

HELL'S HOT AGONY IS DENIED

COMMUNICATION FROM MISSOULA RESIDENT QUESTIONS EVANGELIST'S STATEMENTS.

Editor Missoulian: That the meetings which are now being conducted in south Missoula will be productive of good to the city cannot, I believe, be denied with truth. If a single soul should turn from an evil course, to walk in the path of righteousness, good will have been accomplished; and, out of all those who have professed, and will yet profess, the Christian religion, there will undoubtedly be more than one life bettered. For this good everyone should give thanks.

The evangelist conducting these services is winning scores of converts. Some of these will lapse into a state of sinfulness soon after the controlling influence goes—a thing that is by no means rare; others will profess religion merely from fear of punishment, and will cling to the church in the hope that they will by so doing escape the fires of hell; but some will continue in the new life because they experience real contrition. Not everybody, however, in Missoula will respond to the appeals of the evangelist. Moreover, there are some who do not agree in, or approve of, all that is said in the tabernacle; even church members are to be found among them. Now, it may be that we—I am one of the dissenters—it may be that we are all "consummate idiots," or, what is worse, damnable characters, opposed to the spread of righteousness and deserving of the agonies of an eternal hell; but I will venture to say that at least a part of these dissenters are such because they have heard no proof of certain assertions that have been made. Yes, I will even venture to say that some of them are sincere. If I know myself, I am sincere in my beliefs. I prize the truth and am always willing to acknowledge that I have been in error when the truth is shown to me. But I am not so easily satisfied as some are; neither am I ready to open my mouth and receive all that is offered by an evangelist merely because he is popular; popularity does not always accompany truth. After all it is possible that those who differ from the evangelist can give good reason for it.

One of the dubious doctrines that finds utterance in the tabernacle is that of an everlasting punishment. Is it a reprehensible thing for a rational human being to question this doctrine? Its statement runs somewhat as follows: At death there leaves the physical body of the person doomed to this never-ending torture a mysterious something, a soul, spirit, shade, that wends its way to—(?) Well, perhaps, it is the judgment hall of Osiris or some similar tribunal. From this place the soul is taken to the scene of its future agonies and consigned to a stratum of flaming brimstone, whose temperature will furnish eternal punishment. Where this hell is the supporters of the doctrine do not tell us. They leave us in doubt as to whether it is in the bowels of the earth, or in the "airy regions above the earth." It is all mighty vague—too vague for my acceptance. Its supporters do not appeal to human reason; for human reason balks at the absurdity. Indeed, all that they offer as proof is a few passages from the Bible, which, when read from the rest of the Book, do, seemingly, substantiate it.

Now, it is true that the Bible teaches a punishment of the wicked; but the time and the place of this punishment are expressly named, and its duration, thanks to a merciful God, is not endless. The evangelist in his endeavors to prove that it is endless reads passages which involve such words as "everlasting," "eternal," "forever," as describing the length of time of the sinner's punishment. To give to these words an unqualified significance, is to create many an absurdity in the Bible. These words are used in other passages in reference to comparatively short intervals of time, (for example, Ex. 21:8; Jonah 2:6; Jude 7). Further, the evangelist

maintains that the sinner is doomed to a never-ending life of torment; the Bible reads: "The wages of sin is death," (Romans 6:23). "The soul that sinneth, it shall die," (Ezekiel 18:4). "All the wicked will God destroy," (Psalm 145:20). "But the wicked shall perish," (Psalm 37:20). What is the lot of the sinner is ultimate annihilation. Both the evangelist and the Bible cannot be right; if the Bible is right, the evangelist is wrong; if he is right the Bible contradicts itself. Of course, I doubt not that he can give an explanation of these texts that is satisfying to some; but if these positive declarations mean nothing, then how can one, other than a shallow thinker, have any faith in the Book? I am glad to say, however, that the Bible does not contradict itself, when interpreted rightly, and that its whole tenor shows a total destruction of the unrighteous.

Again, this doctrine of everlasting punishment represents God as being an egregiously cruel monster, exceeding in implacability any heathen Moloch. A short time ago the evangelist compared the lots of the heathen and the unrighteous man who dies in a Christian country. He placed them both in hell but in different strata, having different temperatures. The temperature of the stratum in which the heathen was placed was, it is true, said to be lower than that of the stratum in which the other fellow was placed; but both were in hell and were there for good and all. Think of it! A man is born in a country not Christian, and because he does not conform to a standard of which he knows nothing, he is cast into hell and there broiled through all eternity. Even if he had known of the way to salvation would he have deserved such a fate? Man is sinful by nature, and from the cradle to the grave he is beset with temptations. If it were hard for man to do evil, he would deserve severe punishment; but, on the contrary, it is hard for him not to do evil, and surely this consideration will lead to a milder punishment than the evangelist proposes to believe in.

Now, I am at a stand as to why this doctrine is preached today. Just when it crept into Christianity, I do not know. The deepest scholars declare that it was during the early centuries of our era. I do know, however, that it flourished during the dark ages, and that it was used by the Papacy to bring within its pale the European barbarians of those times. I do not wish to impute wrong motives to any clergyman who preaches this doctrine; but it does seem to me that it is being made use of to frighten simple-minded folk into the church. I was much pleased to find that a few prominent clergymen are exposing the absurdity of the thing. Pastor Russell, whose sermons have been appearing in your paper, is among them. With such prominent men as its enemies, the truth concerning it may yet reach the masses.

Another unbecoming characteristic of the services at the Tabernacle is the derision with which the walls have more than once resounded. One evening those who hold to the development theory of biology, were strongly denounced. Did the spoken broach the subject with "come, let us reason together?" Did he advance any sound argument to disprove the theory? No, he did not. His only weapon was a sarcastic ridicule. But ridicule has never disproved anything. It may take hold of shallow-brained people; in an earnest truth-seeker it awakens only contempt. I do not hold to the theory; but, if I had been a believer in it, my faith would not have been shaken by the utterances, and this because I heard nothing that would cause me to doubt it. But, maybe, satisfying evidence was given, which, in my "consummate idiocy," could not discern.

Furthermore, much vituperation has been heaped upon several religious sects. Christian Science was attacked, and several unseemly epithets bestowed upon it; still it suffered no injury from the exposure of its "absurd doctrines," because there was no such exposure. I am not a Christian Scientist, but I do believe that many of them are sincere in their beliefs, and, if I could not, with sound argument, overthrow their doctrine, I would be the last to rail against the name. On Friday afternoon, January 13, there was poured out upon Seventh Day Adventists a flood of abuse, such that, had a stranger heard it only, he would have believed that the indignation had been revived. They were denounced with a bitterness that would indicate that they had greatly wronged their fellow men. But a more peaceable, law-abiding people have never lived, and why they are so obnoxious to some I do not understand.

It is a pity that the members of any sect are not rated by their real worth, and not by their religious beliefs. But, this has never been done, and never will, I believe, be done in the present state. The religious wars of past centuries and the papal persecutions show to what extent religionists will go. Some may think that modern churches have lost this spirit of aggressive conquest and intolerance. Yes, they speak of a great federation of churches and a Christianizing of the world. Were it not for a few things that I know, this talk might capture my ear; but it happens that I know of a few things which have been said and done by the leaders of this movement. Every wide-awake man knows that a spirit of intolerance still smoulders. If certain churches dared to do so the rack would be dragged from under the cobwebs and set in operation. Today no church would attempt such a thing; but the trend of events is now toward a government by the church, and with this comes—

Some of these events are fraught with momentous consequences to our own dear country. Although the masses attach to them no importance, a few penetrating minds are aware of their significance and are filled with deep apprehension.

Trusting that I shall escape all "correctors of heretics," I am,

EDWARD BARKER.

BANKHEAD AGAIN.

Montgomery, Ala., Jan. 17.—In conformity with the result of the election last November nominations for United States senator in the house and senate today were confined to John H. Bankhead, the incumbent. Both houses will meet in joint session and re-elect Senator Bankhead.

Heinze's Wife in Hospital



MRS. BEATRICE HENDERSON HEINZE.

Grand Rapids, Mich., Jan. 17.—Mrs. Beatrice Golden Henderson-Heinze, wife of Fritz Augustus Heinze, the New York copper millionaire, is in the Union Benevolent association hospital here, suffering from a severe nervous disorder, brought on by fear that her former husband would kidnap her child. To prevent such an eventuality, she placed the child in a convent at Monroe, Mich., several days ago.

In the hospital no one but her special attendants and her physician is permitted to see her. Her mother came here with her, but was called to To-

ledo last night by a telegram saying her home had been robbed.

The former actress is under the care of Dr. Louis Barth, a nerve specialist. When she arrived in the city yesterday she went to the residence of a friend, Mrs. H. C. McVey, but Dr. Barth decided that if she made any progress toward recovery she must be removed to a place where she could have absolute quiet. She will remain at the hospital until the middle of February. Mr. Heinze is expected to join her here at that time. They plan to go to Europe, where Mrs. Heinze will complete her recuperation.

ELECTRICAL DANCE FILED FOR PROBATE IS EDDY WILL

BALL GIVEN BY MISSOULA LABOR ORGANIZATION ENTERTAINS HUNDREDS.

NO OBJECTIONS MADE BY ANY ONE AGAINST ITS PROBATE IN COURT.

The first annual ball of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, local No. 408, was an event that is destined to linger long in the memory of the 600 people who enjoyed it last evening. A few of the expert electricians of Missoula had transformed the ball hall into a dream garden for the night; ingenuity had done its best when the grand march began last evening. There was a never-ending series of electrical effects, there were moonlight scenes and starlight scenes, combinations of both—well, the whole had to be seen to be appreciated. The electricians haven't had time yet to count the people who were their guests last night. There were 600 programs and these were all given out; a strict census will be made today. So successful was the ball that the electrical workers will hold its counterpart tonight; there were too many friends who couldn't get admission last evening.

The unmeasured applause that was accorded the decorations of last night was not unearned or given merely because the guests liked the electricians. Praise came as the pay of earnest effort and hard work. There was nothing haphazard about the wonderful effects that made the dance unusual. For three days the committee in charge of the decorations worked like a beaver colony. To its members, F. Carrow, D. Morgan, Joe Haviland, S. Fulp, Fred Victor and O. W. Walker, goes the major part of the credit for the success of the dance. Just the same, the other two committees had plenty of work to do and performed creditably. They were:

Arrangements—Ted Frey, J. B. Hutchinson, George Andrews, W. L. Marshall and E. W. Parsons.

Floor—E. W. Parsons, Fred Victor, H. Blosche, Tom Crane and W. L. Marshall.

INSURGENTS HEARD ANENT HOUSE RULES

Washington, Jan. 17.—The house committee on rules today gave a hearing to Representative Norris of Nebraska and Representative Cooper of Wisconsin, insurgent republicans, on their resolutions urging reforms in the rules.

Both favored amendments limiting the number of words in the titles of bills to meet the threats of regular republicans to flood the calendar with bills long in title and otherwise obstructive in order to defeat the reform rule as to discharging bills from committees.

Mr. Cooper believed that any bill title could be put within 125 words.

Mr. Norris and Mr. Cooper believed a member of the house should be limited to one motion to discharge in one session, while Mr. Martin of South Dakota, who also appeared, said that a member should have only one such motion on the calendar at a time.

Harnois Theater

C. A. HARNOIS, Mgr.

Wednesday, Jan. 18

The New York Success Direct from the Maxine Elliott Theater

"This Woman and This Man"

By Avery Hopwood, author of "Seven Days," with

MINNIE VICTORSON

Supported by WM. W. BLAIR and a Specialty-Selected Company.

Prices—50c, \$1.00 and \$1.50. Seat sale 11 a. m. Tuesday Jan. 17.

10c BLJOU 10c

House of Features

SHADOWS OF THE PAST

A beautiful love story of the old-fashioned days of '58. Opening scenes were made under Florida's historic and live-oak tree, where numerous treaties between the Seminole Indians and the early-day Spaniards were made.

DOCTOR CUPID

A refined comedy with a sentimental young man and young lady, who, with the aid of Dr. Cupid, manage to get the best of the young lady's objecting papa.

THE RUNAWAY MOTOR CAR

The experiences of an inexperienced speed fiend; a real laugh.

MAX GOES SKI-ING

He attempts to master the skis. A rip-roaring comedy.

Grand Theater

FRANK SIMONS, Manager.

The Two Colemans

Introducing the smallest Grand Piano in the world.

Coleman & Mexis

In a strong, novel and sensational exhibition of marksmanship. No fake shooting. Neat, clean bullet act.

New Motion Pictures

Illustrated Song

Savoy Hotel

Cafe

Business Men's

Lunch

From 12 to 2 p. m.

35c

Music—Violin and Piano.

After-theater parties a specialty.

14 Wholesale Orders

In Butte last week. They must have

ESS-TEE-DEE

BOB MERCER

Grand Pacific Barber Shop

Missoula, Montana.

CLARK'S CRUISE OF THE ARABIC

16,000 tons, fine, large, unusually steady.

To THE ORIENT

February 4 to April 15, 1911

Seventy-one days, costing only \$400.00

and up, including shore excursions.

SPECIAL FEATURES: Madeira, Cadiz, Seville, Algiers, Malta, 19 days in

Egypt and the Holy Land. Constantinople, Athens, Rome, the Riviera, etc.

30 Tours to Europe. Other Tours.

FRANK C. CLARK, Times Bldg., N. Y.

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Schlossberg's

SPECIAL
60c Table Linen, 60 inches wide, in a beautiful pattern, an extra quality linen and a real bargain at only **38c**

SPECIAL
10c Crash Toweling, extra wide and best quality, our regular 10c seller and cheap at that sale price, per yard only **5c**

SPECIAL
25c pillow cases, made of extra quality muslin, three inch hem a bargain at only **17c**

SPECIAL
20c Gingham, the best quality to be had for the money, comes in checks and stripes, all colors; on sale at only **12c**

SPECIAL
75c Sheets, full 81x90 size, extra quality sheeting, made with 3-inch hem, a real bargain at sale price only **55c**

SPECIAL
\$1.25 All-Linen Cloth, full 70 inches wide and strictly an all-linen, at our sale price you can't beat it, **89c**

SPECIAL
75c Messaline Silk, in every shade worn this season; a fine quality soft silk at sale price of **59c**

SPECIAL
12 1-2c Percale, in all the colors, both light and dark; 36 inches wide, the best percale made; sale price, only **9c**

Clothing Cleanance

Unusual Suits for Men

Positively one of the most remarkable sales of the season. It's a sale that no man who wants a good, stylish suit at an unusually low price will fail to attend. All \$20.00 and \$22.50 men's suits, all the latest shades of grays and browns, on sale at—

\$15.00

Harnois, Friday, Jan. 20

Jos. M. Gattes Offers

America's Most Beautiful Musical Comedy

3 Twins

With Victor Morley, Bessie Clifford

80---PEOPLE---80

and Augmented Orchestra

MAIL ORDERS GIVEN PROMPT ATTENTION

Prices 50c, \$1.00, \$1.50 and \$2.00

Seat Sale Thursday, 10 a. m.

COAL and Slab Wood

We keep the best grades of Coal—Diamondville, Owl Creek, Bear Creek and Carney—Lump Coal all screened and cleaned.

WE ALSO SELL SLAB WOOD.

Big Blackfoot Lumber Co. Bell Phone 106

Independent 742

When In Helena

Just Right

The prices on those new ties, mufflers and house slippers at

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103 W. FRONT.

When In Helena stop at the Grand Central hotel, Main street. The largest and best hotel in the west. All street cars pass the door. No hill to climb; 120 steam-heated rooms. Telephone in every room. Popular prices.

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