

Columbus, Nebraska
October 24, 1935

Dear Miss Tarbell

Relative to mss of Dr Craft, I found a sermon in my files which I have partially copied because of the difficulty sometimes of reading his writing and which I enclose to you in his original handwriting tho it does not treat of the subject you mentioned. It does however illustrate his powerful style and grasp of a very important phase of logic in its relation to the place of Christianity occupies in the minds of the most intelligent as a rule.

I hope it may be of some service to you.

Please do not forget us when your article is out. We do so very much want to read it.

Looking forward to the time when you may say a word about Dr Craft's philosophy of "The Other Economics" which, to many minds, is the most original and penetrating thinking into economic philosophy that has appeared or rather has been prevented from appearing in recent years.

Mr Hopkins would have had all the unemployed of America operating under the Craft plan had it not been for those who desired to make profit by the sale of goods to the unemployed. They seemed to have killed it, to the peril of all of us who must henceforth not only provide for the unemployed but continue to pay profits to the profiteers etc.

It might do a world of good if you could find time to address a note to Mr Harry Hopkins asking him his reasons for not caring for the unemployed by the plan suggested and urged by myself (Wm H Talmadge of Columbus, Neb Sect of The Other Economic's League Inc). The President knows of it and I believe secretly favors it. My Senator Edward R Burke favors it and says that it has "great merit". Dr John A Ryan Pres of the Catholic Charities Societies, Washington D.C. favors it. John Dewey says that he deems it "very important". A petition signed by conservative business and professional men and women was presented to the President asking that this plan be applied to the treatment of the gravest problem that faces our age; but we have lacked the finances to support a lobby in Washington.

Thanking you for anything you may be inclined to contribute toward the effort of articulation and appreciating your kindness, I am

Yours sincerely

Wm H Talmadge

*You may return the mss. when
you have opportunity.*

TEXT: The Glorious Gospel of Christ. 2 Cor 4-4.

2 Paul did not always have this opinion of the Gospel. There was a time when he spoke of it as folly, fanaticism and blasphemy. He breathed out threatening against it. He was exceeding mad against it. He persecuted its believers with imprisonment and death; but there came a time when he began to speak of it as the "glorious Gospel of Christ".

The change was not in the Gospel, but in Paul.

1: Some can appreciate what others cannot.

Burton was a prodigy because of his mathematics and cared for little else. He was invited by a friend to go and hear Garrick the famous elocutionist, When the entertainment was over his friend asked him how he enjoyed it and he replied:

" I saw a little man parade himself about the stage and repeat 7956 words."

So also a man who is wholly worldly cannot appreciate the Gospel which is so largely spiritual.

As the pillar of cloud was light to the Israelites and dark to the Egyptians, so the Gospel will be dark to the carnally minded.

2: The spirit of the Gospel is sometimes misrepresented by its advocates.

They who are uncharitable in the name of Christ and who are more anxious about forms and ceremonies than building up a Christ like character, who are more eager to find out the meaning of the horns on Daniel's or Ezekiel's beast than to get their neighbors converted, do not truly represent the spirit of the Gospel. Scribes and Doctors often try to weave into the Gospels their own metaphysical speculations. Superstition sometimes worships in the name of Christ. Pride and uncharity will sometimes get into the highest seats in the Christian Synagogue. Bigotry will sometimes profess himself a Christian and set himself up to expound the Gospel and condemn to perdition all who do not accept his interpretation. Judas will sometimes join the Church without mending his ways.

But the glorious Gospel is not to be blamed for this any more than the sun and starry constellations are to be blamed for the blunders and sins of astronomers.

3: Often those passages of Scriptures which seem to be of little value will be found to contain precious spiritual treasures, if we carefully examine them.

A German Prince once sent a betrothal gift to her to whom he was betrothed. When she received the gift it was only a rough egg of iron. She cast it on the floor in disdain. After a while she took it up and examined it. She found a secret spring which she touched and the iron egg flew open and a silver yolk rolled out. She touched a secret spring in the silver yolk. It flew open and revealed a golden crown and within the crown was a diamond wedding ring.

And there are passages of Scripture which are iron on the surface; but open them by patient study and prayer and you will find spiritual treasures as of silver, gold and diamonds within them.

X: The Gospel is glorious in its doctrines.

(a) It proclaims the brotherhood of man

Some of the Rabbis taught that a Jew's little finger is of more value before God than the whole Gentile world.

When the Spartan youth went out by night to hunt down and kill slaves for sport, the laws of Sparta did not regard the offense as

Sermon of Dr Craft

murder, but only as trespass and there must be paid to the owner of the slave the price of two sheep.

Socrates was a great moral teacher, but he did not require his pupils to regard any but Greeks as brethren.

But in the Gospel we are taught that God has made OF ONE BLOOD ALL NATIONS OF MEN and that there is neither JEW NOR GREEK etc. and that GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD THAT HE GAVE HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON etc and to every man Christ is ELDER BROTHER and God is FATHER therefore all men are brethren and the Christian must say:

"Where breathes the man, I hail a brother."

(b) THE GOSPEL PRESENTS A PERFECT SYSTEM OF MORALS

Mohamed promised lustful gratification as one of the rewards of Paradise.

Plato the greatest mind in classic Greece permitted uncharity to soldiers and abolished the marriage bond from his ideal Republic.

But Christ presents us an example of every virtue and all the subsequent ages have been compelled to endorse the confession of Pilate who said:

"I find no fault in him."

Skeptics may attack Christian doctrines but they cannot criticise the pure morality of Jesus.

Rousseau reluctantly said:

"I confess to you that the majesty of the Scriptures strikes me with admiration while the purity of the Gospel effects my heart."

His precept, exemplified by his life:

"Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself" is the principle of the highest system of ethics conceivable to man and the earth's future ages will find nothing superior to it. Let it become the rule of human society and it would abolish every sin and establish every virtue.

(c) THE GOSPEL REVEALS THE DIGNITY OF MAN BOTH AS TO HIS BODY AND SOUL.

Plotinus and ancient philosopher refused to tell the name of his father or mother or the date of his birth, because he was ashamed that he dwelt in a fleshly body. In the Gospel we learn that "God was manifest in the flesh" and that our bodies may be the "temples of the Holy Ghost" and may be "raised again in the likeness" of Christ's glorified body and the soul, made in the image of God, is the heir of the future eternity.

It teaches a man to repent of his sins and to look upon himself with respect and to stand in the midst of this boundless universe and to look upward toward its Almighty Author and say:

"Our Father."

(2) (a) THE GOSPEL IS GLORIOUS BECAUSE OF ITS REVELATION OF GOD

We do not select as examples the ideas of Deity held by the ancient Mexicans who tore out living human hearts and offered them to their idols, nor those held by the worshipers of Moloch in whose red hot iron arms little children were burned alive. We do not select those ideal deities of those heathen tribes which were the most ignorant and degraded, but the imagined gods of ancient Greece and Rome, which were worshiped by the countrymen of Demosthenes, Cicero, Homer and Virgil. Vulcan was lame because he was cut down from Olympus for his misdeeds. Mercury was a thief and celebrated for his marvelous skill in thievery. Venus was as unchaste as she was beautiful. Mars the god of war

Sermon of Dr Craft

war was guilty of private murder and adultery, Saturn murdered his own children and was guilty of adultery. Jupiter the father of all gods was guilty of the same crimes Neptune, if a mortal (and living in Ohio) would be sent to the penitentiary * Hercules whom some have infamously compared to Christ, was guilty of adultery and murdered his own wife and children.

These were the gods of which Homer sang and which peopled the imagined Olympus. They were supposed to have great knowledge and power and many noble traits of character ; but they possessed not only all the virtues but all the vices which exist on earth.

The Scriptures truly teach that man cannot find out God "by reasoning".

We see in Nature abundant evidence that He is skillful and powerful; but we need the Gospel to give us evidence of the holiness and love of God.

Is the Creator kind to give us birth and life ? Behold, He compels us to die and to pass into the grave and if the cradle proves God's kindness, the grave is equal evidence of his unkindness.

Jesus who came to show us what man should be, came also to show us the Father and the moral character of God and bring life and immortality to light.

The grave, to the Christian, is not evidence of God's unkindness, but is the door to the Father's house of many mansions guarded about by the angels of the resurrection.

Sin is permitted to exist; but over against that dark mystery is the garden of Gethsemane and the Cross of Mount Calvary.

The doctrines of regeneration and the witness of the Spirit, and the baptism of the Holy Ghost, the experience of the forgiven sinner, which even after he has backslidden from it, lead him to say:

" What peaceful hours I once enjoyed
How sweet the memory still "

And this ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ "Ernest" of his inheritance foretaste of heaven, this inner life hid with Christ in God, is the peculiar (legacy) of the Gospel and continuing as the possession of the Church the Gospel will be glorious and its message precious as long as the human heart endures.

(3) 7- THE GOSPEL ALSO AWAKENS THE DESIRE FOR INTELLECTUAL CULTURE

When the Gospel was being first proclaimed by the Apostles and their first converts a Christian institution of learning was established in Alexandria in Egypt .

According to the statistics of a few years ago of the 368 Colleges in the United States, all but 30 of them were built and owned by the Christian Churches and the one lone infidel college found it necessary to petition the Legislature to change its Charter upon which it had been organized so as to permit the employment of Christian teachers finding it impossible to man the Professor's chairs with infidels who were competent to teach the sciences.

It was the christian Alfred who laid the foundation of the university of Oxford. It was christian money and self sacrifice which laid the foundations of the great universities of Bohn, Heidleburg, Paris and Berlin.

Modern Science has kindled Her torch at Christian watchfires.

Those eminent scientists who have the more important discoveries in science as a rule have been Christian believers; Linnaeus the father of Botany and Hugh Miller the father of the science of Geology were Christian believers. Dr. Priestly who discovered oxygen and was the father of modern analytical chemistry was a Christian Minister.

Callileo was a Christian. Copernicus was a Clergyman.

Sir Humphrey Davy and Michael Faraday whom Science will gratefully remember forever were devout Christians. Kepler the great discoverer in Astronomy said: "The undevout astronomer is mad." Benjamin Franklin the discoverer of static electricity was a believer in the Bible and urged Thomas Baynes Paine not to publish his "Age of Reason" and it was he who said: "If men are so wicked with Religion what will they be without it.", and it was he who introduced the resolution making it the custom for Congress to open its session with prayer.

Bacon the founder of the logic of induction and the modern scientific method of investigation and who is called the father of modern Science, was a believer in the Bible.

Sir Isaac Newton who discovered the law of gravitation and who is called the second father of modern Science, was a devout Christian and wrote a commentary on a part of the Bible.

Bishop J.P. Newman has made the assertion that no prominent and established scientific discovery has ever been made by an avowed infidel.

Huxley and Darwin noted for speculations on questions near the infinite borderlands of Science....

The great revival of Religion which resulted in Protestantism preceded and caused the great revival in modern Science. Huss, Wickliffe and Luther preceded Bacon and Newton.

- (4) 8 THE GOSPEL IS GLORIOUS BECAUSE OF ITS SUCCESS
- (5) 9 THE GOSPEL IS GLORIOUS BECAUSE OF THE FUTURE WHICH IT FORETELLS FOR THE SOUL OF MAN

(The last two divisions appearing in his mss but not copied)