department. Destruction of 854 of the enemy planes and 82 of the balloons had been officially confirmed. The total casualties of the American air service in action are given as 442, including 109 killed, 103 wounded, 200 missing, 27 prisoners and three interned.

GRAVES OF AMERICANS TO BE DECORATED CHRISTMAS DAY

Paris, Saturday, Dec. 21.—More than 3,000 graves of American soldiers will be decorated on Christmas day by the American committee for devastated France. In the region between Laon and Chateau-Thierry, where the graves will be decorated, the committee will also provide a Christmas festival for 6,000 children. Christmas stockings filled with candy, toys and games sent from America, will be distributed each child, in addition being given some article of clothing, mittens or a muffler.

RUSSIAN LEADERS TO ASK CO-OPERATION OF ALLIES

Paris, Dec. 21.—Prof. Paul Milukoff, leader of the Russian constitutional democrats and foreign minister in the cabinet of Premier Lvoff which was formed after the overthrow of the imperial dynasty, arrived in Paris with Nicholas Schebeko, former Russian ambassador at Vienna and four other Russians representing the various political parties exclusive of the bolsheviks and the extreme left of the social revolutionaries. The Russian leaders say they have come here for the purpose of interesting the entente powers in the restoration of order in Russia so that a government may be formed which will reunite Russia and win recognition from the world powers.

SOME DAY THEY MAY WANT TO BORROW A TOOTHBRUSH

The tall bookkeeper wound about three yards of lower limb around the leg of the table and remarked as he got off into space: "I would like to know just what some people's idea of inconvenience is. For instance, the other day a small child brought out a box of toothbrushes and asked me to borrow one."

THREE GREEKS WOUNDED WHEN FIRED UPON BY BULGARIANS

Athens, Saturday, Dec. 21.—(By the Associated Press).—Bulgarian troops today fired on the Greek posts near Trousova and wounded three Greek soldiers, according to an official dispatch from Serez, in Greek Macedonia. The Greeks, the message adds, then attacked and captured two Bulgarian soldiers. Several Bulgarian soldiers were killed. The Bulgarians retired toward the slopes of Mont Beles.

GERMAN MINISTER EXPULLED

Luxemburg, Dec. 21.—(Havas.)—K. Von Buch, German minister to Luxemburg since March, 1914, has been expelled from the country by the grand ducal government. Three Luxemburg ministers of state have left the capital for Paris.

TO INVENTORY GERMAN THEFTS.

Paris, Dec. 22.—(Havas.)—The French commission charged with the inventory of German thefts in northern France and Belgium, left Paris today for Spa, Belgium, the headquarters of the various armistice delegations.

MEXICAN CAPTAIN KILLS SPANISH VICE-CONSUL

Considerable Unrest in Mexico Reported by Passengers on Ship—Rebels Are Active.

Havana, Dec. 22.—Don Leopoldo Ochoa, Spanish vice-consul at Pinar del Rio, state of Michoacan, Mexico, recently was assassinated by a captain of the Mexican government forces, according to stories told here today on arrival from Mexico of the steamer Estrada Palma.

The travelers also asserted that there was considerable unrest in Mexico. Emiliano Zapata, it was said, has captured Jalapa, capital of the state of Vera Cruz, and rebels constantly are attacking trains running between Mexico City and Vera Cruz and removing from them and executing Carranza soldier escorts. The entire region was described as being dominated by rebels and the general opinion expressed by the passengers was that the Carranza government was tottering.

PERSHING ON FIRST VISIT TO RHINELAND

American Commander Surprises His Own Officers As Well As the German Civilians.

American Army of Occupation, Saturday, Dec. 21.—(By the Associated Press).—Gen. John J. Pershing made his first visit to the Rhineland today. He arrived in a private car which parked at the edge of a town. It is doubtful if one per cent of the inhabitants of the place knew that the commander-in-chief of the American forces was in the region. The general exception of General Dickman, commander of the army of occupation, not even the officers at the headquarters of the third army were aware of General Pershing's presence.

WILSON SPOKESMAN FOR INTELLIGENT MANEUVRE

Has Become More Than President of the United States, Says Mr. Wallis (H. G. Wells, in the New Republic). If this league of nations project is anything more than an amiable sentimentality, it is a proposition to substitute for a multitude of foreign offices, for a multitude of embassies and diplomats, some sort of central and authoritative world council. If it is a serious proposition, it is a proposition to create a new thing in which foreign offices and diplomacy are to be pooled, which is intended to guide and be supported by and to represent the world-making and so far as I can see, we are going to leave it to the foreign offices and the diplomats to arrange for their own final extinction. That is, ask a lot from mortal man. We are asking these creations of the great power theory, these instruments of the great power theory, to banish the great power theory from existence. It is a little like asking the Associated Society of Undertakers to distribute the elixir of life.

That, I take it, is the peculiar embarrassment of Europe now, and that is why the masses of liberal people in Europe—in every country of Europe—display the remarkable disposition they do to display to annex your president. He has become more than your president, he is, for the time, the head of the piece and representative of intelligent mankind. There can be no one else. He is, I admit, a very great man, but if you will permit me to say so, there are many other great men who are to be measured with him. But they are entangled. Their hands are tied. Their instruments do the wrong things. All the world, all that is sane in this world, wants to get through this peace situation without any more secret treaties and understandings. But foreign offices make secret treaties as rats gnaw the waists of or mosquitoes spread malaria. It is their nature so to do.

German Minister Expelled

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Serb Prince to Visit Paris.

Paris, Dec. 22.—(Havas.)—Prince Alexander, the crown prince of Serbia, will arrive in Paris on Thursday or Friday, according to the Petit Parisien.