

Africo-American Presbyterian

AND YE SHALL KNOW THE TRUTH, AND THE TRUTH SHALL MAKE YOU FREE--

VOL. LVI

CHARLOTTE, N. C., THURSDAY, AUGUST 1, 1935.

NO. 30.

AN APPEAL TO REINSTATE THE ENGLISH BIBLE AS A CODE OF MORALS

FOR CHURCH, SCHOOL, STATE AND NATION

(Reprinted from a booklet by the Rev. Robert Elliott Flickinger, D. D., Rockwell City, Iowa.)

Article VIII

Scriptural Foundation

The history of the United States tells plainly how the Scriptural foundation was placed underneath all our American institutions and civilization. While sailing across the Atlantic Ocean in the Mayflower, the Pilgrims united in a compact of government, the prelude of which reads as follows: "In the name of God, Amen! Having undertaken for the glory of God, and the advancement of our common Christian faith, we adopt the following rules for our government."

Their purpose was thus plainly expressed. The later Declaration of Independence "appeals to the judge of the world," and voices the reliance of its authors upon a favoring Divine Providence.

Ministers and Christian Teachers

Co-operating with these Christian statesmen, who framed our national legislation, was that great and unnamed army of preachers and Christian teachers, who, on every clearing in the forests, and in every community or prairie or mountainside, built churches, schools and colleges; and thus tacitly placed under all our national history, the open Bible with its doctrines of righteousness, justice and an overruling Providence.

Bible and New England Primer

In their pioneer schools these two books were used daily; the Bible, the charter of their liberties, their divine standard of good morals; and the New England Primer, with the Shorter Catechism of the Westminster Assembly, as a brief and approved interpreter of the Bible. The Bible is the Word of God to all mankind. It is God's provision for man's intellectual, moral and spiritual nature; as the light, air, water, and food, have been provided for his physical nature.

The Authorized Version of the Bible and the Shorter Catechism, an interpreter, are no more sectarian books than are the ordinary text books on astronomy, geology, botany, and natural history.

Inherent Rights

No man has an inherent right to exclude the Authorized Version of the Bible from the public schools of America. The Bible is the one book of our great Creator for all who bear his image, whether they are Jew or Gentile, Protestant or Roman Catholic.

As the charter of American liberty and the cornerstone of our system of public education and jurisprudence, it ought to be in every school. No one has any more right to exclude the Bible from the public schools of America than he has to exclude the light of the sun. The sun in the sky and the Bible in the hands of mankind on earth are God's provisions of light. The Bible is intended of God to be the one unchanging standard of morality and purity, for old and young, rich and poor, white and black.

God is three in one, a Trinity without envy or prejudice. The prayer of Christ was that all his followers may be one. How much happier all will be when Jews and Catholics suppress their base prejudices, and all alike signify their approval of the same Bible as their standard of good morals and religion!

The Dark Ages

The period from the 8th to the 12th century of the Christian era has been classed by historians as the "Dark Ages" of the World because of the

general presence in Europe of ignorance, superstition and barbarism. When the Turks in 1476 caused the fall of the Roman Empire at Constantinople, the event tended almost wholly to check the spread of intelligence and the prosperity of the people, rather than to promote their welfare. The Scriptures were neglected and the clergy as well as the people became worldly, selfish, ignorant and superstitious.

In 1215, when King John, of England, issued the "Magna Charta" (Great Charta,) the first grant of Constitutional liberty in England, it was immediately denounced by the Pope, Innocent II, at Rome, and the King was absolved from all obligation to keep the pledges therein expressed by the royal oath.

A Bible, First Book Printed

In 1450, when the art of printing was invented, the first book printed was a Latin Bible on a hand press at Mantz in Germany. It was known as the Latin Vulgate.

First Rays of Light

The first rays of light to dispel the darkness of prevailing night included the establishment of a Seminary at Oxford in 1501, by Alfred, the Great, King of England, to promote the study of the Scriptures. Later it became a University, the first one in Europe for the study of sacred literature. Two centuries later a second University was founded at Cambridge.

Peter Waldo (1170), of Lyons, France, committing to memory portions of the Scripture, sent his followers two and two, like the seventy in the New Testament, to preach the Word of God. They were called Waldenses. They opposed corrupt doctrines and practices with the plain truths of the Scriptures. They opposed the Crusades as fanatical expeditions on the part of those who were not Jews, and therefore were unjust and unlawful. The Scriptures were their standard of good morals and religion. They insisted the church included not merely the priests, but the whole family of believers.

The advocacy of these principles by Laymen caused them to be excommunicated, then anathematized by the pope. In 1179 they were condemned by a papal council at Rome. Peter Waldo then fled from land to land, preaching as he went, and died in Bohemia in 1197.

The Inquisition

In 1235, Pope Gregory IX established the Inquisition, a cruel court of inquiry, for the suppression of those who doubted the authority of the papacy to rule over them in the Church. It became very active in Italy, Switzerland, Germany, Austria, France, Spain, Portugal and Ireland.

Jesuits

In 1540, Ignatius Loyola, an illiterate Spanish soldier and priest, with papal authority, organized the secret society of Jesuits, to require all professing Christians to renounce whatever opinions separated them from the Church at Rome, to accept the doctrines and worship of that church, and acknowledge the Pope as Christ's sole vicegerent while here on earth.

Everyday is a testing time, no matter what our work or condition in life may be. Many people need encouragement. We Christians are to show that we have a power the world does not give.—Sel.

PERRY W. HOWARD—STAUNCH REPUBLICAN

By Dr. Kelly Miller

I have acquired the quadrennial habit of querying Perry Howard on the eve of the approaching election as to what appeal he would make to the colored voters to hold their traditional allegiance to the "Grand Old Party." He has always assured me that ample, adequate and convincing appeal would be forthcoming in due time. Now Perry Howard is the Prime Minister of Negro Republicanism. He is true, devoted and died-in-the-wool a partizan as any Republican that lives, white or black. If the "Grand Old Party" ever succeeds in regaining the ascendancy it should and probably will reward his unswerving devotion by making him dictator of the political fortunes of his group.

The prudent Mississippi National Committeeman has taken time by the forelock and has issued the warning note to the "Grand Old Party" bemoaning the estrangement of their black allies and advising how to bring the aggrieved black brother back to the fold in 1936. He advises the "Grand Old Party" to elect as a standard bearer one who will command the enthusiastic support of the Negro vote upon which the party must rely for hope of victory. He does not specify any particular candidate. Ex-President Hoover is still the titular head of the Republican Party, but his name would make a very faint appeal to the colored voter who, naturally enough, objects to being stung by the same bee twice. Of all the names now prominently mentioned to lead the forlorn hopes of the once mighty but now overwhelmed party only one awakes any enthusiasm in Afro-America—Hon. James W. Wadsworth, who remains true to the faith of his father and to the faith of the fathers of "The Grand Old Party." But to pick a candidate too far in advance is to invite his defeat by concerted assault of his rivals. Mr. Howard is forced to admit, though reluctantly, that the colored voters "in a large measure, left the Republican Party" during the last decade. There is probably not another Negro of his prominence in the nation who would agree with him in the assertion: "Personally I am satisfied that there was no justification for their desertion." His loyalty to his party can hardly be matched, no, not in all Afro-America. It is cross partizanship of this arch-partizanship which leads him to say that Mr. Roosevelt has not only failed the country but has failed the Negro in that he has done nothing that he promised to do. During the campaign Mr. Roosevelt was scrupulously careful not to make any extravagant promise to the Negro. He declared over and over again that he would be made part and parcel of the "New Deal" and would receive consideration along with other "forgotten men." This promise has been kept with absolute fidelity. He has not isolated the Negro race nor given his special attention to group grievances, but every step in the "New Deal" has applied to all who fell within the given category without discrimination on account of race or color. Under the N. R. A. codes the Negro did indeed suffer certain incidental hardships but this was due to the prejudice of employers and white workfolk and not to administrative policy or purpose. Every instance of race discrimination that has been properly brought to the attention of the administration has been properly adjusted as far as administrative authority could affect it. While the Negro suffered it has been because of the misfortune of his lot and not by studied purpose of the administration. There has been

more kindly feeling and substantial expression of good will towards the Negro under President Roosevelt's administration than under those of Harding, Coolidge and Hoover. Colored indigents and unemployed have been given public work and relief out of all proportion to their numerical quota. They receive most where their need is greatest. Secretary Ickes in his statement before the Association for the Advancement of Colored People said that in the administration of the Public Work and Public Relief Funds there was absolutely no race discrimination. Perry Howard is honestly mistaken, that is, as honestly mistaken as a politician can be, when he states that colored leaders who supported Roosevelt are disappointed because they have been overlooked. There is less expression of disappointment among Negro politicians and less criticism by the Negro press, pulpit and other organs of public opinion than of any administration during the past forty years. Of course, no administration can satisfy the claims and demands of disappointed politicians, white or black. I suggest to my friend, the die-hard Republican exponent, that he should cast his mind backward and review the volume of condemnation and abuse heaped upon the heads of Harding, Coolidge and Hoover during the closing years of their administrations. I assure him that he will find that in comparison with the mild murmuring against the present administration it would compare like a raging storm to a gentle zephyr.

Even an ardent partizan must not allow his enthusiasm to sweep too far beyond the facts. When Mr. Howard says that Mr. Roosevelt has overlooked the Negro in appointments, I can only suggest that he follow the advice of Governor Al. Smith and consult the record. Mr. Roosevelt has appointed to office more colored men than his three Republican predecessors combined. He not only selected colored men for the important positions usually assigned the race—Recorder of Deeds, Minister to Liberia and Judge of the Municipal Court of Washington, D. C., and Special Assistant to the Attorney General, but has also selected specially qualified Negroes as Special Assistants to the Secretary of the Interior, Secretary of Labor and the Secretary of Commerce. The number of colored men filling positions under the "New Deal" requiring experience and expertness is out of all proportion to such assignments in the history of the government. Mr. Howard's slur on the colored experts appointed by President Roosevelt as Psalm-singing Rosenwald workers is gratuitous, to say the least. It has been the policy of President Roosevelt to fill the high places in the government not with mere political incompetents who use the office merely as a loafing place for political henchmen and party boosters, but he has insisted that every official under the government, white or black, shall efficiently perform the function to which he has been assigned. On calmer reflection, I am sure Mr. Howard will wish to withdraw his insinuations against Mr. Julius Rosenwald, the superlative philanthropist, whose benefaction to the race has been so bountiful. Complaints against the present administration in that it has not ended the depression are indeed loud and strong, but this complaint comes from the privileged and powerful, entrenched behind the breastworks of vested interests

(Continued on page 4)

GOODWILL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, FT. PIERCE, FLA.

We have just closed a very successful two weeks' Vacation Bible School here. Our enrollment for this year was 150—85 girls and 65 boys—all bubbling over with life and eager to learn more about the Bible. The faculty consisted of our local talent here, and we had the hearty cooperation of not only the members of our church, but of representatives from all denominations here, children and teachers. Besides the Bible which is the main object of our school, handicraft, such as knitting, crocheting, hat and basket making, paper and wood work were all a part of our daily activities, all in the hands of competent leaders. We used the material at hand, as the palmetto for hats and baskets, which is easily found here, and the cocoon tree leaf. The boys drained the storekeepers of all the cigar boxes and other boxes of that type. The children as well as the teachers worked hard, as they knew on the closing night their parents would be out to see what they had been doing. Prizes were given, offered by several department and drug stores of the city for the neatest work, the one who had learned the most Bible verses within the limited time. Forty Catechism questions (Child's and Shorter) were recited by a number of the children who named the books of the Bible and the number of chapter in each and the Bible Base Ball Team. All of these were features of our closing program with everybody rallying for the prizes.

Monday, July 22, a picnic was given for the V. B. S. in spite of the rain quite a number was present on the school grounds ready for indoor play. We are thankful to the School Board here who so generously opens the doors of the public school for us each year, so that we might have the use of individual class rooms for our work.

The faculty was as follows: Rev. S. D. Thom, D. D., Adult Bible Class; Mrs. S. D. Thom, Director, Intermediate Girls; Miss I. L. Thom, Primary Boys; Mrs. N. Wright, Treasurer; Primary Girls, Mrs. E. W. Sweet, Secretary; Junior Girls, Mrs. C. Kirby, pianist; Miss M. L. Turner, Junior and Intermediate Boys. Mrs. C. Knowles, Mrs. Pratt and Mrs. Mackey, who were skillful in the use of palmetto for hats and baskets, and making useful rugs from croaker sacks, came daily to lend a helping hand.

On June 11 our pastor, Rev. S. D. Thom, and four delegates, Misses Evelyn Cooper, Lucille Johnson, Edith Muldrow, and Mr. Hodge Wright, left for Fessenden Academy, Fessenden, Fla., to attend the Young People's Conference of the Florida part of the Knox Presbytery. Each brought back an interesting report of the activities there.

Rev. R. A. Campbell, pastor of the First Presbyterian church here (white) called to say goodbye on July 11 to our pastor as he (Rev. Campbell) was leaving for his vacation and wished him success in his Vacation Bible School which had just opened. Since our coming here Rev. Campbell has shown much interest in our work and has on several occasions helped us out. He and his wife were the first to welcome us upon our arrival here two years ago.

Sunday, July 14, our pastor preached a very timely sermon on "The Office of the Elder." You are perhaps wondering why I am saying a timely sermon, when you hear that five elders were ordained and installed after the sermon: Mr. S. Cooper, Mr. Ed. Toney, Mr. S. Kirby, Mr. Geo. Muldrow and Mr. I. M. Muldrow. Three deaconesses were also installed: Mrs. N. Wright, Mrs. L. Ricks and Mrs.

West, Rev. O. M. McAdams and wife of St. Petersburg, Fla., were the very charming guests of Rev. and Mrs. S. D. Thom, arriving July 22. They were headed for Jacksonville, Fla., and points in South Carolina. Among the many pleasant happenings while they were here was the very enjoyable surprise coming from the missionary society of the church of which Mrs. B. West is President. Wednesday morning, July 24, Mrs. West came around and asked us not to go anywhere that afternoon; if we did to be back about half past five and not to eat much dinner. We obeyed. About 5:30 one of the boys knocked at the back door. Upon answering it we found that we had a freezer of ice cream. Not long after he had gone, every one was at the table eating ice cream. Some had almost devoured a second helping, when in came two of the missionary ladies with large, covered baskets. We wondered what they contained. It was not long before we found out. First, we received a good scolding from the members of the society for going into the ice cream; it was finally decided that it was very dangerous to place eatables in the eyes and reach of hungry people. Soon other members of the society arrived, removed the ice cream dishes and a well prepared dinner was spread before us. For fear your mouth may water, I will not name the menu. Sufficient to say, with all the extra different things brought, it was not necessary to cook dinner any more that week. We must not forget the lovely bouquet of roses that was brought by Mrs. Emma Williams.

Another recent out-of-town visitor was Mrs. Mary M. Fuller, of Chadbourne, N. C. Rev. and Mrs. Thom were indeed glad to see her and did all in their power to help make her short visit a pleasant one.

Our mid-week prayer services for the most part are being well attended. The leaders are appointed weeks ahead and seem eager to fill their places. Rev. O. M. McAdams was our guest speaker Wednesday, July 24th.

Both the Junior and Senior Christian Endeavor Societies are wide awake. During Mr. L. Ricks' absence, who is on the sick list, Misses Thom and Turner have been filling in.

The Boy Scout Movement is progressing nicely. They are planning to go camping at an early date at Key West, Fla. We are hoping to organize a Girl Scout Troop in the near future.

Little Miss Paulerena Rachelle Anderson, of Atlanta, Ga., is making herself quite at home with her grandparents, Rev. and Mrs. S. D. Thom. She expects to spend the greater part of the summer here.

"The Land of Flowers" is wishing you all well until the next time.

M. L. TURNER.

LE VERE PRESBYTERY

The Presbytery of Le Vere will meet in its regular fall session August 22, 1935, at the Lawrence Chapel church, Morristown, Tenn., at 7:30 P. M.

Those expecting to be in attendance at the meeting will please notify the Rev. E. B. Clarkson, D. D., P. O. Box 27, Morristown, Tennessee, informing him as to the time of their arrival.

W. C. HARGRAVE, S. C.

In general we may say there are two classes of hypocrites: those who pretend to be better or more religious than they really are; and those who pretend to be worse or less religious than they really are. If the former were more in prominence in the days of Jesus, the latter are more in prominence in our day.—Ilion T. Jones.