

# The Fool-Killer

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## THE BONUS

There is a scheme on foot, I note,  
Among the plutocrats who own us,  
To buy the soldier boy's vote  
By giving him an extra bonus.

The plutes who did not go and bleed  
But sat at home in safe protection—  
They didn't think how they would  
need  
The soldier's vote at the election.

But now the competition's strong  
To see which gang of office slackers  
Can toll the soldier boy along  
With "promise" pie and "bonus"  
crackers.

The carpenters who built the camps  
Got ten bucks without hardly try-  
ing;  
One buck, said our official scamps,  
Was quite enough to pay for dy-  
ing.

Alas, when voting time draws nigh,  
And office itch is burning hotter,  
They think of that official pie,  
And all their mouths begin to water.

But if the soldier men who fought  
Are half as brave as they have  
shown us,  
I do not think they can be bought  
With any politician's bonus.  
—James Larkin Pearson.

## ANOTHER STRAW VOTE

An agricultural magazine called "Farm Life" is also conducting a straw vote which begins to look interesting. All the farm papers, you know, are extremely patriotic and loyal to the administration. They have all pointed to Woodrow Wilson as a second Messiah, and they have cussed the "radicals" and "Socialists" till you could almost smell sulphur. Quite naturally, then, it would seem that the bulk of their readers would be of the same stripe. It looks like they would just fall over each other to vote for Wilson and Palmer. One would think that Palmer especially would certainly get a heavy vote among that class of readers, because of the distinguished service he has rendered the country by rounding up "reds" and by keeping that criminal Debs in prison.

But, lo and behold, the latest report on Farm Life's straw vote shows that the vote for that same criminal Debs is just equal to the combined vote of Wilson and Palmer! In other words, Wilson and Palmer are just half as popular among the farming population as the man they are keeping in prison.

Great raw-hide and bloody-bones! What are we headed for next?

I hate mighty bad to ask so many embarrassing questions, but I would just like to know if you have seen any "democracy" going around loose in your neighborhood.

## "MOULDING PUBLIC OPINION."

I am a newspaper man. I have worked on daily papers, and I know something about their dirty tricks and their dishonest, lying habits. I know that nearly all of the big daily papers are just as low-down sneaking mean and dishonest as the devil wants them to be. They simply WILL NOT tell the truth in any matter that pertains to the great class struggle if they can possibly find a lie to tell.

And the big dailies set the pace for most of the big weeklies and monthlies. They all think they must trot right along in the same filthy track and tell the same sort of lies that the dailies do.

Wherever the daily press can manufacture a lie that will show up Socialism, radicalism or the labor movement in a bad light, they spread it plum across the front page in letters as big as cow-tracks. But if there ever comes up a truth so big that they can't entirely ignore it, they put a machine head on it (and a misleading one at that) and bury it among the advertisements away over at the back of the paper where nobody will ever see it.

And they call that "moulding public opinion!" For pity's sake! When will the public learn to have some opinions of its own, without having them "moulded" in such a skewter-godlin manner as that?

Now, Mister, maybe you can begin to see through some of the blood-and-thunder yarns you read about Russia. Maybe you will be able to stand it without fainting when I tell you that nine-tenths of your "riots, bloodshed, rapine and murder" never happened anywhere except in the clabbered cocoanuts of hired plutocratic newspaper writers. And your terrible jeeminy-fit about "men and women going together like the brute creation" came from the same source. There was never a word of truth in it. Time after time the independent and labor press of America have published positive proof that the charge was a lie, but the plute press never made the correction.

## Adding More Horrors to Death.

The thought of dying is not pleasant to any of us, even when we believe that death is a condition of sleep and total unconsciousness. But if we had to believe that we would still be alive after we die, and that we would have to spend eternity tapping tables, ringing bells, manipulating ouija boards, and sending fool "messages" back to earth through some fetch-taked "spirit medium"—sarn my skin if death wouldn't be a terrible thing, sure enough!

## "MOVEMENTS" AND "DRIVES."

It is only about eight years ago that Mister J. Plutocrat Morgan and a few other millionaires got up a new "movement" to which they gave the hifalutin name of "The Men and Religion Forward Movement." These sanctified millionaires were going to organize the religious resources of the country on a "business" basis and just take the soul-saving job out of God's hands and run it themselves.

Their idea seemed to be that they thought God was sorter old-fashioned in His methods of saving the world, and that He was not making the headway that might be made if better business methods were applied to the work. They probably would have admitted that God was doing very well considering His chances, but because he had never been to business college, and had never had any experience in Wall street, they were sorter sorry for God and proposed to step in and show Him how to run His business.

These sanctified plutes had it all figured out on a money basis, and they could tell you exactly how many dollars and cents it would cost to save one soul. It was all a matter of money, and they were going to put their millions behind it and just "save souls" to beat the very Old Scratch.

That was Mister Morgan's "Men and Religion Forward Movement," and there was just about as much real Christianity in it as there is virtue in a public prostitute. The whole thing was an effort to pull the wool over the eyes of the common people and make it appear that the pot-bellied plutes were winged angels sent from heaven to save the world. It was an effort to lull the poor industrial slaves to sleep and make them forget the hell of their present living conditions while they dreamed of a heaven somewhere in the future.

But the scheme didn't pan out quite like Mister J. Plute Morgan and his millionaire pals thought it would. The common people didn't show much eagerness to have their souls saved by the Morgan method, and so in the course of a year or two the great "Men and Religion Forward Movement" just quietly petered out and we never heard any more about it.

But just now it seems that the plutes have decided to try their little game of "saving the world" again. This time they have harnessed up the Babylon preachers and hitched them on in the lead, and they have named their new wool-pulling apparatus "The Interchurch World Movement." And inside of this big "movement" there are all sorts of little "movements" and "drives" to raise big piles of money. In this

case, just as it was in the other case, MONEY is the whole thing. But the plutes got the idea that the preachers and the churches would make good bait, and that the poor devils would follow them into the millionaire trap.

The pretended purpose of this new "movement" is to unite all the various denominations into one big working machine—a sort of "League of Churches" like the League of Nations was going to be. And millions of good honest church people are right in for it. They don't seem to realize that they are helping to form the "Image of the Beast" spoken of in Revelation. But that is exactly what it amounts to. We all know the Church of Rome is the Beast, and the "league" of protestless Protestant churches will be the Image of the Beast, just as sure as you are a foot high. And because all the orthodox churches separately are now dominated by the devil, it is plain to see that when he gets them organized into one big "league" he can use them still more effectively.

But he will not use them very long. Did you ever read in the New Testament where it talks about "gathering the tares into bundles to burn them?" They are now tying up the tares into "bundles" and "leagues," and they will soon be burnt. Just wait and see.

## GETTING THE SENSE OF IT

There is a great deal of theological stuff written these days by writers who may possibly know what they want to say, but they haven't the ability to say it so that anybody else can get the sense of it. Many papers come to this office containing articles on the disputed questions of theology, and half the time I can't tell which side of the question the writer is trying to support. The language is so tangled up and the thought so poorly expressed that there is no sense in it.

But I find one group of religious thinkers who have the Truth so well in hand that they have no difficulty in expressing it so it can be understood. These people are dangerous "heretics" in the eyes of the orthodox world, and they are not even recognized as Christians by the fashionable churches. But I am here to tell you that they will pan out more of the pure gold of Truth to the pan-full than any other theological claim that I have ever seen staked out.

The reason orthodox writers can't express themselves clearly is because they have nothing clear to express. Their whole system is befogged with too much of the devil's error. You can't build a straight fence with crooked poles. Neither can you squeeze lemonade out of a rotten tater.