Our Social Problems

THE STATE AND SOCIETY-GOOD GOVERNMENT

LECTURE 4.

BY RABBI SAMUEL HIRSHBERG.

Ever since the earliest beginning of terests. At first this form of government was an exceedingly simple afwe read in history, that of the strong vately for them by others. defender of his tribe's and people's gradually gathering, by a demonstrated capacity for ruling or forcible usabsolute, with power vested in a sin- clusion individual, with or without bounds circumscribing the area of imperial authority; that of a republic, with the people as a whole sovereign, holding the scepter of imperial do-

But whatever the form of governate, Military Despotism. Oligarchy. Absolute or Constitutional Monarchy. rested upon some common basis?

or Republic, and each bearing thus the same generic name, must have We are accustomed to speak commonly of the State, as though it were detached distinct entity, with definite and independent existence of its own. We speak of it familiarly, for instance, as performing various functions for us, levying and gathering our taxes, sweeping our streets, building our roads, digginog our canals, leasing our franchise-rights, furnishing us with fire and police protection, schooling our children, and doing innumerable other things for us, and all this as thought it were estme external, separate, corporate agency by itself. But this is a pure fiction of speech that we are thus in the habit of using, for what distinct, organic, outside being by itself can the State have Who is the State, and what is the State? It is told of a French king-I think it was Louis XIV-who hearing some one speak of the State in his presence, lifted his brows in wide-eyed surprise and with superb self-assurance remarked, "The State! The State! I am the State. age and administer with the equal In similar terms, but with much more thoroughgoing truth and right, could his people have said and the people enterprises as those mentioned; the of all times and lands, and we of to- objection for another thing, of the day in our land in our collective opportunities for dishonesty, knavery character as a people, say of our- and corrupt practices of all kinds selves, "The State! The State! eW are among the public servants, to whom the State!" There is no State outside the administration of such enterprises of its people, outside of you and me should fall. and the rest of the community coresident with us in a city, commonwealth or country, and you and I and the rest of us then make up the only State there is or can be. In a very deep and compachensive sense It is true, that a government can rest only upon and exist only by and through and in the consent of the governed. and this is no loss true of any of the governments, past or present, in the history of the world, than it is of our own government to day, this republic not consented, had not yielded their

State, wherever it has been or what transporting the mall, ever form it has taken; has rested in the final analysis upon the common largely expressed by the corporation people, but the people, as the State, Who do thence for themselver

for a long time and PSI to a large enclosed new over debauchery in 'Haninah quoted as our text "Pray would -walley can't other aller has been maintained ever since rim teense of honor and honesty in their ply for the performance of police dus methods, and practices, that they ties, the preservation of order and se-curity in society. Men have had to feel the strong restraining hand of rightfully and naturally belong to from aggressions upon the rights of from aggressions upon the rights of training of them may set before those property and person of others. But whom the public may elect to adminwhat a sad thing it were if this were litter them for it. At the very worst, the sole and peculiar function of the society could scarcely fare any worse regards it as the legitimate office of of the public interest the State not only to guard and pro-mote the well-being of society in morely negative ways by protecting it merely negative ways by protecting it from those who mean mischief and inquiry to it, but also to guard and the public servacte. the common good of its members.

fix health department doing all it can to fester and promote intelligence: thus we see it, with its museums, art of earnest honest, faithful devotion Table and bed linen done our way galleries, concerts, parks, playgrounds to the people's good should not obtain uniformly elsewhere, waerever the love of wholesome and the State might ex'spd its functions Theme see. Sanitary Laundry. we see it, with its museums, art

beneficient diversion and amusement in the older and the younger of its citizenry. And so I take it and lay it it, are good. Tre quality of a govdown as a principle derived from these activities of the State, that its fiuman society, the commencement legitimate and proper function can of joint associated life among men, it consistenly and logically know no has been found both necessary and end and no deviation from its pres-expedient to have some form of gov- ent line of procedure, until it inernment, some method of administra- cludes in its services to its citizens, all tion of their common affairs and in- things, all agencies promotive of life and culture, which will enable the individual better, than if left to himfair. The earliest grouping of per- self, to build up the strongest, the sons was into the family, and its head | most intelligent, capable and useful was accordingly the natural centre of manhood that lies within his powers. authority. From this arose the Patri- In brief, and to be more explicit, I archial form of government which would say that I believe in the State prevailed among the nomad class doing all things for its citizens, which of the Orient, and from this, by a it is demonstrable that society, actprocess too devious and complicated ing thus collectively, can do better here to be traced, there developed the for them, than they can do privately various forms of government of which for themselves, or can have done pri-

Does this sound radical, almost libertles, the man of mighty prowess, socialistic? and am I told that it inthe successful and courageous leader volves the proposition so much mootin battle, the military despot; that of ed and debated to-day, of State, of a picked chosen few, an oligarchy, government ownership and control of hands; that of a feudal lordship, each but at the same time I would point all powerfully sovereign within its out that nothing else and nothing less seperate domain, wielding power of an can be involved in the principle upon absolute sway over the land and over which the State is even now proceedthe people, esteemed to go with it as ing-and rightly and wisely the most so much chattel; that of a monarchy, of us believe-if this principle is carlimited or unlimited constitutional or ried to its natural and logical con-

The State is now undertaking to do

so much, not merely negatively, but positively as well, to conserve and enlarge the sum of the common good of its citizens. Why should it not then be free to undertake to do this in all ways which lie open to it, and ment, each was the State of its day are demonstrably within its power and place, whether it wasPatriarch- and rights to employ? What differ ence is there in the mode or principle by which the city owns and operates the waterworks and undertakes to furnish us with water, from that by which ft might assume the ownership and operation of the gas and electric light plants, and undertake to furnish us with light and heat as well as water? What difference, moreover is there in the mode or principle by which the national government takes charge of the postal system and undertakes to transport and deliver our letters and packages, from that by which it might assume charge of our rallroads, the telegraph and tele phone, and undertake to transpor persons, out commodities and dispatches as well as our letters? the State would be going beyond its legitimate function in any of these matters, so should it logically in the others as well.

But perhaps it is not a matter of principle that is here involved-that mayhap is conceded-but other mat-We bear objections of other kinds frequently raised, the objection for one thing of the questionable expediency and practicality; of the doubtful ability of the State to manefficiency and economy as under private control and direction, such great

As to the first objection, let It be observed that it must remain an open question, wholly a matter of conjecture, until at least the experiment in each instance has been put to a fair and practical test, whether a simflar and equally efficient service on as economic a basis cannot be obtained under government administration as under private. It is manifestly unfair to render such instantaneous off-hand predudicit judgment that it cannot be thus obtained. We do know now, for metance, that such efficient and economic service is being obtained from our waterworks and postal sys-tem under such administration toacquiescence, whether through weakness, cowardier ignorance or whatviny. if there is any question as to ever else none of the various forms complete economy in results in the of despoti-m non-have looked upon latter of these, as was endeavored to in the world at different times, could be shown, but not in the best of faith, have existed. It was only because I am inclined to believe, in the offer through lack of strength courage in made by a private corporation the telligence or what not the people as, other day to take over the postal sented to have them as their rulers, system and administer it, if not more successfully, more economically, the that military despots, fyrants, mon- successfully, more economically, the archs, found bards could assume to fault here does not its with the govtake over and exert the power and ernment, but with the railroad corauthority they did. So in a school and porations which are not dealing faira very real sense, is it true, that the in the charges they are making for

As to the other objection, the fear basis of the consent of the communic limiteds involved and their organs, ty, the society of the time and place that extending the range of the govto have it as it was and contribution, crimental control and administration is it further true that it is not the lof public service utilities must cor-State, as sens thing outside and past respondingly extend the opportunities from them that the things for the for corruption among public servants, let it be observed that the present administrators of such utilities, are for from innocent themselves of cor-But new what are the thange the right practices, and that much of the State, or the people at the State, may corruption in public office among pubthus do " on in other words, what in functionaries boday, is to be laid. are the purpose and touction of the nowhere else than before the very State? We know what originally and doors of these who are so much exextent to-day this purpose and time "public service if there were no bribetion are and were they are stated givers it requires no argument, there succinctly in that was good faith, could be no bribe-takers; and certainfor the welfare of the government for corruption stands upon no higher were it not for the time of at at men the bribe taker, the corruptly temptmoved ground, if not upon lower than Government, the State was originals from the private corporations, which By instituted, and to a large degree have been so notoriously lacking in a some power over them, to keep them the puble, because of the dangers to honor and honesty which the op-State, as it so long was, this of merely from the dishonesty of the new adopposing effective and Properly ministrators, than it did from that drastic means for keeping men, as so of the old ones. And at best, there graphically stated, from "swallowing is the likilhood, a by no means imeach other alive?" The modern con- probable one, that it would fare betception of the function of the State ter, vastly, incalculably better through is far wider and higher than this it a much more faithful and honest care

must unexceptionally with conspicucus honesty and fidelity on the part of protect that well-being in well defined some time ago thout fregularities positive ways, by actively advancing in the postal service but a rigid examination failed to reveal anything Thus we see the State to-day, with but instances of a slight and sporadic distinct. On the whole it was demonstrated that high order of preserve and strengthen the health of faithful, conscientious and scrupulous faithful, conscientious and scrupulous get home, but he soon realized that devotion to the public service obtainthe people; thus we see it, with its ed throughout all branches of the denariment. Lero is no reason then to believe why the same high order

The State, I noted at the outset, is after all none other than we ourselves, you and I and the rest of us here in this nation or other nations; and the State therefore can be none other than what, you and I and the cest of us, make it. Is the government of it to be good? That rests with the same parties, with us, none other than you and me and the rest of us. There can be no good government unless those who constitute it, are good. The quality of a govquality of its citizenship. It remains then with those of us who profess to be "the good" elements of society, to see that we discharge our duty here. We are accustomed to speak in disparaging terms of the "lowness" of politics. If there is any lowness there, we ourselves are not without a large measure of responsibility and blame for it. Politics must remain by our

control and operation of public

low as long as we permit it to be so indifference and neglect. Shaking these off, putting away from us all our sloth and ready acquiesence in the acceptance of public office by whomsoever, no matter how unworthy, may accept them, pitching in actively ourselves as we should, puting ourselves with our full energies there where as men of the right public interests, we can redeem politics rom its unnatural, its unnecessary lowness, and place it where it properly belongs, on a high plane of dignified resepctability. And snowing the way thus ourselves where we have the ability and time and even government ownership and control of at the cost of some sacrifice, if nec-public utilities now in the hands of essary that other of the proper caprivate individuals and corporations? sisting that others of the proper caurpation, all authority into their Even so it may be, I acknowledge, pacity and character do likewise, and for no moment in mistaken goodnatured toleration or from mere lazy supiness or whatever else, sanctioning the presence in public office of any or any incompetent, thus act-

HELPS TO BIBLE READING.

Correspondent Makes Some Sugrestions for the Benefit of Those Who Desire to Make More Frequent Use of the Good Book-The Book of Luke Suggested as the Most Beautiful in the Bible.

To the Editor of The Observer: Anent your recent editorial and comments on Bible reading your correspondent sends the following sereadings taken from Nave's Topical Bible, principally, which I trust may be of interest and timely: Judah's defense: Gen. 44:18.

Joseph revealing his identity; Gen. The deliverance of the

from Pharaoh: Ex. 45:5. Song of Moses when Pharoah and his army were overthrown: Ex. 15:1. David's lament over Absalom: 2d

Lights and shadows: Ruth 1:1. Elljah's miraculous preservation: Kings 17:1.

Elisha and the widow's oil: 2 Kings Naaman the leper: 2 Kings 5:1,

Esther's triumph: Est. 4:1 and proving consciences. The brevity of life: Job. 14:1. Nature's testimony: Job 28:1. God's challenge to Job: Job 38 The beasts of the field: Job. 39:1.

ontrast; Psalms 1. The triumphant kings: Psalms 2. Man in nature: Psalms 8. Man in eternity: Psalms 18:1-19. Confidence in God: Psalms 23. The King of Glory: Psalms 24. The glory of God: Psalms 29. Our refuge: Psalms 46. The majesty of God:

The joy of the righteous: The state of the godly: Psalms 91. The new song: Psalms 98. The majesty and providence God: Psalms 104.

In captivity: Psalms 137 The omnipotence of God: Psalms

Christ's kingdom foreshadowed: Isalah 35:1. The omnipotence and incompar ableness of God: Isalah 40:1. The wrath of God: Amos 9:1. The malesty of God: Heb. 3:3 Mary,s magnificat: Luke 1:46.

The prophetic blessing of Zachaas: Luke 1:67. The bestitudes: Matt. 5:1. God's providence: Matt. 6:26. Wise and Foolish builders: Matt

The nativity: Luke 2:6-20.

The good Samaritan: Luke 10:11 The prodigal son: Luke 15:11 The raising of Lazarus: John 11: The hetrayal Luke 22:47. The resurrection: Luke 24:1 Peter at Pentecost: Acts 2:1. Stephen's defense: Acts 7:1. Paul and Silas in prison:

Paul on Mars' Hill: Acts 17:22. Paul before Felix: Acta 24:1 Paul before Agrippa: Acts 26:1. Charity: 1 Cor. 13:1. The new heaven and the new earth

The river of life: Rev. 22:1. A meditation upon the mighty power and wonderful providence of God: Psalms 104,

Elegy of David on Saul and Jon athan: 2 Sam. 1:17. Elegy of David on Abner: 2 Sam 3:33-34 Personification of wisdom: Prov.

2 1-9; 8:9. In addition to the above there are many beautiful poems in the Bible, especially among the Psaims, which anyone would be better for having read. The writer is not a preacher but finds it profitable to spend a quiet evening occasionally with his Bible in preference to some of the later

books and periodicals.

The Book of Luke is said to be the most beautiful book ever written. from a purely literary and humanitarian standpoint. It tells about the infancy of our Savior, and more about His mother and other women than the other gospels, so that it has been called "the Gospel of Womanhood." It can be read in an evening.

Mr. Louis Williamson, a young man of Steele Crek township, lies in a critical condition at his home near Shopton as a result of a fall from a mule Friday night. Mr. Williamson was en route to a neighbor's house to attend a party when the mule he was riding shied at a pile of rock and threw him violently to the ground

Mule Dangerously Injures Young Man

and stepped upon him, breaking two or three ribs and injuring him in-ternally. Mr. Williamson was able to

BACK TO FIRST PRINCIPLES

OUR CONTRIBUTION TO BOSTON

stah Quincy's Visit to Wilmington
After the Passage of the Boston
Port Bill—The Wilmington Letter
to the Several Counties of the Province—Did All She Could to Exhibic
a Brotherly Feeling for Boston.

By ANDREW. J. HOWELL, JR.

It is a pleasing reflection that the people of our country, that is, the real, American, fundamental element -in these latter years, are getting back to the feeling of brotherly sympathy which pervaded it during its early days. And this is but natural. We have been passing through a strugle for progress; we have had divergent interests; have misunderstood each other, and have had hard feelings; now we are settling down to first principles. Here is an example: New England and North Carolinahardly to be mentioned in the same breath a generation or so backshould really be as closely knit in ties of comity as the people in adjoining counties. They are to a large extent Massachusetts gave one people. southeastern North Carolina, probably, its first inhabitants. They were those who were unwilling to submit to the restrictions of Puritan worship and customs, and who sought a place of freedom to do as they There were other settlers . 'ho found ing and thus doing, we can moke and their way, at nearly the same time, assure, and not till then, a government which is really and genuinely were those who would not yield to were those who would not yield to the requirements of the State government of Virginia in establishing the Church of England. So that North Carolina was reproachfully styled the "harbor of rogues and gades.'

That is interesting history. It is a commentary upon a people who have been free with their sympathies, impatient under oppression, and bold to act when the occasion comes.

The resistance to the stamp act of 1765 is an instance of the display of these qualities. Of course, the opposition to this measure was general throughout the colonies; but the people on the Cape Fear, in North Carolina, assembled eight hundred strong. and forbade the 20-gun sloop-of-war Diligence to land the stamps she brought. They also-many of them -likewise without disguise and in the broad day, defied the Royal Governor and his resources of power, and compelled the stamp masters, whom he harbored to take an oath renouncing their office. They have done many things since then to show their independence of spirit. One of these lately was the overthrow in Wilmington of the dark cloud of negro domination in 1898, and to assert the right of the white man to rule. This, may be, should be referred to with bated breath to a New Englander: but there are several New Englanders now living in Wilmington and they were particips criminals with ap-

To keep in line with the subject of this article, and reverting to Revolutionary times, here is a subject over which a Bostonian and a Wilmingtonian may clasp hands, and say, The righteous and the wicked in are brothers through the old-time unity of feeling."

Josiah Quincy the Boston patriot, visited Wilmington a short while after the passage of the Boston Port Bill, to assist in arousing a unity of feeling in the common cause of independence, and also to ald in establishing a general system of correspondence between the colonies. He was a guest of Cornelius Harnett. with whom, together with General Robert Howe, he had a conference, which has lived in the traditions of the town. News of the grievances of the citizens of Boston also came from other sources, until the people of the section were thoroughly aroused. was a large meeting in Wilmington on July 2, 1774, and a circular letter was adopted to be sent to the several counties of the Province, expressive of sympathy for the "Brethren of Massachusetts Bay." Resolutions were passed, declaring the "cause of the town of Boston as the common cause of British America, and the inhabitants thereof as suffering in the defence of the rights of the colonies in general;" and the meeting expressed a "sincere intention to contribute by every means in their power" to induce their Northern brethren "to maintain with prudence and firmness the glorious cause in which they had embarked." As a result of the meeting a subscription paper was circulated for the relief of the "suffering brethren in Boston" In a few days a fund of two thousand pounds was raised, which, with contributions of supplies, provided a cargo to be shipped to Boston, Mr. Parker Quince generously offered his vessel to carry the freight without cost; and the master and sailors of the ship refused to accept any compensation whatever for their services. There it is: a well-authenciated,

distoric fact. Wilmington, in North 'arolina, did all she could to exhibit brotherly feeling toward the people of Boston at a time of their need; and may the recaling of the incident serve o strengthen the confidence and escem existing between the great city of New England and the chief sea-

port of North Carolina.



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