

# Holiday Greetings



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## THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK DELTA, COLORADO

### DELTA INDEPENDENT

A. M. ANDERSON, Editor and Owner.

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Just now The Independent is thinking more of how it can best tell of the merits of one spoonful of our rich soil, than to tell how it happened or to discuss any political situation.

It cannot be denied that sugar beets and alfalfa have proven the two most staple crops this season, though of course live stock has been a "ringer." Estimates now place the states best crop at \$20,000,000. Potatoes have brought growers some money, but seed was very high in the spring and the market price down this fall.

Apple shipments have been increasing as cars became more plentiful. Returns for all fall shipments are reported slow in coming in. City markets appear to show prices of from 75c to \$1.25 per box, but a fall demand because of the general crop. It is generally believed that within 30 or 60 days, the markets will be cleared up and demand much more brisk.

The Democratic party, or any other party for that matter, will have plenty to do to hold firmly the reins of government and to guide smoothly the ship of state. If it will prove content in such efforts and not try to evolve as many new issues as the doctors have discovered new disease germs, it will win the applause of all American people. Both political germs and disease germs may be to a great extent imaginary.

The Balkan situation grows more complicated as the days roll by. When there is none to pick in the way if territory to be divided, every power in Europe is eager to seize it. Bulgaria and Servia, allies in the warfare against Turkey, are pretty sure to quarrel when it comes to a division of the spoils, and when they do it is not unlikely that other powers will try to pounce upon the carcass while they are wrangling. The poor old Turk is in bad there, as well as here at this particular time, though it is in no wise fair to couple our own noble bird with that old vulture just because of a similarity of names. There are many "remains" in this country today, and the powers of Europe can have them, be gobs, if they want 'em.

Five years ago, when a man talked of the possibility of making a living out of a garage in a country town or small city, he was looked upon as one possessed of poor business judgment, even though mechanic enough and industrious enough to do the whole shop work himself. Today there are three large garages in Delta, employing an aggregate of 15 to 20 men and all keeping busy. Both Hotchkiss and Paonia have garages which are equally busy. In the county at this time there are about 150 automobile. Aside from the care given machines by their owners most of whom have grown fat.

Knocker—Do you understand mortgages? Knocker—Yes; the first is for the car and the second is for the upkeep.

Butcher—Twenty-eight cents a pound. Mrs. Murphy—That's awful high. I guess that's the aviation meat. I've been readin' so much about.

"Why is it that the dog is always referred to as the most intelligent animal?" "Because it knows how to get a good living without doing any work," replied the horse.

The Bride—Where shall we spend our honeymoon, dearest?

The Bridegroom—That depends on

how much honey your father will supply.—Satire.

What's the reason of your enmity to that politician?" asked Mr. Arvada. "Did we cross your path early in your career?" "No," answered Soapweed. "He didn't cross my path. We were after the same office and he ran over me from behind."

"I noticed that you courteously refrained from mentioning the name of your rival in any of your late speeches." "I can't say that my practice in that respect was so much a matter of courtesy as of prudence. I once started in to denounce a rival, but as soon as I mentioned his name the audience burst into deafening and continuous applause."

A politician friend tried to coax a Niwot farmer to vote for him instead of for the candidate who had already served two terms successfully. The farmer preferred the other man. "But don't you believe in rotation of crops?" queried the politician. "Y-a-a-s," drawled Niwot. "Y-a-a-s, but I ain't a-goin to plant my potato patch to Indian turnips just for the sake of rotation."

### PASTOR RUSSELL'S VIEWS.

Churches of All Denominations and the Civil Powers of Earth Are About to Unite in Common Cause—Powerful Influence Preparing for the Battle of Armageddon—A Reign of Anarchy Will Be the Result of the Warfare Until The Messiah Takes Control.



PASTOR RUSSELL

Brooklyn, N. Y., Nov. 3.—The Brooklyn Academy of Music was crowded to the limit today to hear Pastor Russell's discourse on the "Battle of Armageddon." His text was: "He gathered them together unto a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon" (Revelation xvi, 16). The speaker said:

Armageddon in the Hebrew signifies the "Hill of Megiddo," or Mount of Destruction. It was famous as a battle-field in Old Testament times.

The Lord has seen fit to associate the name Armageddon, with the great controversy between Truth and Error, right and wrong, God and Mammon, with which this Age will close, perish, and the New Age of Messiah's glory be ushered in. He has purposely used highly symbolic figures of speech in the last book of the Bible, evidently with a view to hiding certain important truths until the due time for their revelation. But even in the due time, the Bible assures us, "None of the wicked shall understand" (Daniel xii, 9, 10)—none who are out of heart harmony with God—but only the wise of His people—the "wise virgin" class of the Master's parable.

I have long avoided presentation of my understanding of our text and its context. I take it up now by request and because I believe it is due time to be understood. I disclaim any special inspiration. In some particulars my views agree with those of other Bible students, and in other respects they disagree. Each hearer must use his own judgment, do his own Bible study, and reach his own conclusions.

Kindly remember that I am not responsible for the figures of speech used by the Lord. My interpretations do indeed constitute a terrible arraignment of institutions which we have all revered and which embrace good people, of good words and good works. God's saintly people in these various institutions, being comparatively few, are ignored when systems as a whole are dealt with in prophecy.

**The Dragon, Beast, False Prophet.** Our context tells us that three impure spirits (teachings) will go forth from the mouth of the Dragon, the Beast and the False Prophet, and these three will be in accord, and symbolically the doctrines are represented by "frogs." These three doctrines are to have a mighty influence throughout the civilized earth. They are to gather the kings and their armies to the great Battle of Armageddon.

The ecclesiastical kings and princes, and their retinues of clergy and faithful adherents, will be gathered in solid phalanx—Protestant and Catholic. The kings and captains of industry, and as many as can be influenced by them, will be gathered to the same side. The political kings and princes, with all their henchmen and retainers, will follow in line on the same side. The financial kings and merchant princes, and all whom they can influence by the most gigantic power ever yet exercised in the world, will join the same side, according to this prophecy.

These "doctrines of demons," represented by the "frogs," will lead many noble people in this great army to assume an attitude quite contrary to their preference. For a time the wheels of liberty and progress will be turned backward and medieval restraints will be considered necessary for self-preservation—for the maintenance of the present order of things.

In giving this interpretation, it is necessary for us to indicate what is symbolized by the Dragon, the Beast, and the False Prophet. Bible students of nearly all denominations agree with us, that the "Dragon" of Revelation represents the purely Civil Power. Protestant interpreters generally agree that the "Beast like a leopard" (Revelation xiii, 2) represents the Papacy.

But fewer still, we fear, will be ready to support our view that Protestantism is the "Image of the Beast" (Revelation xiii, 15) in our context given another name, "the False Prophet." We urge no one to accept our interpretation, nor shall we think hard of any who refuse it. We will neither slander nor otherwise injure them now, nor threaten them with eternal torture. They have the same right to their views that I have, and the same right to make them known to others. And I, for one, will be very glad to consider anything which opponents may set forth as their interpretations of our text.

#### "Unclean Spirits Like Frogs."

The symbols of Scripture, rightly understood, are always forceful. When the Holy Spirit used a "frog" to symbolically represent certain doctrines or teachings, we may be sure the true application will fit well. A frog has a sage look, a wise look. It swells itself up in an apparent endeavor to impress the beholder. Its great mouth well represents its chief power, used to croak.

Applying these symbols, we learn that an evil spirit, influence, teaching, will come from the Protestant churches federated, from the Church of Rome, and from the Civil authorities, all in full agreement. The spirit of all will be boastful; an air of superior wisdom and knowledge will be proudly assumed—all will croak in harmony. All will tell of dire results that would follow, involving the interests of both the present and the future life. If their counsel be not followed. However conflicting the creeds, the differences will be ignored in the general proposition that nothing ancient must be disturbed, or looked into, or repudiated.

The Divine authority of the Church, and the Divine right of kings, aside from the Church, will not be allowed to conflict. Any persons or teachings in conflict with these boastful and unscriptural claims will be branded as "frogs" speaking from pulpits and platforms and through the religious and secular press. The noble sentiments of some will be strangled by the philosophy of the same evil spirit which spoke through Calaphas, the high priest, respecting Jesus. As Caiaphas declared it expedient to commit a crime in violation of justice, human and Divine, to be rid of Jesus and His teachings, so this "frog" spirit will approve of every violation of principle necessary to their self-protection.

The croaking of these "frog" spirits or doctrines will gather the kings and princes, financial, political, religious and industrial into one great army. The spirit of fear, inspired by the croakings of these "frogs," will scourge the passions of otherwise good and reasonable men to fury, desperation. In their blind following of these evil spirits, evil doctrines, they will be ready to sacrifice life and everything else on the altar of what they mistakenly suppose is justice, truth and righteousness, under a Divine arrangement.

For a brief time, as we understand the Scriptures, these combined forces of Armageddon will triumph. Free speech, free masts, and other liberties which have come to be the very breath of the masses in our day, will be ruthlessly shut off under the plea of necessity, the glory of God, the commands of the Church, etc. All will seem to be serene, until the great social explosion in our context described as the "great Earthquake." An "earthquake," in symbolic language, signifies social revolution and the declaration of the context is that none like unto it ever before occurred. (Revelation xvi, 18, 19.) Jesus described it as a time of trouble such as never was since there was a nation.—Matthew xxiv, 21.

#### The Lord Will Gather Them.

The false, frog-like teachings will gather together into one host the great, the rich, the wise, the learned and the kings of the earth, to battle. At this juncture Divine Power will step forward, and our text tells us that HE shall gather the marshaled hosts to Armageddon—to the Mountain of Destruction. The very thing which they sought to avert by their union, federation, etc., will be the very thing they will hasten. Other Scriptures tell us that God will be represented by the Great Messiah, and that He will be on the side of the masses. Thus we read in Daniel xii, 1: "At that time shall Michael (the Godlike One—Messiah) stand up"—assume authority. He will take possession of His Kingdom in a manner little looked for by many of those who erroneously have been claiming that they were His Kingdom, and authorized by Him to reign in His name and in His stead.

Jesus declared, "His servants ye are unto whom ye render service." Some may be rendering service to Satan and to error, who claim to be rendering service to God and to righteousness; and some of these may be serving ignorantly, as did Saul of Tarsus, who "verily thought that he did God a service" in persecuting the Church. The same principle holds true reversely.

As an earthly king does not hold himself responsible for the moral character of each soldier who fights in his battles, so the Lord does not vouch for the moral character of all who will enlist and fight on His side of any question. "His servants they are to whom they render service," whatever the motive or object prompting them.

The same principles will apply in the coming Battle of Armageddon. God's side of that battle will be the people's side, and the very nondescript host, the people, will be pitted at the beginning of the battle. Anarchists, Socialists, and hot-headed radicals of every school of reason and unreason, will be in the forefront of that battle. The majority of the poor and the middle class prefer peace at almost any price. A comparatively small number, God's consecrated people, will at heart be

the messianic kingdom. These will bide the Lord's time and wait patiently for it; they will be of good courage, knowing the outcome outlined in the "more sure word of prophecy," to which they have done well to take heed. "as unto a light shining in a dark place until the Day dawn"—II Peter 1, 19.

The masses will be restless of their restraints, but will be conscious of their own weakness as compared to the kings and princes, financial, religious and political, which will then hold sway. Besides, the masses have no sympathy with anarchy. They realize truly that the worst form of government is better than none. The masses will seek relief through the ballot and peaceful readjustment of earth's affairs for the elimination of evil, for the placing of monopolies and trusts and the supplies of nature in the hands of the people for the public good. The crisis will be reached when the belligerents of law and order will become violators of the law and resisters of the will of the majority as expressed by the ballot. Fear for the future will lead the well-meaning masses to desperation; and anarchy will result when Socialism fails.

#### The Cloud's Silver Lining.

Horrible would be this outlook for the future did we not have the infallible Word of God assuring us of a glorious outcome. Divine Wisdom has with held until our day the great knowledge and skill which is at the same time breeding millionaires and discontents. Had God lifted the veil a thousand years sooner, the world would have lined up for its Armageddon a thousand years sooner. But that would have been too soon for the Divine purpose, because Messiah's Kingdom is to be the great Thousand-Year-Sabbath of the world's history. God in kindness veiled our eyes until the time when the gathering to Armageddon would immediately precede Messiah's taking to Himself His great power, and beginning His reign.—Revelation xi, 17, 18.

#### "Send Them Strong Delusions."

St. Paul wrote prophetically of our time, that it would be one of serious trial and testing to many professing to be Christians. The reason for this he states—they received not the Truth in the love of it (I Thessalonians ii, 10, 11.) They preferred their own erroneous theories, the Apostle explains, and therefore God will give them over to a "strong delusion," and let them believe the lie which they preferred, and let them suffer for missing the Truth which they did not love. Thus they will be in the condemned host, "fighting against God," because of their lack of love for the Truth.

It is sad to say that we all as Christians have been laboring under a thorough delusion respecting God's Plan. We have claimed that Christ set up His Church in Kingdom power, and that the Church has been reigning on the earth as His representative. On the strength of this delusion, Jews and heretics have been persecuted to death as opponents to Christ's Kingdom. All the while we thoughtlessly repeated the Lord's prayer: "Thy Kingdom come; They will be done on earth, as in Heaven." We knew that the Redeemer said that He would come again to make us His Bride and joint-heirs; but we ignored the Scriptures. We were drunk, as the Scriptures symbolically say, "all nations were drunk" with the false doctrine. It is this false doctrine which soon will begin to croak and to preface for Armageddon.

The Bible presentation is that the world is a section of the universe in rebellion against Divine authority, under the captaincy of Satan and his associated fallen angels. By Divine grace Jesus has already "tasted death for every man," and the merit of that sacrifice must, eventually, grant Adam and his posterity a full, fair opportunity for the attainment of everlasting life. All who thus see the Divine program and are walking in the light may know something at least respecting the "times and seasons." These brethren are not in darkness, that that day (the battle of Armageddon) should overtake" them "as a thief" —unawares.

The Lord will gather them. The false, frog-like teachings will gather together into one host the great, the rich, the wise, the learned and the kings of the earth, to battle. At this juncture Divine Power will step forward, and our text tells us that HE shall gather the marshaled hosts to Armageddon—to the Mountain of Destruction. The very thing which they sought to avert by their union, federation, etc., will be the very thing they will hasten. Other Scriptures tell us that God will be represented by the Great Messiah, and that He will be on the side of the masses. Thus we read in Daniel xii, 1: "At that time shall Michael (the Godlike One—Messiah) stand up"—assume authority. He will take possession of His Kingdom in a manner little looked for by many of those who erroneously have been claiming that they were His Kingdom, and authorized by Him to reign in His name and in His stead.

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Indianapolis, Nov. 25.—Plans to blow up the Frick building in Pittsburgh and other buildings in the east, where open shop a plot to explode a bomb in a sleeping car to kill Mary C. Dye, a stenographer, because she knew too much about the dynamite plots, were described by Lindsey L. Jewell in the dynamite conspiracy trial today as having been revealed by Herbert S. Hockin.

"After Hockin told me who blew up the Los Angeles Times building," said the witness, "I promised him that if he ever got into trouble, I'd see that after he got out he'd get a \$2,500 pension for two years, when Hockin began to report to Burns he assumed that obligation."

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