

Rev J M Carroll
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SOUTHWEST TEXAS BAPTIST

DEVOTED TO THE RELIGIOUS INTERESTS OF SOUTHWEST TEXAS

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A Trinity of Social Evils

Len G. Broughton

Some years ago a ship returning from South America had on board a number of species of serpents. Among them were three of the most dreaded forms, a boa constrictor, a python and a little rattler. By some unknown means the cages holding these serpents were shaken open and they were discovered crawling about in the ship. In spite of every effort on the part of the officers of the ship to keep the news from the passengers, it spread, and great consternation was caused.

Now, I believe as truly as I believe in my existence that in the theatre, the dance and the card table, we have a trinity of social evils that are as hurtful to society and as destructive to religion as the boa constrictor, the python and the little rattler are hurtful to life and happiness.

I am aware that this charge is regarded as a "chestnut" with many people, and hence what I say about it will be gathered from such sources as will prove Satan to be the instigator of these three forms of popular amusement.

A prominent judge, having fifteen years' experience, says, "There are three forms of social dissipation in our city that account for much of the moral wreckage among young men and women, the dance, the card table and the theatre." This statement I believe to be true.

First, they had their beginning with bad people.

Second, they appeal to the basest from of passion.

Third, they result in the greatest ruin and disaster.

This charge is not made against any one of these evils; it is made against them all.

The Theatre

First, let us take the theatre. What is the history of the theatre? I do not ask you to take my own words, I will give you the words of Dr. Herrick Johnson, in his History of Amusements:

"Dramatic representation had its origin among the Greeks with a troupe of bacchanals in rude and boisterous songs, interspersed with dances, conducted with a high degree of licentiousness both in language and action. Then came Thespis, introducing tragedy. The stage is said to have been a cart, the chorus a troupe of itinerant singers, and the actor a sort of mimic. Subsequently Aeschylus appeared, who carried the Greek drama at once nearly to its highest perfection. He was followed by Sophocles, who introduced a third, and even a fourth, actor into his plays. Then came decline under Euripides, exhibiting degenerate taste and loose morality. The transition to comedy was easy, originating in the licentious sports of the villagers, and popular in proportion as it was personal, abusive and low. The comedies of Aristophanes are an illustration at once of the depravity of the poet and the liberalism of the spectators. His wit was coarse and vile, a mixture of buffoonery and positive filth.

"Theatrical exhibitions became popular amusements among the Romans just as they lost their stern love of virtue, yielded to luxury, and grew weak and effeminate.

"The European stage is no exception. This grew out of the 'Mysteries of the Middle Ages'—a sort of sacred drama performed by monks, in which the devil also played a conspicuous part. This was the foundation of the modern British and American stage, which has risen only to degenerate, until now many of its exhibitors outlive in licentiousness and filth the darkest days of the drama, even on the confession of its friends.

"In China theatrical entertainments are popular, but neither there nor in Japan are women allowed to perform. It is a question whether women were ever present in the ancient theatre. It is undeniable that the actors were invariably men, and few in number; and yet these theatrical entertainments contributed to the

downfall of the Grecian state. They had their origin in a corrupt state of morals, and they tended to deterioration."

Low and Degrading

You will observe here that Dr. Johnson, in recording the history of the theatre, makes a number of interesting points:

First, that it had its origin in licentiousness.

Second, that among the Romans, it became more and more popular as they descended to lower and lower depths of impurity.

Third, that the institution of the theatre among the pagan Chinese and Japanese is regarded as unfit for women to take a part.

Now, I submit that if this history is true, and no one, not even the most ardent friend of the theatre, dares to dispute it, it is time for Christian people and all others who are in favor of good society to set themselves against it.

It is not only true in proportion to the downfall of virtue, it is true today. Travel the world over, and wherever there is a low form of morals the theatre is at its best. I think it can be said, without successful contradiction, that Paris is the most immoral city, claiming to be civilized, in the world. Certainly, there is less regard for virtue in Paris than anywhere else among civilized people, and there the theatre is the most popular institution to be found. The streets of Paris are literally jammed with people at night, people of all classes rushing to the theatre.

It is also true that the theatre in large cities is surrounded by the low and the vulgar. A gentleman in London, who has a right to speak, said to me that it had been observed that wherever a theatre was located in London, the section immediately around became inhabited by publicans and bad women.

The atmosphere of the theatre in any community is saturated with impurity.

Witnesses Testify

But if you say we have no right to argue against the theatre from the criticism of the Greeks and Romans, let us take some authorities from our own people.

Macaulay, the great English historian, writes: "From the time that the theatres were opened they became the seminaries of vice."

Sir Walter Scott, in speaking of the theatre in his time, says: "It was abandoned."

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EVANGELISTS' DIRECTORY

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Baptists Strong for Church Union

At regular intervals the Christian world has spells of raving on the subject of church union. It is like chills and fever that used to come regularly every spring. There are many good people who get caught by this catchy phrase. There is something in it that appeals to the uninitiated. One of the San Antonio papers is advertising a series of twelve articles by twelve prominent representatives of the leading denominations of the United States and Canada on this subject.

Baptists have always been misunderstood on this question. So gross has been their misrepresentations that we are forced to wonder if it is always accidental.

Baptists do believe in church union. For nineteen hundred years we have fought for it. We have never ceased to yearn for the answer to the prayer of Jesus, "That they may be one." If other people had stuck to the New Testament as we have there never would have been any division. Those who departed from the New Testament and "taught man so" are responsible for the division.

We are going so far as to offer a basis for church union. To be sure the New Testament is a God-given basis for such union, but since men differ so widely on the interpretation of it, we are offering a statement of interpretation that will serve the purpose and cannot be misunderstood.

The following is that statement. It will perhaps sound familiar to some of our readers but that is nothing against it. The main question to ask is: Is it a correct interpretation of the New Testament? If it is, then there is no reason why any Christian should fail to accept it. If it is not, we would be glad to be shown where and how it fails.

I

We believe that the Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired, and is a perfect treasure of heavenly instruction; that it has God for its author, salvation for its end, the truth without any mixture of error for its matter; that it reveals the principles by which God will judge us, and therefore is, and shall remain to the end of the world, the true center of Christian union, and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds and opinions shall be tried.

II

We believe that there is one, and only one living and true God, an infinite, intelligent Spirit, whose name is Jehovah, the Maker and Supreme Ruler of Heaven and Earth; inexpressibly glorious in holiness and worthy of all possible honor, confidence and love; that in the unity of the Godhead there are three persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost; equal in every divine perfection and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption.

III

We believe that man was created in holiness, under the law of his Maker, but by voluntary transgression fell from that holy and happy state; in consequence of which all mankind are now sinners, not by constraint but choice; being by nature utterly void of that holiness required by the law of God, positively inclined to evil, and therefore under just condemnation to eternal ruin, without defense or excuse.

IV

We believe that the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace, through the mediatorial office of the Son of God, who, by the appointment of the Father, freely took upon Him our nature, yet without sin; honored the divine law by His personal obedience and by His death made a full atonement for our sins; that having risen from the dead, He is now enthroned in heaven, and uniting in His wonderful person the tenderest sympathies with divine perfections, He is in every way qualified to be a suitable, a compassionate and an all-sufficient Savior.

(Continued on page three)

The Antichrist a Person

Pastor A. Reilly Copeland, Tabernacle Baptist Church, Waco, Texas

John 5:43: I am come in my Father's name, and ye receive me not: if another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive.

Many confusing views have been given concerning the Antichrist, the Lord's counterfeit and dreadful opposer, the Man of Sin, the Son of Perdition and the world's great coming avenger. Without question the Antichrist is a person and not a polity or system because of his definite location in time just preceding our Lord's return. All titles used of him are in the singular and strictly refer to a person. The Bible plainly and minutely pictures the Antichrist's sudden beginning, rapid progress and complete destruction.

Names That Reveal His Character and Work

1. The Enemy and Avenger. Ps. 8:2. "Enemy" opposes all good and wreaks vengeance on those who profess to know the true God.

2. The Man of the Earth. Ps. 10:18. "Earth" denotes dreadful carnal deeds and reveals that they that are in the flesh cannot please God; thus his followers will fall.

3. King of Babylon and Lucifer. Isa. 14:4, 12.

"Babylon" denotes a reign of pride, power, idolatry, iniquity, cruelty, confusion and bloodshed.

4. A King of Fierce Countenance. Dan. 8:23.

He is pictured as the Little Horn rising from the common succession of political rulers rather than an ecclesiastical leader.

5. The Prince That Shall Come. Dan. 9:26, 27.

Assuming both political and ecclesiastical power and authority he promptly breaks his covenant and immediately defies and desolates the Jewish temple.

6. A Vile Person, a Willful King. Dan. 11:21, 36.

"Vile Person" shows that his claim to royal blood is false and that he comes from the masses and despises all restraints of law and fosters wholesale lawlessness.

7. Man of Sin, Son of Perdition, Wicked One. 2 Thes. 2:3-8.

"Son of Perdition," Satan's diabolical and evil spirit impelled agent.

"Man of Sin," complete development

PREACHES FAREWELL SERMON

Rev. Melvin C. Eidson, Beacon Hill Baptist Pastor, Leaves to Study at Moody Institute

Rev. Melvin C. Eidson closed his unusually successful pastorate with the Beacon Hill Baptist Church of San Antonio last Sunday and will leave in a few days for the Moody Bible Institute where he will spend two years in better preparing himself for his life's work.

Bro. Eidson came to San Antonio from Weimar, five years ago and the church then had less than 300 members. It now has almost a thousand and is one of the thriving churches in the city. Bro. Eidson has done a fine piece of work and has made many friends that will regret to see him go.

Much of the good work done by this good pastor in the past five years here has been made possible, or at least made better, by the able assistance of Mrs. Eidson. She is a real helper and has always made friends for him and the work by her gentle words and tender ministrations.

The Eidsons have two fine children—a daughter just blooming into womanhood and a boy who is just the age when a boy is most boy. The many friends of the family—regret to see them go and will continue to hope that they will return to this section when they are through with their work in the Bible Institute.

of unregenerate humanity in culture, power and privilege.

"Wicked One" shows what cultured unregeneracy heads up in apart from Christ's blood, power and love.

8. Another Who Shall Come in His Own Name. John 5:43.

"His Own Name" reveals another who shall come just opposite of Him who "came to do the will of Him that sent me." Where Jesus was obedient, faultless, pure, holy, and good the Antichrist is exactly opposite. Imagine if you can the absolute perfection of Jesus in acts, words and work and then contrast with the awful degeneracy of the Antichrist rule.

9. The Antichrist. 1 John 2:18.

The Antichrist will ignore and scorn Christ as the world's Savior and deceive the Jews into believing that their long looked for Messiah is at hand in himself and will persuade them to make a covenant with him which God calls a covenant with death and an agreement with hell." Isa. 28:18.

10. The Beast. Rev. 13; Rev. 17:8-11.

Beast, Eighth head, counterfeit resurrection, life after death signifies in his assumed proof of Messiahship that the link of evidence to his mysterious claims is proven beyond a doubt to the self-deceived people who give him their obedience and worship.

Further Bible Facts About His Personality

We have seen conclusively that the Antichrist is a person and not a system of error like the papacy as many have hitherto believed concerning him. The papacy has only claimed to be God's viceroy on the earth while Antichrist will exalt himself and magnify himself above every God and sits in the temple and shows himself as God. Isa. 14:13; Dan. 11:36, 37; 2 Thes. 2:4.

The Bible makes it clear that the spirit of Antichrist denies Christ in the flesh. 1 John 4:3. Judaism denies Christ has come in the flesh while Rome adopts Him but aims to adore Jesus, angels and saints in an imposing religious ceremony. The Antichrist will counterfeit Jesus Christ and oppose and overthrow all religion.

Rome claims to believe that Christ will come again to judge the world but the Antichrist's blasphemous denial of this precious doctrine was foretold by John in 2 John 7. The Bible always makes plain any truth desired. The division of governments is yet to take place and the Antichrist will arise after the ten kings. Rev. 13. Rome's secular power of the papacy has weakened but the Antichrist will grow stronger until Christ comes and overthrows him after his satanic and notorious career over the earth.

The Christ and Antichrist Contrasted

1. Christ the Lord is from above and Antichrist is from beneath, out of the pit. John 3:31; Rev. 11:7.

2. Christ came approved and sealed by the Father while the Antichrist will come in his own name. John 5:43; Dan. 11:37.

3. Christ humbled Himself and took the role of a servant while the Antichrist will exalt himself above all. Phil. 2:8; 2 Thes. 2:4.

4. Christ was despised and unappreciated while Antichrist will set himself up as the object of universal adoration. Isa. 53:3; Luke 23:18; Rev. 13.

5. Christ came to do God's will in perfect obedience while Antichrist will come to do his own selfish will, wicked way and blasphemous practice. John 6:38; 17:4; Dan. 11:36, 37.

6. Christ wrought miracles, wonders and signs for God while Satan through the Antichrist will also perform mighty acts with power, signs, wonders and deception. Acts 2:22; 2 Thes. 2:9, 10; Rev. 13:13, 14.

(Continued on page two)

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CALLING OUT THE BAPTISTS

The whole world is potentially Christian and potentially Baptist, because Baptist teaching and practice most accurately express the spirit of Christianity. Therefore, when a man becomes a Christian, the easiest and most natural thing in the world is for him to become a Baptist.

Then why are so many of the supposedly Christian population of the world not Baptists? This question surely needs an answer, in view of the above statement, but it can be easily answered.

Why Are Not All Baptists?

1. Not all church members are Christians. It is sad but most certainly true that churches of all denominations are carrying the names of scores of unregenerated people upon their books. These have never bowed to the Lordship of Jesus nor breathed the spirit of Christianity, therefore are aliens to grace and strangers to the pure Gospel. And the purer the Gospel, the less at home they are with it. They are more at home in a more ritualistic service than with a vital, spontaneous, democratic worship.

2. The influence of training gives to some an early bent in favor of certain forms and ceremonies and a predilection for certain imaginary and a fondness for some real ritualistic beauties.

3. There are a large class of those who for lack of religious training know little of the real teaching of Jesus or of the genius of Christianity. Knowing so little of the real doctrines of Christ, they have no standard by which to judge their own orthodoxy and no light to reveal the divergence of their way from that of the lowly Nazarene.

4. Great disciples have always been men of great conviction. Lack of conviction as to the value of obedience to our Lord and a lack of appreciation of the practical value of the doctrines of Christ are responsible for the position of many of God's children in churches of other faiths. "One thing is right but another will do" is a hell-born substitute for truth, an excuse for disobedience, an embryonic heresy, the mother of weakness and the suicide of conviction. "What if God did say this?" said Satan to man in the garden. "Not what you believe but what you are and do counts," says he to the sons of Adam and the daughters of Eve today. And often they do not look deeply enough into the delusion to see the vital connection between what we believe and what we do and are. What we believe controls what we are and what we are is the source from which issues every act of conduct. He who thinks one way and acts another is either a spineless weakling or a remorseless hypocrite. One cumbereth the ground, is unfriended and should be hewn down and cast into the fire. The other chokes out truth, poisons the atmosphere with a miasma of unbelief and should be destroyed before it roots out the tender plants of faith.

5. For some unknown reason, there has always been a prejudice against the Baptists. Jesus foretold it, the Apostles experienced it and suffering martyrs of all ages exemplified it. We are a peculiar people because we dare to obey God rather than man; to follow Christ rather than priest or prelate, and to exalt the Bible above precedents, traditions and the decisions of councils.

It is the natural repugnance that the disobedient feel for the obedient. Prompted by this feeling Cain slew Able. Israel stoned the prophets and crucified the Lord; Rome anathematized Luther and Calvin and Zwingli and Molangthau, and the world has forever sought the life of him who will not share in her disobedience.

6. And last in order and first in importance we preach a hard Gospel—one that puts obedience above sacrifice, above sentiment, above convenience, above blood ties, and national loyalty.

It is a hard Gospel but we did not make it and have no right to change it. We take it that He who made it and died for it had a purpose in every stipulation and a reason for every specification and he who ignores one jot or tittle denies that for which Christ died. To us there are no nonessentials, for what is not essential to salvation is essentially a part of God's plan and is essential to our best development and its acceptance is essential to our highest obedience.

Ought All Christians to Be Baptists?

1. It does not seem best for one denomination to have no competition. The Catholics were in that position and the Dark Ages resulted.

2. But all Christians have the right to the whole truth as contained in the Bible and preached by the Baptists. The world is built and the Bible written on the inalienable right of each man, woman and child to the Gospel of Christ.

2. It is every man's duty to accept truth wherever he finds it, even though it be embodied in the teachings of a despised sect. No man has the right to ignore or reject truth. We can no more reject with impunity the teaching of Christ on the smallest point than he has to reject the death of Christ for His teachings or the constitution of the Kingdom He died to establish in the hearts of men.

Calling Out the Baptists

We are coming to a revival of doctrinal preaching. It wont always be popular not to believe anything. We are coming back to the time when men will stand for something.

That day will be a great Baptist opportunity. Baptists never thrive in ages that do not stand for something. A namby-pamby age is never a Baptist age.

Then, what manner of men ought we to be? The kind that Jesus was. What kind of preaching ought we to do? The kind that Jesus did. We cannot improve on that. By preaching the truth in love Jesus discovered men. So can we. By the light of real Gospel preaching men see their way to the cross and to the Jordan. The truth will find men and women patronize them. The Baptists will be called out from the others and placed in New Testament churches and given the New Testament task of evangelizing the world.

JOINER ACCEPTS BEACON HILL CHURCH

It is officially announced that Dr. William H. Joiner, evangelist under the Baptist General Convention of Texas, has accepted the unanimous call extended him by the Beacon Hill Baptist Church of San Antonio. He comes to succeed Rev. Melvin C. Eidson who is leaving San Antonio to take up his studies in the Moody Bible Institute of Chicago.

Bro. Joiner is a native of Tennessee but has been in Texas for a number of years. He was pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church of El Paso before going into the evangelical work.

Bro. Joiner was at one time a preacher in the Presbyterian denomination, but has been a Baptist for some years and his ministry has been very fruitful among us. His education was gotten at Hamilton College, Vanderbilt University, The People's National University and the Southwestern Theological Seminary.

The Beacon Hill Baptist Church is one of the best in the city. It has about 1,000 members.

FREEDOM

By James J. Montague

The pain that distorted
The frail little form
Has vanished away
Like a midsummer storm.
The work-weary fingers
Lie white on his breast;
At last they are idle—
For now he can rest.

Scarce more than a baby,
They found him one day
Amid the foul reek
Of an alley—at play.
They seared his child's soul
With their factory's blight;
They made him the thing
That he was—till tonight.

And now it is over:
The small hands are still
That labored so long
In the terrible mill.
The pain has departed,
The fever is past;
The wan little toiler
Is resting at last!

THE ANTICHRIST A PERSON

(Continued from page one)

7. Christ is called the Good Shepherd who gave His life for the sheep, but the Antichrist who is the hireling, false, evil and idol shepherd will scatter and destroy the sheep and deceive them. John 10:10-14; Zech. 11:16, 17.

8. Jesus was called the Wonderful Counsellor, the Mighty God, the Prince of Peace, but the Antichrist will be king of Babylon (confusion) and the wonder of the world and will deceive the unregenerate of the world into worshipping him. Rev. 13; Rev. 18.

9. The Bible declares that God will highly exalt His Son Christ and that every knee shall bow to Him and every tongue will confess His Lordship, but Satan will exalt the Antichrist and force people on earth to pay homage. Phil. 2:9-11; Isa. 14:14; Rev. 13:8.

10. Christ's followers will have His Father's name written in their foreheads as a badge of honor while Satan's Antichrist worshippers will wear the mark of the Beast allegiance for their only civil privileges. Rev. 14:9-11; Rev. 13:16-18.

11. The Bible declares the love of the true God, the Father, Christ, the Son, and Holy Spirit, the Comforter, for both saints and sinners, while the evil trio of Satan, Antichrist and False Prophet, seek in determined purpose and cursed compact to defeat the Holy Trinity and deceive souls. John 3:16, 17; John 14:2, 6; Rev. 13; Rev. 16.

12. Christ's Church is God's mystery and the Spotless Bride while Satan will have his mystic harlot imitatingly ornamented riding a white horse as a counterfeit of the Conqueror, the True and Faithful. Eph. 3:5-11; Rev. 17:1-6; Rev. 6:2; Rev. 19:11.

13. Antichrist's earth vine imitates the Living Vine and is identified with Babylon seeking to resemble Him whose throne will be Jerusalem. Rev. 14:19; Rev. 17:2; Rev. 21:2.

14. Christians are encouraged to look for the Lord to return from heaven in power and glory while Antichrist's followers will lament as they see him fall from heaven. Mat. 24:30; Isa. 14:15-17; Luke 10:18.

15. Christ will come in great power and glory and destroy utterly the Antichrist and will destroy Satan and all his forces and set up His conquering and triumphant reign over the earth and bring heaven and earth together in the end as in the original creation. Rev. 19:11-20; Rev. 20:1-11; Gen. 1:1; Isa. 45:18.

How to Study Bible Prophecy

Read this message with an open Bible and read each Scripture reference as given and note the plain unfolding revelation in clear simplicity of these startling truths. Jesus is the Spirit of prophecy (Rev. 19:10). He foretold through the old-time prophets both His suffering and the glory that should follow (1 Peter 1:10-11). Soulwinning is our business until Jesus comes again. (James 5:20; Matt. 16:27).

Help Spread the Truth

This is the first release of this message on the Antichrist after its delivery in sermon form on Sunday night and printed in condensed form by the pastor with a prayer for a wide circulation among both believers and unbelievers. Anyone desiring to publish this article in full or in part under the author's name may feel free to do so. (Mark 13:10).

How You Can Help

The author of this article and other prophetic messages is paying for their original printing out of his own personal small funds, believing that the truth expounded will glorify Christ and quicken interest in Bible study if widely published. Believers who love His appearing can help by sending or handing their contributions direct to the author of these messages so he can continue their printing. (2 Tim. 4:1-8).

FERGUSON'S PARDON RECORD

Mr. John Boyles of San Antonio has released some startling facts about the pardon record of the Ferguson administration. It accuses the governor of using a lavish hand in dispensing pardons. Perhaps he should have said the governor's husband.

According to the above authority, there have been an average of three pardons per day for the seventeen months of the present administration. So far as we know that makes a world record. Of these approximately 200 have been murderers, 138 burglars and about 100 other thieves. There were also 37 rapists—an average of one rapist for every 15 days of the administration.

THE PRAYER OF CYRUS BROWN

The proper way for a man to pray.

Said Deacon Lemuel Keyes.

And the only proper attitude

Is down upon his knees.

"No, I should say the way to pray."

Said Rev. Dr. Wise.

"Is standing straight with outstretched

arms

And rapt upturned eyes."

"Oh, no; no, no," said Elder Snow.

"Such posture is too proud;

A man should pray with eyes fast closed

And head contritely bowed."

"It seems to me his hands should be

Austerly clasped in front,

With both thumbs pointing toward the

ground."

Said Rev. Dr. Blunt.

"Las' year I fell in Hodgkin's well

Head first," said Cyrus Brown.

"With both my heels a'stickin' up,

With my head a-pinting down:

"An' I made a prayer right then and

there—

Best prayer I ever said,

The prayinest prayer I ever prayed,

A-standin on my head."

—Sam Walter Foss.

Many lessons learned in childhood linger through life.

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DOINGS OF THE DISCIPLES

Rev. E. L. Kelly, formerly pastor at Falfurrias, Junction and student at the Southwestern Seminary, is open for work in Southwest Texas.

On the suggestion of Dr. I. E. Gates, the Baptist Pastors Conference of San Antonio voted to recommend Bro. R. T. Deel to the state board as evangelist to succeed Dr. Wm. H. Joiner.

Rev. Geo. Stewart of Goose Creek, who has been called to the pastorate of the Los Angeles Heights Baptist Church of San Antonio, will preach for them next Monday night and may preach several nights next week. He has not yet answered them about his coming to them.

The Beason Hill Baptist Church of San Antonio gave Bro. and Mrs. Eidson a reception last Tuesday night. The attendance was large.

The pastors of the city of San Antonio are seriously considering the question of discontinuing their associational missionary and employing a city missionary.

The Baptist pastors of the city of San Antonio refused to support an all-church paper that is about to be launched here.

The fifth Sunday meeting of the Gambrell Association was held with the Kenedy church last Sunday afternoon and evening. The attendance was good but would have been better but for the rain. A good program was given and a wonderful barbecue was served on the church lawn.

Bro. Marshall Smith of Karnes City has been called to and has accepted the church at Kenedy. He will begin his work there next Sunday.

The Baptist Church, Durant, Oklahoma, has had 275 additions in the last year. Of these 131 were by baptism.

A Baptist savings and loan association has been opened in Kansas City for the purpose of encouraging thrift and furnishing a safe place for savings and to enable individuals to own their own homes.

The Co-operative Program Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention will go on without a general director. A committee has been appointed to maintain close co-operation with the states and ultimately to recommend a general director.

BAPTISTS STRONG FOR CHURCH UNION

(Continued from page one)

V

We believe that the great Gospel blessing which Christ secures to such as believe in Him is justification; that justification includes the pardon of sin and the promise of eternal life on principles of righteousness; that it is bestowed not in consideration of any works of righteousness which we have done, but solely through faith in the Redeemer's blood, by virtue of which His perfect righteousness is freely imputed to us of God; that it brings us into a state of most blessed peace and favor with God, and secures every other blessing needful for time and eternity.

VI

We believe that the blessings of salvation are made free to all by the Gospel; that it is the immediate duty of all to accept them by a cordial, penitent and obedient faith; and that nothing prevents the salvation of the greatest sinner on earth but his own inherent depravity and voluntary rejection of the Gospel, which rejection involves him in an aggravated condemnation.

VII

We believe that in order to be saved, sinners must be regenerated or born again; that regeneration consists in giving a holy disposition to the mind; that it is effected in a manner above our comprehension by the power of the Holy Spirit, in connection with Divine Truth, so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the Gospel; and that its proper evidence appears in the holy fruits of repentance and faith and newness of life.

VIII

We believe that repentance and faith are sacred duties and also inseparable

graces wrought in our souls by the regenerating grace of God, whereby, being deeply convicted of our guilt, danger and helplessness, and of the way of salvation by Christ, we turn to God with unfeigned contrition, confession and supplication for mercy; at the same time heartily receiving the Lord Jesus Christ as our Prophet, Priest and King, relying on Him alone as the only and all-sufficient Savior.

IX

We believe that election is the eternal purpose of God, according to which He graciously regenerates, sanctifies and saves sinners; that being perfectly consistent with the free agency of man, it comprehends all the means in connection with the end; that it is a most glorious display of God's sovereign goodness, being infinitely free, wise, holy and unchangeable; that it utterly excludes boasting and promotes humility, love, prayer, praise, trust in God, and active imitation of His free mercy; that it encourages the use of means in the highest degree; that it may be ascertained by its effects in all who truly believe the Gospel; that it is the foundation of Christian assurance; and that to ascertain it with regard to ourselves demands and deserves the utmost diligence.

X

We believe that sanctification is the process by which, according to the will of God, we are made partakers of His holiness; that it is a progressive work; that it is begun in regeneration, and that it is carried on in the hearts of believers by the presence and power of the Holy Spirit, the Sealer and Comforter, in the continual use of the appointed means—especially the word of God, self-examination, self-denial, watchfulness and prayer.

XI

We believe that such only are real believers, as endure unto the end; that their persevering attachment to Christ is the grand mark which distinguishes them from superficial professors; that a special Providence watches over their welfare; and they are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

XII

We believe that the law of God is the eternal and unchangeable rule of His moral government; that it is holy, just and good; and that the inability which the scriptures ascribe to fallen men to fulfill its precepts, arises entirely from their love of sin; to deliver them from which and to restore them through a mediator to unfeigned obedience to the holy law, is one great end of the Gospel, and of the means of grace connected with the establishment of the visible church.

XIII

We believe that a visible church of Christ is a congregation of baptized believers, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the Gospel; observing the ordinances of Christ; governed by His laws; and exercising the gifts, rights and privileges invested in them by His word; that its only scriptural officers are Bishops or Pastors and Deacons, whose qualifications, claims and duties are defined in the Epistles to Timothy and Titus.

XIV

We believe that Christian baptism is the immersion in water of a believer, into the name of the Father, and Son, and Holy Ghost; to show forth in a solemn and beautiful emblem, our faith in the crucified, buried and risen Savior, with its effect, in our death to sin, and resurrection to a new life; that is pre-requisite to the privileges of a church relation; and to the Lord's Supper, in which the members of the church by the sacred use of bread and wine, are to commemorate together the dying love of Christ, preceded always by solemn self-examination.

XV

We believe that the first day of the week is the Lord's Day, or Christian Sabbath; and is to be kept sacred to religious purposes by abstaining from all secular labor, and sinful recreations, by the devout observance of all the means of grace, both private and public, and by preparation for that rest that remaineth for the people of God.

XVI

We believe that civil government is by divine appointment, for the interest and good order of human society; and that magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored and obeyed; except only in things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the only Lord of the conscience, and the Prince of the kings of the earth.

XVII

We believe that there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked; that such only as through faith are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus and sanctified by the Spirit

A REVIEW OF THE NEWS

The sum of \$1,544,000,000 was spent last year for automobiles, tires and accessories.

The loss to live stock owners from snake bites is one million dollars per year.

It is estimated that the United States trade with the world will amount to \$9,000,000,000 in 1926.

Austria is said to have 236,690 more women than men. Before the war there was a surplus of 400,000 men. During the last six years the birth rate among boys has been 10 per cent greater than girls. It is estimated that it will take 18 years to even up the sexes in Austria.

More than 800 full blood Osage Indians are looking toward Southwest Texas for homes. They want at least 300,000 acres of land in a body. They are said to be the wealthiest people in the world.

The Valley is expected to yield 150,000 bales of cotton this year. This is a considerable increase over any previous year.

The state of Delaware has only eighteen Baptist churches.

One hundred years ago the first temperance society was organized in the United States. Boston was its location.

France has raised the salary of Marshall Foch to \$3,000 per year.

The total valuation of church property in the United States is \$3,300,000,000.

Taxes in the United States amount to \$15 per capita. In Great Britain they are \$75; in France \$35 and in Germany \$26.

It is said that in this country fire destroys 360 homes, 96 farm buildings, 15 hotels, 6 department stores, 5 churches, 5 school houses, 4 warehouses and 1 hospital daily.

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Money is not almighty. God alone is Almighty.

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Money is a privilege—a power—a peril.

What a man does with his money determines what his money is doing to him.

A man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.—Luke 12:15.

Ye cannot serve God and Mammon.—Luke 16:13.

Personal consecration should spell purse-and-all consecration.

Better fail to get money than to let money get you.

A big heart is better than a big house.

If Christ is not Lord of the purse He is not Lord of the person.

The right of money is the right to use it right.

Get all you can, save all you can and give all you can.—John Wesley.

When asked to sing Old Hundred, do not sing Ninety and Nine and save one per cent.

Thou fool.—So is he that layeth up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God.—Luke 12.20, 21.—The Baptist Builder.

of God, are truly righteous in His esteem; while all such as continue in impenitence and unbelief are in His sight wicked and under the curse, and this distinction holds among men both in and after death.

XVIII

We believe that the end of this world is approaching; that at the Last Day Christ will descend from Heaven and raise the dead from the grave to final retribution; that a solemn separation will then take place; that the wicked will be adjudged to endless punishment, and the righteous to endless joy; and that this judgment will fix forever the final state of men in Heaven or Hell, on the principle of righteousness.

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MISSION, TEXAS

A TRINITY OF SOCIAL EVILS

(Continued from page one)

doned to the vicious. The best portions of the house were set apart for the abandoned characters."

The early fathers of our American Republic looked upon the theatre as a damnable institution. The Congress of the United States shortly after the Declaration of Independence passed this resolution: "Resolved, that it be and is hereby recommended to the several states to take the most effectual measures for the discouragement and suppression of theatrical entertainments, horse racing, gaming and such other diversions as are productive of idleness, dissipation, and a general depravity of principles and manners."

What of this testimony? Does it argue nothing? Were these wise men all fools and cranks? We call them wise in other things, why should they not be trusted here as well?

Great actors themselves will not defend the morals of the theatre. Macready declares: "None of my children shall ever win my consent, on any pretense, to enter the theatre or have any visiting connection with actors or actresses."

Dumas, the great play writer, wrote to a friend: "You do not take your daughter to see my play. You are right. Let me say once for all, you must not take your daughter to the theatre. It is not mainly the work that is immoral; it is the place."

John Gilbert wrote the North American Review: "I believe the present condition of the drama, both from a moral and artistic point of view, to be a subject of regret. Many of the plays have been adopted from the French, and are open to the severest criticism on the ground of immorality."

Dr. Theodore Cuyler says that a friend of his was once passing a theatre with a prominent actor, and the actor said to him: "Behind those doors lies Sodom."

Mr. Palmer, the great theatre-manager, in an article, says: "The chief themes of the theatre are now, as they have ever been, the passions of men—ambition and jealousy—leading to murder; lust, leading to adultery and to death; anger, leading to madness."

On this point an English writer has recently declared that in the acting of Sir Henry Irving he had committed at least fifteen thousand murders on the stage: that Barry Sullivan had added at least two thousand more stage murders than this to his list; that Charles Wyndham had been divorced from twenty-eight hundred wives on the stage; that Mrs. Bancroft had in the same public place been foully betrayed, or abducted thirty hundred times; and that Miss Ada Cavendish had been betrayed, deserted or abducted fifty-six hundred times.

"Oh," but somebody says, "these were only acted murders and acted betrayals!" But they were made so real as to carry the audience through the actual feelings and passions of all that was acted. Tell me that a man can sit still and see a trained actor or actress portray murder and bloodshed and not have his blood get hot? Tell me that a man can sit still and see a woman act her betrayal to the point of the sacrifice of her virtue and not feel the fires of passion? You might as well talk to me of a volcano in heaven.

But is this all the testimony against the theatre?

Not yet. I must mention one or two more.

Edwin Booth, the great American actor, said: "I never permit my wife and daughter to witness a play without previously ascertaining its character." He knew the danger. He knew what acting meant, and how it affected a crowd.

Sir Henry Irving, perhaps one of the cleanest actors the world ever knew, declared: "The play house is a dangerous and exceedingly treacherous place for men and women of weak powers."

There is no need to quote more. The theatre as an institution of Satan, is the enemy of all that is high and noble. Efforts after efforts have been made to have a moral theatre. Booth tried it; Henry Irving tried it. They both failed. It can not exist. There is not a moral theatre in the world, and under existing circumstances there can not be. A Christian man or woman has no more business patronizing the theatre than he has playing with Satan himself. I had rather see my daughter or sister dead and in her grave than to know that she was acting in the greatest theatre of the world. Have I got a reason for this? I think so. I will venture that there is not a Christian parent in this country that would rejoice to see his daughter enter the stage. If we feel this way about our daughters, what right have we as Christian people, to

encourage the daughters of other fathers and mothers in the same damnable career?

The Dance

We leave now the theatre and speak of the dance.

There is only one distinct charge that I will present against the dance. Its chief charm is licentiousness. I know this seems extravagant to some people, that is, they pretend to think so, but it is extravagant only to the man who has had no experience; who does not believe in the testimony of others; or is so morally depraved that he can not appreciate danger. Let us see what we have in support of the charge.

First, the institution of the round dance had its birth in a low and disreputable house in Paris. You know very well why it was inaugurated. You can see the evil purpose in the minds of those that stratified it, and from their standpoint it was a success and has been ever since. There may be those who pass through the round dance without harm, just as it is possible to play with the germs of yellow fever and not be hurt, but sensible people will advise against the risk.

Second, men do not dance with men, and women do not dance with women. This is a part of Satan's plan, and it is for the carrying out of the original design. The round dance is no more attractive than the square dance unless men and women are paired together.

Third, it is always most successful when conducted at a late hour in the night. The average dance passes on beyond the midnight hour. Hence, as under many other circumstances, men love darkness rather than light because their deeds are evil.

Fourth, the dress of the round dance in itself is enough to argue the impurity in it. Let any woman who is fond of the round dance give to the world one sensible answer for the form of her dress in the ball room, and I will take back everything I have to say about the dance. It can not be to show the dress off unless a pile of clothes lying on the floor would be the same thing, for the most conspicuous thing about the ball room dress is not that which gracefully adorns the figure, but that which sweeps the floor. The figure, as a matter of fact, is very little adorned. There is where the trouble lies.

Fifth, the position of the dance comes in, in support of the charge of impurity. Why the position of the waltz? I defy anybody to explain away this fact. If it is wrong without music, it is wrong with it.

Sixth, the drink at the dance. Everybody who is at all acquainted with ball rooms knows that it is accompanied by drink. There is never in this community a great ball that there is not drunkenness among men and women.

I am aware that these are awful charges but I submit that there is not one of them that is unreasonable. I ask, therefore, for a verdict by the churches. What position ought the church to take with reference to this form of amusement?

The Card Table

We now come to the card table. We have not time to say very much about it, but since it belongs in this trinity of popular social evils, we must say a word.

The card table among certain elements of people—the high fliers in social life on the one hand, and the negro crap shooters on the other—is one of the most damnable institutions of the day. In the first place, it is a silly form of amusement. The card table was invented for the amusement of an old idiot king, and they have been amusing the idiots ever since, and in Atlanta there are a great many of them to amuse. Think of a lot of sensible women sitting down and wasting a whole afternoon out of every week shuffling cards!

Again, they are linked with a bad institution. Cards are inseparable from gambling. A great gambler has said that ninety per cent of all the money won in gambling, leaving out cotton futures, is won with cards.

Another great gambler has said that the majority of gamblers get their taste for it by playing cards with women in innocent sport. Now I submit that this is too awful to be charged up to women, and yet I believe they deserve it. If the women of this country would stop this card playing business it would do more to check the rapid spread of gambling than anything else. The card playing of our day is largely carried on by women and almost invariably is associated with gambling. There is no need of questioning the fact that playing for prizes is gambling. Everybody knows that. For one to argue otherwise makes him silly and ridiculous.

Again, no card player can maintain a spiritual life. I defy the world to pro-

duce one habitual card player, man or woman, who is noted for any spirituality whatever. It can not be otherwise. The thing is linked up with Satan and tends to destroy humanity.

What position ought the church to take with regard to card playing? Just the same as regard to these other evils. The man or the woman who persistently continues to be linked up with such institutions has no business in the church.

"Oh," but you say, "we can not see it that way!" Bring your theatre, ball room and card table to the Lord Jesus and ask him to enlighten you.

At Ocean Grove, N. J., there used to be a building with a skylight so arranged as to take in the entire horizon and focus it upon a pool in the center of the building. Everything that came within the horizon was reproduced in this pool. For example: If a ship should come along, it was reproduced. If a bird should sail through the air, it was reproduced. Anything that came within the horizon of that place was made real in this pool.

So the Christian ought to live beneath the skylight of the Spirit of Jesus Christ. Everything that comes to his mind and heart ought to be focused through his spirit, and then we shall see as he sees.

BAPTIST WOMEN OF THE SOUTH ACTIVE IN MANY LINES

Suggesting some of the many lines of practical Christian activity pursued by the Baptist women of the South, through the channels of the Woman's Missionary Union, the recent annual report of that organization for the South as a whole pointed out that in their personal service department the women had engaged 6,045 organizations, 5,005 committees and 45,504 personal workers. These report the distribution of 239,554 garments and 224,194 baskets and trays of food, while they spent 245,887 hours in nursing the sick and enlisted 463 local societies in work in behalf of prisoners.

A total of 552 societies maintained Good Will Centers in crowded cities, where many cottage prayer meetings, Bible study hours, self-help clubs, sewing circles, industrial schools, day nurseries and daily vacation Bible schools were conducted.

In fostering the missionary spirit among the young people a total of 12,321 such organizations were maintained during the year, in promoting the doctrine of tithing and this teaching bore fruits in the total contributions of \$2,138,242 given by the women during the year.—Baptist Builder.

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