

NATIONAL SERMONS.

Based on the Twenty-third Chapter of St. Matthew.

[Reported for the Raleigh Register.]

"The Scribes and Pharisees sit in Moses' seat."

So said our Lord, preparatory to the announcement of a series of the most terrible calamities and judgments which were soon to come upon the Jewish nation. At the time Christ came in the fulfillment of the prophecy and to inaugurate and establish a new order of things, the Jewish government and church were one, the civil and the ecclesiastical were combined, making an ecclesiastico-civil government. The Scribes, who were formerly the Secretaries of State and of War, were at that time "the Rabbis or doctors, who were assessors or judicial assistants in the Sanhedrim and interpreters of the law in the synagogues and schools." The Sanhedrim was constituted of the Scribes and Pharisees and the elders or representatives of the people. Moses was the great law-giver and Judge in theocratic times. The law as promulgated by him was by direct authority and the command of God. Leaving out its ceremonial features, its precepts of morality, of righteousness, were made binding for all time to come—made binding upon the nation and upon the administration of the national government in all its civil and ecclesiastical features. This code furnished by Moses contained laws for the good of the nation, for the benefit of the race. It provided laws adapted to good government, to secure right and justice, both civil and criminal. He appointed the judicial methods and trials for the execution of their penalties, for the punishment of the guilty, for the protection of the innocent, the maintenance of justice, the upholding of order and fidelity in the State, and for securing honesty and equity in all affairs between man and man. When our Lord appeared in Judea, invested with authority as the great High Priest of all, he found that the Scribes and Pharisees had thrust themselves into Moses' seat. They were usurpers, and claiming, as the allegation implies, the functions of Moses as law-giver and judge. How well they deserved the claim they set up, immediately follows in that wonderful catalogue of misdeeds pointed out by our Lord. Instead of enforcing the law, they perverted and violated it. Instead of ministering relief to the oppressed, they laid burdens on men's shoulders which they would not touch themselves. Instead of preserving and fostering honesty and purity in individuals and in the State, they corrupted the fountains of justice and judgment. Instead of official fidelity and adherence to the Mosaic constitution and laws, they resorted to every artifice to misinterpret and misapply them. They loved the upper most seats at feasts and in the synagogues and to be called of men Rabbi, Rabbi.

The recital of this catalogue shows that they were morally debased and polluted rulers, corrupt and venal officials who were filled with extortion and excess, and together with the Sanhedrim, of which they were the chief constituents, constituted a bureau of national and public corruption. Indeed, their administration of public affairs was nothing better than open robbery and the protection of official thieves. It was to all intents and purposes a repudiation of the code as laid down by Moses, a flat denial of the supreme authority which ordered that code. It was a brazen substitution of themselves and their traditions for the constitution and laws of Moses.

We shall see, my friends, in the series of sermons which I propose, how our Lord followed up the record of the Scribes and Pharisees, and the terrible catalogue of allegations he preferred against them. We shall see how they ignored every sacred obligation and prostituted the most sacred rites in order to minister to their own depravity and maintain their national power and authority. We shall see how, by adding sin to sin, and heaping up iniquity, they made the fulfillment of our Lord's maledictions against them more certain. We shall see how Christ stripped from them their mask of hypocrisy and exposed their moral deformity, and the terrible consequences they entailed, not only upon themselves, but upon the whole nation of which they were the representatives. And we

shall see the alarming similarity between the Scribes and Pharisees and our own national rulers and officials—that there was not a crime alleged to them but what has a parallel in our own governmental officials. We shall not fail to see in our national rulers a horrible amount of official corruption, the perversion of law, both constitutional and statutory, the tactic as well as legal immunity to the thieves who swarm about our national capital, and the consequences likely to result therefrom if this state of affairs is continued much longer.

Remember, my friends, that God deals with nations as with individuals. History proves the truth of this avowal, and shows also that those individuals in high places who by their own personal guilt and contact have communicated the virus of national sin, have been visited with signal judgments before the general national calamities come. See, my friends, how God takes cognizance of national crime. The stupendous national sins under the rule of the Scribes and Pharisees had so accumulated and centralized in Jerusalem, the national capital, that mercy and forbearance yielded to the stern demands of justice, and the end came—came in vindication of right, of the claims of the oppressed—came for the emancipation of the helpless and innocent from the tyranny of corrupt officials—came in vindication of the honor and veracity of God as against the usurpers of Moses' seat. So will God's honor and veracity be vindicated as against the corrupters of human souls through the foul agencies employed by our officials, bribery, robbery and perjury. Let this be a warning to you, my friends, for "God is not mocked. For whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap;" and so shall it be with nations and States.

The People's Money.

(From The New York World) Secretary Windom boasts that the Treasury has disbursed \$53,000,000 within the last twenty-three days for bond purchases, anticipated interest and pensions. He states also in the same spirit of glorification that he paid during the first eighteen months of the present administration nearly \$200,000,000 upon the unexpired obligations of the government.

In spite of these and other extraordinary disbursements the money market has been most of the time tight. And Congress has during the past six months passed appropriations with a recklessness unparalleled hitherto, to the end that there may be no surplus hereafter either to retain money from the channels of business or to make the Treasury an ally of Wall street.

Where did all the money lately disbursed or still locked up come from?

From the pockets of the people. Every dollar of it was collected in taxes, one-fourth of which have been unnecessary.

If the government had left every dollar not needed for its legitimate expenses where that dollar rightfully belongs—in the pocket of the man who earned it—there would have been no surplus to incite extravagance, no lock-up of currency to cripple business.

For six years the Democrats in Congress tried in vain, against constant Republican opposition and obstruction, to stop the surplus by reducing taxes. Within a year and a half after obtaining unchecked control of the government the Republicans have spent the surplus and are now forcing a bill through Congress increasing the taxes to prevent a deficiency.

It is the people's money that pays for all this. The elections will show what the people think of it.

I am ignorant of any one quality that is amiable in man which is not equally so in a woman. I do not except even modesty and gentleness of nature. Nor do I know one evil or folly which is not equally distasteful in both.—Swift.

The poet is never happy, because in Nature he wants the world, and in the world he longs for Nature.—Matthew Arnold.

Laugh not too much; the witty man laughs least, for wit is news only to ignorance.—Geo. Herbert.

There is no deep love which has not in it an element of solemnity.—Beecher.

MR. EWART'S OPINION

Of the Republicans of North Carolina and the South.

In Mr. Ewart's speech in the House in opposition to the Force bill, after speaking of the losses suffered by the South on account of the war, he thus refers to his party in this State and the South, and compares the prosperity of the South under Democratic rule with the outrages and misrule of the Republicans:

"On the heels of this fearful loss by war and destruction of values came political misrule and degradation, against which it seemed almost hopeless to strive.

"The State governments fell into the hands of the most disreputable gang of thieves and plunderers that ever disgraced a nation, and the very name of Republicanism became a stench in the nostrils of all honest men. By bloodshed, violence and intimidation these governments were wrested from the thieves and plunderers, and to-day without exception are held by the Democratic party. In spite of this long era of misrule and all the evils of reconstruction, the South has prospered as never a section prospered before. Go South now, and your journey will be through a continuous and unbroken strain of the music of progress, the whirr of the spindle, the buzz of the saw, the roar of the furnace and the throb of the locomotive."

All There Is of Reed.

(From The St. Louis Republic.) Thomas B. Reed, who is now by inconsiderate people called a "despot" and a "czar," and by others referred to as a man of "splendid audacity," is the merest pinchbeck. He attained his majority in 1860. In 1861, when the war came, he was in the full vigor of young manhood. Remaining at home during three years of that struggle, he found himself drafted in 1864, as a good man, 25 years old, to whose services the Government in its peril thought itself entitled.

Thus dragged, shrinking and cowering, toward the front of action, the man of "splendid audacity" managed through the influence of James G. Blaine, then in Congress, to have himself assigned to a clerkship in the office of the Paymaster of the Ohio River gunboat fleet. In that martial capacity he served through the remainder of the war, never being in action, and never failing to draw his own salary.

It is an insult to the memory of Cæsar, whose courage was his crowning glory, and to the Czar, whose valor has been proved in two wars, to apply the name of the one or the title of the other to Reed. Let the country take Reed for what he is—the servant of the men who made him Speaker, and whose orders he dare not disobey, and who, protected in the abuse of his office, exhibits all the qualities of the coward and bully in browbeating and overriding men who are powerless to resist him. That is all there is of Reed.

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