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SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1921.

**BIBLE THOUGHT FOR THE DAY.**

Prayer Answered—I sought the Lord, and he heard me, and delivered me from all my fears. This poor man cried, and the Lord heard him, and saved him out of all his troubles.—Psalm 34: 6.

**VISUALIZING ROTTENNESS.**

Judge Webb, sitting at a trial of an especially repugnant case in Greensboro, recently delivered an opinion from the bench that it would be morally to the betterment of the wayward young if they could come into the court room at that moment and witness how, when the winds are sown, the whirlwinds are reaped. He thought that those of immature years, who are disposed to go the gait, looking upon the sordidness of that particular case, observing the wretchedness there and the spread of pathos and sorrow that have grown out of it, would repent of their ways and turn suddenly back into the high ways of rectitude and integrity.

But hardly do it is the case now, as it has ever been, that if men believe not the prophets, they would not believe, though one rose from the dead. It isn't visualization of error that the young need. If so, there is enough of rottenness and fifth observable every day to disgust them to the tips of their toes and make them stop in their tracks. That is one of the great mistakes in modern theorizing. The average moving picture is founded upon the same false conception. It shoots on the screen a whole lot of stuff that is suggestive of the salacious and the unrighteous, closing with another scene intended to prove that what has just gone before is unwholesome and wrong, the effect being a mere sugar-coating that really does no good. The intensity of the first impression can hardly be wiped away by the later pabulum, no matter in what strength the latter dose may give.

Somehow or other, the human soul registers a wicked impression more keenly and more deeply and more permanently than a good impression, and the moralizings of the motion picture can hardly be counted upon to become enduringly corrective.

It is not mere instruction in vice, more screened scenes of evil, more sights of court wretchedness, more magnifying glasses to look upon the unseemly and sordid and dispicable of a social infection, but that determination in youth, planted there in the home, in the school room, in the church, and planted there irrevocably, to hold one's self above the stain of the streets, no matter how popular it may be to become a little soiled sometimes, that will eventually count in the purification of society.

Mr. Lodge's failure to explain the four-power pact in his late speech is not a matter to be especially surprised about. Mr. Lodge's failures along this line for several years have been the most conspicuous element in his alleged statesmanship.

**WORST OVER FOR FARMERS.**

Commenting upon the present very unfortunate plight of the farming classes of the country, Secretary Wallace makes the hopeful statement that there "seems to be good reason for believing the worst is over and that we may reasonably hope for gradual improvement." It is at least consoling to the farmers to learn that "the worst is not yet to come" and to have the Secretary express the conviction that agricultural light is seen to break from the long spell of darkness that has enveloped the activities of those who make their living, and the living of the world, by the sweat of their brow. The farmers have been in a terrible situation, and with them went every other class into the same sort of an economic Gehenna. Farmers diffuse their misfortunes to every gradient of our society and that is the reason that it is perfectly senseless program to try to have any sort of prosperity other than that which springs primarily from agriculture. When the developers of our raw materials find the going good, everybody else does likewise, and vice versa, as is very plainly witnessed to by what has happened during the period of the depression.

**BACKGROUND OF THE IRISH PEACE.**

The English and the Irish have been fighting for about 800 years over the same issue, the issue that is thought finally to have been ended with the agreement made a few days ago by Lloyd-George and Sinn Feiners representatives. Generally the war between them has been of hearts and minds, but at least once in every generation through these eight centuries, the differences have broken forth in bloodshed. The policy of Home Rule in Ireland was that which brought defeat to the great Gladstone in 1886. Since that time the specific issue of Home Rule has never been off of the political horizon in Great Britain.

Home Rule, through all these years, was no nearer being given by England and yet so consistently refused, that a group of Irishmen came to the conclusion that their only hope lay in absolute independence of the Mother Country. It was this group that organized themselves under the Gaelic name of Sinn Fein and it made very slow progress until the Easter rebellion nearly six years ago with the subsequent execution of Pearce, the leader, and his associates in this enterprise.

The Sinn Fein organization was fanned to flame by the martyrdom of Pearce and five others. It swept all Southern and Western Ireland in the parliamentary election of 1918 and those elected then refused to go to Westminster, but organized the Dail Eireann and since then in the Emerald Isle there have been two authorities, that of the British government and that of the Dail Eireann. A war of assassinations and reprisals has made Ireland unhappy for years.

Last Summer the British government offered to treat with the Dail Eireann government as the representative of the people of the Southern part of the Isle. This effort was impelled by De Valera by reason of his arbitrary and doctrinaire attitude, but other Irish minds have proven shrewder and more practical and they availed in negotiating a treaty with Lloyd-George.

The treaty provides that the Irish Free State may make its own tariffs, have its own army and its own postal system, and generally act as an independent government. Until further arrangement, the British navy will be responsible for the defense of Ireland by sea, and her naval and air forces will have special privileges in the use of harbors and landing places. The Northern area is given a month to decide whether it will come into the State or not. If it does not a boundary commission will determine the final line between the two. Such a boundary commission would in probability take from the Northern area certain sections of Tyrone and Fermanagh, in which there is a Roman Catholic and Republican majority, and might add to it certain Protestant sections in Ayan, Donegal and Monaghan. The treaty makes very careful provision for the protection of religious and political minorities, as follows: "Neither the Parliament of the Irish Free State nor the Parliament of Northern Ireland shall make any law so as either directly or indirectly to endow any religion or prohibit or restrict the free exercise thereof or give any preference or impose any disability on the account of religious belief or religious status, or effect prejudicially the right of any child to attend school receiving public money without attending the religious instruction of the school, or make any discrimination as respects state aid between schools under the management of the different religious denominations, or divert from any religious denomination or any educational institution any of its property except for public utility purposes and on the payment of compensation."

The people of this community ought to keep themselves interested in what it is proposed to make, one of the great gatherings of a patriotic nature held in Charlotte in a long time next Wednesday, the occasion being the celebration of the birthday of former President Wilson, at which time also the campaign for the Wilson Foundation will be started locally.

**NORTH CAROLINA CROPS.**

Major Graham, commissioner of agriculture, figures it out that North Carolina ranks third in the sisterhood of the States in crop wealth this year, placing the aggregate values of crops produced in North Carolina at \$303,837,400. Texas and California are placed ahead of North Carolina, the first with a valuation of \$460,452,100, the second with a valuation of \$389,852,900. New York follows North Carolina with a valuation of \$281,209,500.

Tobacco, with 295,000,000 pounds and \$85,450,000 is first; cotton with 37,700,000 pounds lint and \$59,000,000 is second, and corn, with 48,700,000 bushels and \$49,908,000 takes third place.

This would seem to be a sizeable pile of money that has been produced in the way of fresh wealth from the fields of the State during the past year, especially so when current prices for these products are computed. And yet, in spite of the enormous totals here represented, the farmers of the State have been hit a blow below the belt. They have suffered from deflation as no other class of the people. They were caught with a big crop year before last because they thought, and had been induced to believe by men whose advice seemed worthy to follow, that the world would consumer everything they could possibly make at a profitable figure.

Then it was, just at a moment when they had multiplied their production, that the bottom dropped out and they were forced to accept staggering losses on their products. That experience was followed this year by a smaller production, but also by prices hardly better than those prevailing in 1920 and the fact that they have been able to make such a record in crop wealth in 1921 is a testimony to their resourcefulness as well as to their industry.

**THE YOUNG MEN'S STATEMENT.**

The statement issued to the public by the young men who wrote the bill introduced in the Legislature and which was designed to give Commissioner Huneycutt plenary powers in his department is so full of fallacies and is such a stringing out of sophistries that it requires no answer of itself. Youth and inexperience show themselves in every syllable.

That portion of it, however, which is intended to draw a comparison between the powers now enjoyed by Mr. Huneycutt and those held by the other two commissioners, must be immediately refuted. Neither Mayor Walker nor Commissioner Sancill is given any rights, by the commission charter, insofar as extent of power is concerned, which Mr. Huneycutt does not already have according to the popular interpretation of the law and according to practice. Every one of them is on the same basis. The charter makes no discriminations. The statement indicates that these young men desire the public to believe that the commissioner of public safety is not already on a parity with other commissioners in the matter of authority. That is not the case.

It is not because of a constitutional defect in the charter, therefore, that these young men were moved to their very unwise performance. The status in which the commissioner of public safety finds himself is merely the position of a minority and, happily, for the city, even the dogmatic and autocratic and undemocratic commission form still honors the constitutional right of a majority rule. That is about all that is left to commend itself to democratic thought. The other two commissioners, constituting a majority of the three men in whom the total responsibility of government is vested, have only the superior rights which the majority in any issue is entitled to. Mr. Huneycutt's status is, therefore, no fault of the charter. It is purely personal and not institutional.

That is the only contention made by the statement which deserves public correction lest the false impression might get abroad that the commission charter, as it now stands, discriminates against the office of commissioner of public safety in the conferment of authority and power.

The explanation offered by the young men becomes humorous as it touches upon the question of practice in the city courts which, they allege, is being denied some young lawyers and in which others of their profession have built up something of a monopoly. Logic is entirely dismissed from the minds of the authors of the bill as they seek to set this up as a foundation upon which to defend themselves. If it is right and proper to upset, overthrow and tear at the very vitals of constitutional government in North Carolina towns and cities because, forsooth, a few lawyers are not able to get as much criminal court practise as they might wish, it is just as logical for the vagrant and the jobless to seek to destroy the foundations of our national institutions because, forsooth, they are out of work.

If, however, we were able to confess that the explanation offered by the young men has a substantial foundation, if it were based upon fact and logic and justice and right, the method used in their attempt toward reform would still call for severest denunciation. There is never any justification for any sort of "a sneak" bill, the legislative measure that is hustled to the General Assembly and there, by clandestine methods and under cover of secrecy, railroaded through to the statute books. But when an attempt is made to follow this same process with a measure that would virtually tear to pieces the whole structure of municipal government in North Carolina, when a bill as radical as this is not allowed to come to the surface, when the people are totally ignored and the public traduced, it is small wonder that criticism would be so severe and condemnation so pitiless upon those who have such scant regard for public rights and esteem for the sacredness of government.

**AVIATOR KILLED.**

San Antonio, Texas, Dec. 24.—Captain Fred Place, United States aviator stationed at Kelly Field, died last night from injuries received Tuesday afternoon when his airplane crashed forty feet to the ground. Captain Place's home address was given as Brainerd, Minn. He had been in the army nine years and came here from Carlstrom Field, Florida.

Midnight High Mass will be celebrated by Rev. Father Anthony, O. S. B., at St. Peter's Catholic church Sunday, subject of sermon, "The Happiness of Christmas." Other masses will be held at 7, 8, 9, 10 and 10:30 o'clock. Rev. Father Ambrose, Savannah, Ga., a native of Charlotte, will officiate at the 10:30 mass and preach a sermon.

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Silk Sox ..... 50c to 98c  
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Men's Knit Mufflers ..... \$1.50  
Suit Cases and Hand Bags ..... 98c to \$25.00  
Watches ..... \$1.00 to \$10.00  
Safety Razors ..... \$1.00 to \$5.00  
Silk Shirts ..... \$3.95 to \$5.00  
Madras and Percalé Shirts ..... \$1.00 to \$3.00  
Mercerized Sox ..... 25c and 35c  
Cotton Sox ..... 10c, 15c, 25c  
Cotton Handkerchiefs 5c, 6 1-4c, 8 1-3c and 12 1-2c  
Men's Suspenders ..... 25c, 50c, 98c

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