

# The Montanian and Chronicle.

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CHOTEAU, TETON COUNTY, MONTANA. JULY 18, 1902.

Teton Chronicle, Vol. V, No. 50

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His Farewell Sermon.

Rev. Buzzell's final sermon in Choteau for this conference year.

Topic—"Christianity the Universal Religion."

I present you a view of the religious world. It is a large view, a panorama of all religions. Its first appearance is a scene of confusion: the Christian before his cross, the Brahmin in his temple, the Mohammedan in his mosque, the Pagan before his shrine. But like the universe itself it is unity in variety.

Your attention is called to three features of this view:

- 1st. The fundamental principles of Christianity upon which all other religious systems are founded.
- 2d. The origin of Christianity and of all religious systems is identical.
- 3d. Universal religion will finally be expressed by the Christian system of life.

Observing the first feature, we find the following beliefs in all religious creeds: The existence of God is recognized. The intelligent Christian sees God a personal, intelligent spirit, the soul of the universe. To the Brahmin there are 330,000,000 reflections of God in the world; but blinded by their superstitions they do not see Him at all. He, himself, is termed by them as the "Eternal Check." We see in the "allor to the unknown God" of the Greeks the same ignorance of God. Pagan idolatry is an effort of the natural mind to find and express God. This is the only explanation of their innumerable number of duties.

Immortality is a fundamental belief of all religions. Behold the Christian, the Mohammedan, the Buddhist and the Pagan, all gazing up into heaven! They await a future life. The Christian sees the future a continuation of the present, in which he may enjoy the development of his powers by study of God's thoughts; the ministering to his brother's enjoyments and the experience of the divine love, while others, blinded by the ignorance of their present limitations, see the future as victorious battle-fields, happy hunting grounds or unbounded opportunity for sensual pleasures. The Hindoo's conception of immortality is an endless transmigration of the soul.

All religions recognize sin and the necessity for an atonement. The Christian reads in history, both sacred and profane, that an atonement has been made by the death of Jesus Christ. The heathen has not read this. But why do his temples run with blood? Why does he sacrifice his animals, his children, his own life? Because his conscience or religious nature tells him he has violated law and that something must be done to enable God to be "just and a justifier of the sinner." Behold the anguish of the Hindoo mother as she caresses for the last time her darling babe and casts it to the monsters of the deep! Unknown to her is the Christ atonement, but the principle that made His atonement necessary is seen in this soul that is only lighted by the light of nature.

One part of mankind believe that an atonement has been made, another, that one has to be made while the rest are trying to make one.

It is a universal doctrine that our future welfare depends upon our present conduct. Every religion has it heaven and its hell. The Esquimaux idea of future punishment is expressed by the thought of a life in some ice-bound regions, because to them, cold is the great symbol of suffering. This doctrine is seen in the transmigration theory whose adherents teach their children that whether their souls have a future existence in re-incarnations that will make them happy or miserable, depends on how they live in the present.

All the great religious systems of the world believe that God has or will reveal himself in the personality of some man. "The Gods have come down in the likeness of men," is the cry of the men of Lystra and this cry has an echo in the heart of all

mankind; and this "desire of all nations" finds an answer in the person Christ Jesus.

The origin of all religions is the same. They did not come down from heaven or from across the seas, but sprung up out of the depths of the human soul. (It is true that the answer to man's religious nature has been met from heaven.) The inspired writer has given us a picture of the story of the garden of Eden. As Eden was the birth-place of man, so it is that of religion. As mankind began to disperse over the earth, not only their knowledge, language, laws, manners and customs began to diversify, but they began to give different expressions to the religious principles and instincts of their nature.

The present forms of religion are the outgrowths or offshoots of other religious systems. The Roman mythology is the outgrowth of the Greek; Buddhism is the offshoot of Brahmin, and Christianity has come to us through the Mosaic and Patriarchal forms of worship. Religion, co eternal with man, starting with him from Eden, has followed him over land and sea, continent and island, and today you can start in Christian America or Europe, Buddhist, Brahmin or Mohammedan Asia, or Pagan Africa, and trace his footsteps back to the birthplace of the race.

Universal religion will finally have one expression and will be Christianity. This will be true because the principles of all religions are the same and because these principles have had one, and only one, perfect expression and that was in the life of Jesus Christ. It is admitted by the greatest of men that the Christ character was a perfect expression of life, that he lived as God would live if he were a man and as man should live if he would live the divine life.

That man may give perfect expression to his religious nature or that all religions may give one perfect expression to the religious interests and principles of life, it is only necessary that Christ be rightly presented to all the world, and He has promised then to "draw all men unto Him." And as men allow their better nature to respond to the magnetism of the Christ character, which all men more or less when in His presence, then religion will have but one expression and Christ will take the place of Brahmin, Buddha and all these lesser lights will be eclipsed by the shining of the Sun of Righteousness.

Nineteen centuries ago this Son of Heron arose on the hills of Palestine. During the first hundred years his light, though somewhat dimmed by clouds of ignorance, spread over Western Asia and Europe, melting the highest forms of heathen mythology. During the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries His rays have covered the western hemisphere. Within the hundred years His light has reached the remotest islands. They have penetrated the clouds of darkest Africa. Some day this Son of Righteousness will be the "Light of the world."

Today the history of Christ is read in 350 languages. His disciples have 20,000 missionary centers and 40,000 teachers and more than 3,000,000 who have accepted Christ as their pattern of life.

Within our life time Japan has adopted a constitution modeled after Christian nations. Many members of its parliament and of its leaders of thought are Christians. China has just instituted a system of education similar to that obtained in Christian America, given to them by a Christian minister and teacher.

The Christian Queen of Madagascar lately declared to her 350,000 Christian subjects her unbounded faith in Christ. Every Lord's Day gathers 100,000 people in the Feejee Islands to hear the gospel of Christ. The Christian population of India has doubled in the last decade. At this rate of progress, at the close of this century there will be 120,000,000 followers of Christ in that heathen land.

Look a short distance down the ages to come! The earth is enveloped in light. Not a cloud is to be seen. It is the "new earth." Broken idols and ruined temples remind us that idolatry is a theory of the past. The cross is seen on every hill; the Bible is in every home, knowledge in every mind, Christian love in every heart. It is the millennium! The kingdoms of the world are the kingdoms of our Lord and of his Christ.

We learn from this view that religion is universal. If universal man has a religious nature, religion is a part of life and truth; for we must believe nature or reject all; and as religion is truth and the Christ life is a perfect expression of this truth "we know in whom we have believed" and that "other foundation can no man lay."

Say not, then, that Christianity is an unphilosophical invention of superstitious man—it is the profoundest philosophy. Say not that Christianity is provincial or temporal, it is universal and eternal. Governments will change but the Christianity is founded upon a perfect life. Nations will rise and fall but the Kingdom of Christ is unchangeable. Christianity is the work of God, the hope of man. Christianity and humanity and Divinity are evermore.

Cuba May Complain.

Washington, July 14.—Should Cuba see fit to complain of the matter, Consul E. S. Gragg, at Havana, will be recalled from that post for having written of the Cubans, as published in Chicago this morning that "Uncle Sam might as well try to make a whistle out of a pig's tails as to try to do anything with these people."

This expression appeared in a letter from General Bragg to his wife at Fond du Lac, Wis., and some how found its way into print.

Senor Quesada was not in Washington tonight and it could not be learned whether or not he had been notified of the incident by his government or instructed to take any action in the case.

There is some ground for belief that the comment may be resented by the Cuban government.

Two Free Scholarships.

Holena, July 14.—Governor Toole received today from John Hay, secretary of state, official notice of the provisions of the will of the late Cecil Rhodes for furnishing two free scholarships at Oxford university, England to residents of this state.

The secretary of state forwarded to the governor a copy of a letter that Roucher T. Hawkesby, one of the trustees, under Mr. Rhodes' will, sent to Ambassador John H. Choate, telling of the provision in the will of the dead diamond king for furnishing two students from every state and territory in the union free scholarships at the great English university, also a letter outlining information that is requested in regard to the best manner of deciding the qualification of aspirants for the honors. It is hoped that students from America can enter during the beginning of next year's term.

The Irish Bulls of England.

An Irish journal, by way of revenge, no doubt, publishes some excellent English bulls. It begins with the Hyde Park orator who, in the middle of a tirade upon landlords and capitalists, suddenly electrified his audience by exclaiming: "If these men were landed on an uninhabited island they wouldn't be there half an hour before they would have their hands in the pockets of the naked savages." A second one is quoted almost as good: "All along the untrodden path of the future we can see the hidden footprints of an unseen hand." A third is said to be a preacher's peroration: "We pursue the shadow; the bubble bursts; it leaves the ashes in our hands." A fourth might be added to the list; it is a brilliant exordium on the part of an English politician: We shall never rest until we see the British lion walking hand in hand with the flood-gate of democracy."

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Thursday Saturday	Stations.	Thursday Saturday
North		South
P.M.		P.M.
10 55	Lethbridge	8 15
9 45	Stirling	9 45
8 30	Tyrell's Lake	11 05
8 10	Brunton	11 25
7 25	Milk River	12 10
6 25	* Coult's	1 05
5 50	Sweet Grass	1 45
5 00	*Kevin	2 45
4 10	Rocky Springs	3 45
3 15	Shelby Junction	4 45

DAILY. DAILY.  
2 50.....Shelby Junction..... 5 10  
2 00.....Conrad..... 6 05  
12 40.....\*Pondera..... 7 30  
12 25.....\*..... 7 50  
11 30.....Brady..... 8 45  
10 45.....\*Collins..... 9 35  
10 15.....Clark's Spur..... 10 15  
9 10.....Steel..... 11 20  
8 35.....Vaughan..... 12 01  
7 55.....Willard..... 12 40  
7 45.....Great Falls..... 12 50  
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